

desired and the necessity to retain the buildings/tenements held under requisition continues to exist.

#### Iron ore reserves

353. SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large reserves of iron ore have been found at Bailadila and Bellary of Chotanagpur; and

(b) if so, what is the quantity of iron ore expected?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b) It appears that the reference is to Bailadila in Bastar District, Madhya Pradesh and Bellary District in Karnataka. The estimated iron ore reserves at Bailadila range in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh are 1268.8 million tonnes with 60 to 64 per cent iron. The total reserves of iron ore estimated in Bellary district of Karnataka are 829.5 million tonnes with 62 to 67 per cent iron.

#### Excise duty on Coal

354. SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently raised excise duty on coal;

(b) if so, the additional income likely to accrue to the Coal Mines Authority therefrom: and

(c) whether it has resulted in coal price increase?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Import of Scraps

355. SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ore furnace industry has represented to Government that its production of steel is declining because of high prices of scrap;

(b) whether Government have received any suggestion for importing scrap and exporting products of the furnace industry; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Presumably the reference is to the electric arc furnace industry. If so, the reply is in the negative. The major constraints in the way of more effective utilisation of capacity in the electric arc furnace industry are the inadequate availability of ferrous scrap, and shortage of electric power.

(b) and (c) A proposal for import of ferrous scrap and export of rolled products which could be made therefrom has been received and is under examination.

#### Ban on Indian Freighter carrying wheat for Chile

356. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Times of India' of 26th May, 1974 to the effect that the members of the Water Side Workers Federation of New Castle (Australia) have placed a ban on an Indian freighter "JAG SHANTI" because it was carrying Australian wheat to Chile; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The New Castle Branch of the Australian Waterside Workers Federation had placed a total ban on loading of wheat to Chile as a protest against the alleged arrest of Chilean maritime union leaders by the Chilean Government. The ban was not particularly directed against the Indian freighter.