

(a) whether any assessment has been made as to the requirement of steel by various States, State-wise, during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what are details thereof and to what extent the demand is proposed to be met from indigenous sources ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) and (b) Under the present system of distribution, there is no State-wise allocation. The total demand in 1974-75 is expected to be about 7.2 million tonnes and the estimated indigenous availability would be about 6 million tonnes.

Decline in Power in D.V.C

•541. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an average loss of 8,000 tonnes in coal production per day due to the acute shortage of power in the Damodar Valley Corporation.

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA) : (a) It is a fact that the Eastern Division of Coal Mines Authority has been facing substantial loss in production due to shortage of power particularly from the D.V.C. system. While the loss cannot be precisely estimated it has been assessed at about 8,000 tonnes per day.

(b) The matter has already been taken up with the concerned power generating authorities including D.V.C. to ensure better availability of power to the coal industry in the eastern region.

Payment of Leave Emoluments to Btdi and Cigar Workers

•542. SHRI S. G. SARDESAI : SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : SHRI S. KUMAR AN : DR. Z.A. AHMAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to issue necessary orders to ensure the payment of leave emoluments under the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, following the Supreme Court's judgement unholding the validity of the Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b) Following the Supreme Court's Judgement, State Governments who are responsible for administration of the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 have been asked to take vigorous steps to secure implementation of the Act and the rules framed thereunder. The question of uniform enforcement of the Act, to avoid migration of the Bidi industry from one State to another State is also proposed to be discussed in a meeting of the State Labour Ministers shortly.

Minister's visit to South Korea

•543. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : SHRI J. S. ANAND :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has recently visited South Korea; and

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held with South Korean Government ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Foreign Minister of Korea had visited India in August, 1972 and the return visit of the Minister of External Affairs was in response to the invitation of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Korea.

(b) The discussions were mainly on economic matters and on possibilities of strengthening commercial relations between the two countries. The leaders of the Republic of Korea explained their stand on the Korean question with special reference to re-unification and the Minister of External Affairs explained to them the situation in the subcontinent as well as India's efforts to establish durable peace in the region. A trade agreement and a cultural agreement were also signed by the two Foreign Ministers.

Further licensing to production of commercial vehicles

•544. SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MUSAFIR : SHRI J. S. TILAK : SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI A.G. KULKARNI : SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state *