

व्यवस्था "इण्डियन सोप एण्ड टायलेटरीज मेकर्स एसोसियेशन" के साथ की गयी है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कम्पनियों को मिट्टी के तेल और कोल इण्डिया लि० को साफ्ट कोक की आपूर्ति करने की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई है।

#### Shortage of coking coal in Steel Plants

\*73. SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:  
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that steel plants in the country are facing acute coking coal shortage;

(b) if so, the steel plants which are likely to be affected; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the six integrated steel plants viz. Bhilai, Rourkela, Bokaro, Durgapur, IISCO and TISCO are affected due to coking coal shortage.

(c) The following steps have been taken to cope with the demand of coking coal:

(i) Close and constant liaison is being maintained with the coal supplying agencies and the Railways so as to secure maximum supplies of coking coal. Constant monitoring of the position in regard to the availability of coal is also being done at various levels through inter-ministerial consultation. The Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure reviews the position regularly as to ensure that necessary steps to improve the position are taken in the most effective and coordinated manner.

(ii) Steps have been taken to maximise production in the captive collieries of steel plants.

(iii) In order to supplement the indigenous supplies of coking coal, import of 1.2 MT of coking coal was arranged in 1978-79. Orders for supply of a further quantity of 0.5 million tonnes in 1979-80 have been placed and the coal has started arriving. Tenders have been received by SAIL for an additional quantity of 1 million tonnes.

#### Inclusion of Tobacco, Coffee, Tea, etc. in G.S.P. Scheme of E.E.C.

\*74. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approached the European Economic Community (EEC) to include tobacco, coffee, tea and animal feed in Generalised System of Preferences Scheme; and

(b) if so, what are further developments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The current status of Tobacco, Coffee, Tea and Animal feed in the GSP scheme of the European Economic Community (EEC), the initiative taken by India for the improvement of GSP treatment of these products and the results thereof are indicated below:

Unmanufactured tobacco is included in the GSP Scheme of European Economic Community. But the tariff reduction is limited and is subject to a tariff quota. The question of improvement by way of further tariff reduction and enlargement of quotas, particularly of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco has been taken up with the EEC in the past and some improvements secured. A recent improvement is reduction of minimum specific duty from 15 European