

(b) if so, the number of licences issued during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have considered the environmental aspects under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, while granting such licences;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of Industrial Licences and Letters of Intent issued during the last three years for the manufacture of Plywood are as under:—

	Industrial Licences	Letters of Intent
1994	One	Three
1995	Two	One
1996	Two	Three

(c) to (e) Applications for grant of Letters of Intent for setting up new units for the manufacture of Plywood based on indigenous Timber are considered in consultation with the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

#### Traded with Romania

5396. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an escrow account mechanism to promote bilateral trade with Romania;

(b) if so, whether under the proposed arrangement exports from India would be restricted to iron ore and manganese ore only and reciprocal imports to steel products;

(c) if so, the nodal agencies in India and Romania to operate the escrow account;

(d) whether the Government also propose similar escrow mechanism to promote bilateral trade with other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) During the XIth Session of Indo-Romanian Joint Commission for Economic, Technical & Scientific Cooperation held recently, both sides agreed to opening of US dollar escrow account in Romania subject to certain laid down stipulation; provided the utilisation of funds takes place in 3 months. It would be subject to the modalities to be worked out by the Romanian and Indian commercial banks. However, it

is expected that in the proposed arrangement export from India and reciprocal import from Romania would not be restricted to one or two items.

(c) The nodal agency from India to operate this account will be Reserve Bank of India and from Romanian side it would be a bank to be nominated by the Romanian side.

(d) and (e) The Government is encouraging counter-trade arrangements with various other countries in order to boost bilateral trade.

#### Singareni Collieries

5397. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singareni Collieries fail to achieve production target during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to solve the problems being faced by the company and increase the production to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of targets and actual production of coal from the mines of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the last three years are as under:

Year	(million tonnes)	
	Target	Actual
1994-95	25.60	25.65
1995-96	28.00	26.77
1996-97	30.20	28.73

The main reasons of shortfall in production during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:—

(i) Power shortage/tripping.

(ii) Absenteeism.

(iii) Industrial disputes due to strikes and other extraneous reasons.

(iv) Heavy rains.

(v) Shifting of equipments and break-down of equipments.

(vi) Other reasons which include lay-offs, Adverse geomining conditions.

(c) The steps taken by SCCL to solve the problems and increase the production are as under:—

(i) Expediting construction of sanctioned on-going projects.