

there is no pending proposal as of now under consideration of the Ministry of Coal from any Multi National Company seeking involvement in coal sector.

Betal Research Centre in Orissa

3536. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the losses suffered by betal leaf growers in North Balasore area are due to non identification of diseases in betal cultivation and adoption of primitive methods of cultivation;

(b) if so, whether the government propose to establish a Betal Research Centre at Bhogra area of North Balasore Orissa; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Sir, the disease that caused the loss has been identified as Anthragnose. This disease can be controlled by using fungicides.

(b) and (c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is already operating an All India Coordinated Research Project on Betalvine. It has a Centre at the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology which covers North Balasore area.

Plans for Stopping Flaring of Gas

3537. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state whether the Government have any plans for stopping flaring of gas and using this as domestic fuel in to save forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): Yes, Sir. Various schemes for setting up additional compression and transportation capacity for gas are being implemented in the Western offshore and onshore Gujarat in order to increase the utilisation of flared gas. Allocation of gas have been made for supply as domestic fuel in the following cities :-

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1. Baroda
 2. Bharuch - Ankleshwar
 3. Sibsagar
 4. Dullajan
 5. Moran
 6. Surat
 7. Agartala
 8. Bombay
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Production of Steel by VISL

3538. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the installed production capacity of Steel in the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL), Bhadravati, Karnataka;

(b) the various types of steel produced in VISL;

(c) whether the Union government propose to increase the production capacity of steel there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV): (a) The nameplate capacities at Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Company Limited (VISL) for production of Alloy & Special Steels and Mild Steel are 77,000 tonnes and 48,000 tonnes per annum respectively.

(b) VISL produces the following steels:-

- i. High speed steel
- ii. Die Steel
- iii. Stainless Steel
- iv. Tool Steel
- v. Ball Bearing Steel
- vi. Free cutting Steel
- vii. Spring Steel
- viii. Alloy and Carbon Construction Steel
- ix. Other Alloy Steels; and
- x. Mild Steel.

(c) and (d). While there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for increasing the installed steel capacities, SAIL has planned to achieve 100% alloy and special Steel making capacity utilisation by 1994-95 and 75% mild steel capacity utilisation by 1993-94, through installation of a blast furnace and balancing and steel making facilities.

Production and Demand of Steel

3539. SHRI C.P. MUDALA-GIRIYAPPA
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the total demand of steel in the

country during 1991, till date;

(b) the production of steel during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between the demand and production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV): (a) and (b). The information for 1990-91 in respect of finished steel is as follows :

Assessed demand :	15.5 million tonnes
Production :	13.4 million tonnes

(c) Domestic availability is supplemented with imports, to the extent possible within the overall constraints of availability of foreign exchange.

New Varieties of Wheat

3540. SHRI C.P. MUDALA-GIRIYAPPA
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recently released new varieties of Wheat for cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected yield of each of these varieties per acre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The details of the wheat varieties released during 1991 alongwith expected yield per acre are given in the enclosed Statement.