

examine the problems connected with beneficiation of coking coal in March, 1984. The report was examined in the Department of Coal and it was decided to prepare a time bound programme for modernisation and modification of existing washeries. Modernisation Schemes are under implementation in some of the existing washeries. Latest technology has been adopted in the Project Reports formulated for the new washeries.

Another Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. V. Altekar has been constituted to study and formulate a crash programme for achieving washed prime coking coal of low ash percentage within the shortest possible period.

#### **Indo-Soviet Agreement on Development of New Coal Project**

2165. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :  
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY :

DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the main provisions of the recently concluded long term Indo-Soviet agreement on development of new coal projects ; and

(b) whether the latest Soviet mining technology will be incorporated in these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) India and Soviet Union have signed a programme for cooperation in Coal Industry between the two countries over the period extending to 2000 AD. The programme envisages continuation of cooperation in the following areas :

- (1) design and construction of the projects already under collaboration.
- (2) development of Indian coal industry through the introduction of advanced equipment and technology as well as the latest achievements of mining science and practice.

- (3) expansion of geological exploration and prospecting for coal in some regions of India as well as in prospecting for coking coal in the southern part of Jharia deposits.
- (4) continuing collaboration with Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. including elaboration of coal production development schemes in Godavari Deposits.
- (5) expending cooperation in sinking vertical shafts of collieries being developed in India.
- (6) developing production capabilities and specialisation in manufacturing equipment for collieries, opencast mines and washeries.
- (7) cooperation in preparing project reports for third countries.

15 projects have already been identified for collaboration, and more may be taken up.

(b) Yes, Sir.

#### **Opening and Upgradation of New Branch Post offices in Kerala**

2166. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of branch and upper grade post-offices as on 31 October, 1985 in each of the Assembly constituencies comprised in the Ponnani Parliamentary constituency of Kerala ; and

(b) the specific proposals for opening new branch post offices and for upgradations during the period from November, 1985 to March, 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) As on 31.10.85, the number of branch post offices and other post offices in Ponnani Parliamentary Constituency, assembly constituency-wise is as follows :—