

basis deductions were made. That is a disputable question, the matter has not been sorted out. They are claiming that the ash content is more and that so far as the quantity is concerned, the quantity should be reckoned at the time when the consignment of the coal has been effected—if anybody is to be responsible it is the carrier, not the Coal Department.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Sir, the Minister has admitted that there are complaints about the high ash content of the coal. Does it mean that the working of the washeries which have been set up precisely in order to reduce the ash content is unsatisfactory? What is the reason that despite all the expenditure on the washeries these complaints about high ash content are continuing? And I would like to know whether it is a fact that because of this we are having to spend a huge amount on import of coking coal from abroad.

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :** I must submit, as I have said, that the blendable coal and the medium coal that is supplied to the steel plants is more than 50 per cent. So far as the prime coking coal is concerned the ash content is a little more. The Steel plants require the ash content in the prime coking coal at 19%.

**SHRI BIJU PATNAIK :** No, no.

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :** That is what the agreement is. I am saying on the basis of agreement. The ash content has been found upto 21%. The washeries are taking care of it.

On the question of import, I must submit the import has been negligible in the last two to three years. If the hon. Member wants to have the figures of the exact quantum of the import of the prime coal, I may submit that in 1982 it is practically negligible. I will give the figures separately. But the quantity is not much.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Upgradation of Bhopal Station of A.I.R.

\*401. **SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have raised the issue of upgrading the Bhopal Station of All India Radio ; and

(b) if so, action taken thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 9 AIR Stations in Madhya Pradesh. They are providing good coverage to the State to the extent of 85% area and 87% by population. Therefore, in the Sixth Five Year Plan, there is no proposal for upgrading the Bhopal Station's transmitter.

### Construction of Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur Gas Pipeline

\*402. **SHRI NAWAL KISHOR SHARMA :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of the 1700 km. long Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) gas pipeline ;

(b) whether Government have received offers for construction of this 1700 km. gas pipeline project ;

(c) the names of the countries which have sent their offers for the construction of the said gas pipeline ;

(d) whether any decision has been taken to award the contract for the construction of the gas pipeline ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ?