

the international market on compared with its price within the country.

The Customs authorities have been alerted to be vigilant to thwart any attempts at smuggling gold out of India.

Import of coking coal

217. DR. SHRIMATI NAZMA HEPTULA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision in regard to import of coking coal for the steel plants during the current year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken advance measures to prevent loss owing to supply of inferior grade coal by the exporting countries; and

(b) whether global tenders have been or are being invited for the supply?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have authorised SAIL to import 5 lakh tonnes of coking coal on a negotiated basis from among the parties whose offers had been found technically acceptable against the earlier tenders. Simultaneously, SAIL has been permitted also to invite global tenders for an additional one million tonnes of coking coal during 1980-81 so that there will be no delay in placing orders, should a decision be taken that further exports would have to be made.

(c) Suitable quality parameters as per international practice are included in the contract specifications and when contracts are entered into. As such, the question of loss owing to supply of inferior grade coal by the exporting countries should not arise

(d) Global tenders for import of 1 million tonnes of coking coal are being invited by SAIL.

Income-tax arrears of one lakh rupees and more

218. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD
MATHUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Government and non-Government offices, agencies departments, companies and persons against whom income-tax arrears of Rs. 1,00,000 and more are due;

(b) amount due in each case and since when; and

(c) steps so far taken and proposed to be taken to recover the dues?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) According to presently available information, there were 8,291 assesses against each of whom tax arrears of Rs. 1 lakh and above were outstanding as on 31-3-1980. Their names and other details are not readily available; the collection of such information would involve considerable time and labour. However, if the Hon'ble Members desire information in any particular case or cases the same can be collected and furnished.

(c) Depending upon the facts and circumstances of each case, suitable steps are taken from time to time by the Income-tax authorities concerned for recovery of tax arrears in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961. Some of the administrative steps taken recently for expeditious recovery of tax arrears are given in the Annexure.

Annexure

Some of the important steps taken recently to reduce the tax arrears