

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to upgrade the Coal India Ltd. set up in the North East region to expedite the exploitation and mining of coking coal there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to minimise the import of coking coal to save foreign exchange?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUA): (a) and (b). Introduction of Hydraulic Mining with Coal. Washery at Baragolai Project of North Eastern Coalfields, Assam was identified as one of the Projects for development with possible Canadian assistance. A study has been undertaken by a Canadian Company under Canadian Government grant assistance in the regard which submitted its report in June, 1991. This report is being evaluated by Coal India Ltd.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Coal India has established a Regional Institute of Central Mine Planning and Design Institute at Tura to render assistance in extraction of coal from the coalfields in Meghalaya and adjoining areas. General Manager's post at North Eastern Coalfields has been filled up. The staff at Gowahati and Meghalaya is being augmented.

(e) Following steps are being taken to increase the production of coking coal to minimise import requirements:-

1. Coking Coal Projects are receiving highest priority in investment.
2. The washed coking coal (including direct feed) production is proposed to increase from 10.0 million tonnes

during 1991-92 to 13.97 million tonnes in 1996-97, the terminal year of the VIII Five Year Plan.

3. Modifications of existing Washeries and construction of new washeries to augment the washed coking coal availability are being carried out.
4. Explorations to identify the new sources of coking coal are being made.
5. The production of coking coal is being monitored at the highest level in the Government.

#### Vacancies in ICAR

2401. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of the Director general, ICAR and Chiefs of some of the ICAR institutions are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Sir, The posts of Director in some of the ICAR institutes are lying vacant.

(b) Due to retirement, resignation, transfer etc.

(c) As soon as the recruitment process is completed.

#### Allocation for Agricultural Research and Education

2402. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(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?