

Import of coal for steel plants

*521. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-DIA:
SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-
BULLAH:
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:
SHRI PRAKASH MEHRO-
TRA:
SMT. LAKSHMI KUMARI
CHUNPAWAT:

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

(a) whether Government propose to import coal to meet the shortage of good quality coking coal for steel plants;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of coal proposed to be imported in the near future and what are the names of the countries from which it is proposed to be imported; and

(c) what is the amount of foreign exchange, involved in this import?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (c) The technical and economic implications of importing low ash coking coal for blending purposes in view of limited reserves and relatively higher ash content of Indian coking coals are under examination. No decision on the size of imports or on the source of supply has so far been taken.

Opening: of the Israeli Consulate in Delhi

•522. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI: SHRI
PIARE LALL KUREEL URF
PIARE LALL TALIB:
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN:

. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Israel are soon likely to open their consulate in Delhi;

(b) whether any understanding has been reached between the Governments of India and Israel in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof⁰

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of Mini Steel Plants

•523. SHRI GUNAN AND THAKUR:
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA
BURAGOHAIN:
SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 283 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th June, 1977 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on setting up mini steel plants in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b) Government have decided not to encourage any additional new mini steel plants in the country. A total number of 206 electric arc furnace units had been licensed/registered in the past for production of plain carbon steel ingots/billets. 43 of these licences have so far been revoked on account of nonimplementation of the projects. 120 licensed units had been installed by September, 1977 and remaining 38 units are in various stages of installation.