

The information about iron ore and manganese ore procured from Banspani-Barbil and Gandhanardan mining areas in Keonjhar district is not available.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The main reason for reduction in purchase of iron ore lumps by the steel plants is the increased production in the captive mines of steel plants. Increase in supplies of iron ore from captive mines has been effected to optimise their capacity utilisation. The reduction in purchase of iron ore from non-captive sources was also due to fact that in 1983-84, as compared with the previous year, there was a lower production of hot metal.

The requirement of iron ore and manganese ore for SAIL steel plants depends upon the hot metal production plan of SAIL. Further in case of iron ore, the procurement of iron ore from non-captive sources depends upon the production of their captive mines. However, in response to the request of the Government of Orissa, SAIL agreed to increase its purchase of iron ore from Orissa Mining Corporation from the plan of 120,000 tonnes to 150,000 tonnes.

#### New Method to Breed Nuclear Fuel

1525. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether for the first time in world, India has developed a new method to breed nuclear fuel by using carbide plutonium;

(b) if so, what would be the advantage under the new method; and

(c) in what way the cost of generation will come down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. India will be the first country in the world to use plutonium rich mixed carbide to fuel the full core of a fast breeder reactor.

(b) Compared to the conventional oxide fuel, the carbide fuel will have higher breeding ratio and higher linear and specific power ratings on account of its higher heavy atom density and improved physical properties.

(c) The use of carbide fuel in fast reactors will result in smaller inventory of fissile material and also shorter doubling time which will significantly improve the economics of nuclear power.

#### Function and Role of Inquiry Officer in a Departmental Inquiry Under Rule 14

1526. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the functions, powers and role of the Inquiry Officer in a departmental inquiry ordered under Rule 14 of the disciplinary rules;

(b) whether copies thereof will be laid on the Table; and

(c) the scope of a departmental inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH) : (a) An Inquiry Officer is appointed by the disciplinary authority to conduct the departmental inquiry on its behalf. The functions and role of the Inquiry Officer include summoning the charged officer and the Government presenting officer to present their case by adducing documentary and oral evidence through examination and cross-examination of witnesses on prescribed date(s), and presenting of the inquiry report to the disciplinary authority. Rule 14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules itself contains the detailed procedure which the Inquiry Officer is required to follow. He can decide, for reasons to be recorded, issues like allowing/disallowing production/summoning of any documents, witnesses or holding of an *ex parte* proceeding.

(b) The CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 have been published in the Gazette of India.