

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI NAWAR SINGH) : (a) The railhead station prices of foundry grade pig iron (L.M.-4) produced by the integrated steel plants have been as follows :-

Date	Price (Rs. Tonne)
20.8.1965	279
1.8.1971	438
1.4.1981	1425
Since 21.2.1985	2690

The statutory control on prices of pig iron was lifted in August, 1965. Prices for periods prior to this are being ascertained.

(b) The increase in prices, of pig iron has been on account of the increased cost of production due to increase in prices of raw materials, power, wages and other inputs, increased duties and levies imposed by the Joint Plant Committee.

(c) to (e) Apart from price adequate and timely availability is important for stabilising the market for pig iron. Efforts are continuously made to ensure adequate availability in time. For this purpose imports of pig iron are also arranged to supplement domestic production, if necessary.

Illegal mining of bauxite and coal in Bihar

3668 SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the private companies operating in bauxite mines of Lohardaga, Gumla and Palamau districts in Bihar are extracting bauxite illegally in excess of the quantity prescribed in the agreement reached with Government;

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the fact that coal worth crores of rupees is being extracted illegally from the coal mines in Chandwa and Balumath blocks in Palamau district in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps being taken by Government to prevent it ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Restructuring of IRDP and NREP

3669. SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :
SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister and the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India have recently expressed their dissatisfaction with the present structure of the IRDP, NREP and similar programmes;

(b) whether it is proposed to restructure the programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The Prime Minister had observed that Integrated Rural Development Programme has not been able to give enough benefit to the poorest beneficiaries. Although beneficiaries who were not the very poor have crossed the poverty line but the poorest among them have not been able to do so with one dose of assistance. The Governor, RBI while appreciating the role placed by banks in supporting IRDP had mentioned about certain shortcomings in the implementation of programme brought out in the studies made by RBI and NABARD. The programme is kept under periodical review and suitable changes are made whenever necessary. During the Seventh Plan period it is proposed to provide second dose of assistance, subject to the ceiling limit of subsidy, to the beneficiaries who could not cross the poverty line with the help of first dose.