

(a) whether Government are aware of the coal shortage in different parts of West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken or proposed to be taken to remove the coal shortage.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) As far as supply of raw coal to the consumers in West Bengal is concerned, there is no shortage. Coal is being supplied to linked consumers in adequate quantities both by rail and by road. Consumers have also been permitted to draw by road, shortfall in their rail programmes, if they so desire. However due to some shortfall in production on account of early and heavy rains during 1984-85, there were difficulties in meeting the full requirements of soft coke and hard coke of consumers in West Bengal. Action was taken to step up production and despatches of soft coke and hard coke from July '84 onwards, and there has been a significant improvement in the supplies. As against 5,01,700 tonnes of soft coke supplied to West Bengal during April '83 to February '84, 6,11,014 tonnes have been supplied during the same period in 1984-85.

Export of Hand-Made Paintings from Bihar

*53. **SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH :** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND SUPPLY** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the handicrafts from Bihar particularly hand-made paintings are very much in demand in foreign countries ;

(b) if so the names of the countries importing these paintings at present ;

(c) whether Government propose to explore new markets for the promotion of export of handicrafts ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) State-wise export statistics are

not available. However, as per latest data, exports of hand-made paintings from India are as under : —

	(In Rs. lakhs)
1980-81	51.24
1981-82	74.61
1982-83) (April-November)	31.19

(b) The major countries importing hand-made paintings from India are U.K., Netherlands, USA, USSR; Italy, France and west Germany.

(c), Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) Exhibitions of handicrafts are proposed to be organised in the USA and France as part of Festival of India.

(ii) India Promotion programme is being organised in West Germany in April-May 1985 during which live demonstration of handicrafts are being presented.

(iii) A selling outlet for hand-made carpets is being opened in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

(iv) Promotional programmes for handicrafts are being organised in the Middle East under which an exhibition has been held in Doha and another is proposed in Kuwait.

[Translation]

Racketeering in Rag Trade.

*54. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND SUPPLY** be pleased to state :

(a) Whether his attention has been drawn to the press reports relating to large scale racketeering in rag trade ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by his Ministry to check such racketeering?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) yes, Sir.