

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty-absent; Shri G. Bhoopathy-absent; Shri Jitendra Prasada-absent.

I will have another round. I will call the members who were absent earlier. Shri Ram Swarup Ram, Dr. A.K. Patel, Shri Prakash Chandra, Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik, Shrimati Basavarajeswari, Shri S.M. Gu-raddi, Shri S.G. Gholap, Shri Manik Reddy, Shri Subhash Yadav, Shri C. Janga Reddy, Shrimati N.P. Jhansi Laxshmi, Shri G.S. Basavaraju, Shri Mukul Wasnik, Shri Amarsinh Rathawa, Shri Kamal Prasad Singh, Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty, Shri G. Bhoopathy, Shri Jitendra Prasada.

None of them is present. So, the Question List is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Steel Production Costs in Public Sector

*141. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production in public sector steel plants compares favourably with that of private sector steel plants;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to reduce steel production costs?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b). Production costs differ from plant to plant due to difference in inputs and capital related costs and in the product mix. A direct com-

parison between production costs of different units is, therefore, not possible.

(c) Steps being taken to reduce the production costs of public sector steel plants include higher capacity utilisation, improvement in technological processes, stricter techno-economic discipline and higher productivity.

High Content of lead in Ganga

*142. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the high content of lead found in the sediments of the Ganga; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

HIGH CONTENT OF LEAD IN GANGA

(a) Of the various studies taken up in the context of the Ganga Action Plan, one study on the role of sediments in attenuation of trace metals by a Professor of Banaras Hindu University relates to the content of lead found in the sediments of the Ganga.

(b) The reports received from the study indicate the presence of lead in samples of sediment taken at Mirzapur, Varanasi and Ghazipur. However, in the absence of any established standard for lead content in sediments it is not possible to

say whether the content found in the samples as reported in the study is high or otherwise.

[*Translation*]

Import of Coal for Steel Plants

*143 SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited imports coal from foreign countries every year for use in steel plants;

(b) if so, the country-wise quantity of coal imported during the last three years (year-wise);

(c) the amount spent annually for the import of coal; and

(d) the measures taken to avoid import of coal by the Steel Authority of India Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

IMPORT OF COAL FOR STEEL PLANTS

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is given below:-

(in million tonnes)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Countries and quantity imported</i>			<i>Approximate C & F Value (Rupees in crores)</i>
	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1984-85	0.66	—	0.66	56
1985-86'	1.97	0.06	2.03	162
1986-87	1.79	0.29	2.08	168

(d) To minimise imports, steps are being taken to increase production of the right quality of indigenous coking coal.

Besides, the steel plants are also taking steps to reduce consumption of coking coal by improved technical working, providing adequate blending facilities at the raw materials yards and by introducing technologies such as coal dust injection process in the blast furnaces.

Review of Measures for Energy Conservation

*144. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an All India meeting was convened by his Ministry to review the progress in the implementation of measures of