

(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.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government. Import policy for 1985-86 is under formulation.

[English]

Distribution Policy of Salem Steel Plant.

*55 SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present distribution policy of Salem Steel Plant is weighed in favour of wholesalers in stainless steel sheets by engaging monopolists and by offering discounts up to 6 per cent for bulk purchases of 100 tonnes monthly and a further 1 per cent for purchases of 750 tonnes six monthly;

(b) whether wide publicity is not being given to the availability of seconds, since the patties, strips and odd size materials are being cornered by wholesale dealers ; and

(c) if so, what steps being taken by Salem Steel Plant to help the small scale units ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (c) : The distribution policy of Salem Steel Plant is not inequitable to any category of buyers. The slabs of current discounts available to all customers are as given below :

(I) Quantity discounts applicable based on monthly off-take.

Monthly Off-take Slab	Percentage Incentive
5 MT — 10 MT	1.0%
Above 10 MT — 20 MT	1.5%
Above 20 MT — 30 MT	2.5%
Above 30 MT — 50 MT	3.5%
Above 50 MT — 75 MT	4.0%
Above 75 MT — 100 MT	4.5%
Above 100 MT	5.0

(ii) Additional incentive for consistent off-take over six monthly period

Slab for 6 Monthly off-take	Percentage of bonus incentive payable on the total turnover of 6 months.
From 150 MT — 200 MT	0.25%
Above 200 MT — 400 MT	0.50%
Above 400 MT — 600 MT	0.75%
Above 600 MT — 750 MT	1.00%
Above 750 MT	1.25%

The quantity discount structure takes into consideration normal commercial practices of allowing higher discounts for greater off-take. Additional incentive is allowed without any discrimination to promote consistent off take.

(b) The stock lists of seconds are published on the Notice Boards of Branch Offices of SAIL's marketing organisation dealing in stainless steel and, if asked, made available to the customers. Seconds are sold against registration and, in case of demand exceeding the availability, generally distributed prorated to the offtake of primes. In addition to the seconds, the other arisings like commercial quality cuttings, are sold on "as is where is basis" from the plant through open tender.

Bauxite Mines in Madhya Pradesh

*57 KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of bauxite mines in the country ;

(b) the details of the places in Madhya Pradesh where bauxite mines are located ; and

(c) the approximate deposits of bauxite in Madhya Pradesh ?