

(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:

	(million tonnes)	
Year	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 geo-mining 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.

(ii) Taking up new projects to compensate for the depletion of output from the existing mines as well as to effect further growth.

(iii) Regular follow-up with the equipment suppliers to ensure timely supply.

(iv) Identification of suitable technologies for future and their adoption with appropriate foreign collaboration.

(v) Regular follow-up with State and Central Forest Departments to ensure forestry clearance for formulated and sanctioned projects.

(vi) Regular rapport with State Government authorities for maintenance of law and order problems.

#### **Afforestation Project by Coal India Limited**

5398. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of

COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited have been taken up afforestation projects in the areas of its different collieries;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on this account during each of the last three years, colliery-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The details of collierywise expenditure on afforestation for last 3 years are very voluminous and as such subsidiarywise details of plantation and expenditure incurred thereon are furnished below:-

(All figures in lakhs)

Company	1994-1995		1995-1996		1996-1997	
	No. of plants	Amount spent	No. of plants	Amount spent	No. of plants	Amount spent
ECL	13.87	59.34	6.73	85.00	7.00	35.00
BCCL	3.00	24.00	0.86	N.A.	3.92	29.48
CCL	15.72	129.43	17.10	196.54	19.06	195.52
NCL	12.61	299.06	11.93	294.54	12.50	313.69
WCL	9.96	201.94	10.00	203.55	10.00	237.23
SECL	12.61	206.45	18.93	257.85	21.38	207.91
MCL	3.84	30.68	3.46	34.54	3.14	55.69
Total	71.61	950.90	69.01	1,072.02	77.00	1,074.53

#### **Inland Container Depots**

5399. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Inland Container Depots in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of depots proposed to be established during the current year and the Ninth Plan period;

(c) the status of Inland Container Depots proposed to be established at Guwahati;

(d) the details of Inland Container Depots established by private parties, State-wise; and

(e) the details of Inland Container Depots proposed to be established in the North-East region during Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The details are given in statement-I.

(b) and (e) An inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) is functioning in the Ministry of Commerce since 1992 to provide single window clearance to the proposals for setting up of Inland Container Depots (ICDs)/Container Freight Stations (CFSs) in the country. Setting up of ICDs/CFSs is an ongoing process. No specific targets are formulated—year-wise, region-wise, etc. The proposals are considered by the IMC as and when received, on merits.

(c) The Container Corporation of India is already running an ICD at Amingaon (Guwahati). No fresh proposal has been received.

(d) The details are given in statement-II.