

inferior quality and short in quantity; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) There has been some deterioration in the quality of coal due to increase in ash. The quantity of coal supplied to the steel plants sometimes falls short of the monthly programme, on account of dislocations caused by power shortages, shortage of explosives, industrial disputes etc.

(b) Quantity and quality of coal supplies to the steel plants is continuously monitored and reviewed in consultation with the Coal Controller, coal producing organisations and the Railways. With a view to meeting the steel plants requirements of coal, various programmes for augmentation of mining and washing facilities, including the installation of two new washeries at Sudamdih and Monidih, have been taken up.

Production and requirement of steel in the country

782. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI DHARMCHAND JAIN:
SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

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

(a) the extent of increase registered in steel production so far during the current year compared to that during the previous two years; and

(b) to what extent the present increase in steel production will meet the requirements of steel in the country and bring down the prices of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) The total production of saleable steel from the Integrated steel plants during

the period April—October, 1977, was 3.940 million tonnes. This exceeded the production in the corresponding period in 1975 and 1976 by 26.0 per cent and 1.2 per cent respectively.

(b) The requirements of steel in the country are now mostly met from indigenous production; efforts are also made to export the surpluses where available. However, in the case of a few categories where indigenous production is not established or not adequate, the requirements are met by imports. The open market prices of most categories of steel have already come down and are now ruling at about the same level as the stockyard prices of the main steel plants.

Illegal emigration

783. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 304 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th November, 1977 and state:

(a) whether Government have instructed the emigration authorities at Calcutta and Madras airports also to carry out checks at these airports to prevent illegal emigration; and

(b) if so, what is the number and nationality of illegal emigrants offloaded as a result of checking of the international flights at these airports during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) No special instructions have been issued to emigration authorities at Calcutta and Madras; however, all Protectors of Emigrants are empowered, under the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, to carry out checks as and when necessary.

(b) Nil; most of the persons going abroad for employment go to West Asian countries and emigrate through sea/airports of Bombay and Delhi.