

Resignation by Chairman and Chief Administrator of Dandakaranya Development Authority

*240. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the reported resignation by Shri C. Venkataramani from the post of Chairman and Chief Administrator of the Dandakaranya Development Authority;

(b) whether this is the third such resignation in the last two years; and

(c) whether Government have any positive proposal for improving the conditions of the refugees even after 20 years of the D.D.A.?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) It is not a fact that Shri C. Venkataramani resigned from the post of Chairman and Chief Administrator.

(b) There have been no resignations in the last two years by any Chairman and/or Chief Administrator.

(c) The settlers in the Dandakaranya Project are mostly agriculturists. A number of steps have been taken during the last 20 years and are being taken even now to improve their conditions. These include land reclamation, soil conservation, agricultural extension services, provision of inputs like bullocks, seeds and fertilizers, provision of roads, schools, hospitals housing accommodation etc. Besides a number of irrigation projects have been also been taken up.

Rumania's participation in India's Power expansion programme

*241. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rumania is very keen in participating, in India's power expansion programme;

(b) whether any Rumania's delegation recently visited India in this regard and assured that Rumania could assist India with supplies of power generation equipment; and

(c) if so, whether any agreement has also been arrived in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b). Yes Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

New Coal Mines in Birbhum District of West Bengal

*242. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to open the new coal mines in Birbhum District of West Bengal; and

(b) names of those places where coal has been found?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHADHURI): (a) Geological exploration is going on in Birbhum District. Opening of new mines would depend on the results obtained from this exploration in about two years time.

(b) Two known coal deposits are available in Birbhum district adjoining Raniganj Coalfield in the area