

(a) the allocation made for Agricultural Research and Education during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the allocation during the Eight Five Year Plan for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (a) Sir, the allocation during the plan have been as under:

*(Rs. in crores)*

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
IV Plan	85.00
V Plan	153.56
VI Plan	340.00
VII Plan	425.00

(b) and (c). The proposed allocation for the Eight Five Year Plan has not been decided so far.

#### **Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant**

2403. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether modernisation of the Durgapur Steel Plant is nearing completion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether consequent upon modernisation the plant has improved its performance during the past six or seven months and has earned profit on operation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). The Modernisation work of Durgapur Steel Plant is due to completion by March, 1993. This time schedule is likely to be adhered to except for one Blast Furnace out of the three to be reconstructed which is expected to be completed by December, 1993.

(c) and (d). While the work on various packages under the modernisation programme of Durgapur Steel Plant is in progress and as such, the question of improvement in the performance of the plant as a result of modernisation does not arise at this stage. DSP have generally improved their operations through which both volume of production and techno-economics have been improving during the current year.

#### **Conversion Units/Agents of SAIL**

2404. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Conversion Units/Agents being assigned/appointed by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and the Rashtriya Ispat Ltd.;

(b) the quantity of raw materials being offered to such Units/Agents annually;

(c) the norms and criteria being followed in this regard as also for the distribution of their conversion products;

(d) whether certain facilities are being provided to them by the SAIL and Rashtriya Ispat-Ltd.

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details to the appointing authorities alongwith the terms and conditions for appointment of such Conversion Agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have so far appointed 98 and 28 conversion agents respectively, at different locations.

(b) Raw materials are supplied to be conversion agents as per agreed conversion rations and depending upon the availability from time to time and not on an annual basis. The following quantities of rerollables had been supplied by SAIL and RINIL to their conversion agents during the current year;

<i>Producers</i>	<i>Quantity supplied in '000 tonnes</i>	<i>Period</i>
(i) SAIL	71	April-September, 1991
(ii) RINL	53	April-October, 1991.

(c) Converted products are supplied to Government Departments/Undertakings and other actual users as per the prescribed procedure.

(iv) physical facilities;

(d) No, Sir.

(v) financial standing; and

(e) Does not arise.

(vi) market standing.

(f) Conversion agents are appointed by RINIL through open tender system. Tender documents are scrutinised by a Committee whose recommendations are approved by the Chairman-cum-Managing Director or the Executive Director (Commercial), RINL.

[*Translation*]

**Return of Indians to Gulf Countries**

2405. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

The Zonal Managers of 10 different Zones have been delegated powers by SAIL for appointing conversion agents based on the competitive tenders.

(a) the number of Indians who have returned to Kuwait and other Gulf countries so far, country-wise; and

(b) the number of Indians working in Kuwait at present?

The eligibility conditions for appointment of conversion agents include the following:-

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINGH SOLANKI): (a) It is estimated that about 60,000 of our nationals have so far gone back to Kuwait. For Iraq the figure is about, 120. There was no evacuation from any other country in the Gulf region.

(i) registration with the concerned sponsoring authorities;

(ii) ISI/BIS certificates;

(b) The number of Indians presently working in Kuwait is estimated to be 63,000.

(iii) technical capability;