

Government has commenced a scheme of one-time financial assistance of Rs. 61 crores to the States and UTs. The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution also monitors, in consultation with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and the respective State Governments, the progress of disposal of cases by the Consumer Courts. The NCDRC has issued appropriate instructions to Consumer Courts for improving their performance in disposing the cases.

#### **Expert of Manganese and Chrome Ores**

3409. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Manganese and Chrome Ores being exported during last 3 years, year-wise and the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby till 31st July, 1996;

(b) the gap between demand and supply position in respect of these ores in the country; and

(c) whether any assessment was made if so, when alongwith the details of results?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per information available, export of Chrome Ore and Manganese Ore during the last 3 years and for the period from 1.4.96 to 31.7.96 is as under:—

(Quantity in Tonnes)  
(Value in Rs. Thousand)

year	Chrome Ore		Manganese Ore	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1993-94 (upto 31.7.96)	308267	735233	286450	380284
1994-95	490212	1027322	276598	345715
1995-96'	347705	1608413	238157	334144
1996-97*	120000	614700	220000	310000

\*Provisional

(b) and (c) As per information available, there is no gap in overall demand and supply of these minerals.

#### **Noa-Supply of Coal to Plants in Punjab**

3410. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal in the different coal mines of the country during the last five years;.

(b) the specific reasons for not supplying the coal for the plants functioning in the State of Punjab; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The total production of coal from different coal mines in the country during last five years was as under:

(million tonnes)

1991-92	229.28
1992-93	238.26
1993-94	246.04
1994-95	253.73
1995-96	270.13