

production of finished steel is 23.77 million tonnes.

(b) India is among the countries having low per capita consumption of steel. In the year 1992, the per capita apparent consumption of crude steel in India was about 22 kg. as against the world average of 143 kg.

<c) Higher input prices, poor quality of raw materials, technological obsolescence, outdated operational practices, and higher incidence of taxes and levies are some of the factors inhibiting growth of steel industry in India. A larger number of overseas investors have shown interest in financing steel units in India.

Research and Development in Agriculture

2539. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for research and development in Agriculture in the country particularly in the State of Gujarat, during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the research being carried out in different institutes in the country during the current year 1995-96 along with achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Expenditure figures in respect of ICAR are not maintained state-wise. However, total expenditure during the last three years i.e. 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are as under: -

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Total
1992-93	355.46
1993-94	441.99
1994-95	480.90

(b) In the ICAR system, there are 88 Research Institutes / National Research Centres / Project Directorates / National Bureaus. The details of the research undertaken by them and the achievements thereon are contained in the Annual Reports of these Institutes.

Reservation in Promotions for OBCs

2540 SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

9—525 (iIPMR/97

(a) whether Government is considering to provide reservation in promotions for Government employees belonging to OBCs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) This item is under consideration.

This item would have to be discussed with political parties to arrive at consensus in the matter.

Identification of tree Species for Obtaining Biopesticides

2541. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Research Institute in Dehradun have identified a large number of tree species and strains of tree species from which biopesticides can be obtained;

(b) if so, the details thereof with benefits to be taken from biopesticides can be obtained,

(c) whether some other research institutes at Dehradun and Jabalpur have developed biological control measures for controlling Babul defoliator using dipterous parasite;

(d) if so, the details thereof with benefits from such research;

(e) whether Government propose to take some steps to ensure availability of benefits of such researches to the people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun has identified 55 tree species having potential for biopesticides. Out of these, five plant species viz. Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Haldu (*Adina cordifolia*), Karanj (*Pongamia pinnata*), Bhokal (*Prinsepia utilis*) and Delbergia stipulacea have been identified as most important for obtaining biopesticides. Biopesticides are cost-effective, environment friendly and biodegradable.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above Question does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Government has already taken steps to register such pesticides. A number of Neem products are now available in the country for use by farmers.

Alarming Coal Stocks in Steel Plants

2542. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stocks of Coking Coal in plants of SAIL have reached a critical level of 1,75,000 tonnes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Bokaro Steel Plant and the Steel plant of IISCO have only one or two days stock of Coking Coal;

(c) if so, the sensitive steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the position of the stock of coking coal of various plants of SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The stock of indigenous coking coal at SAIL Plants had reached a critical level of 1,75,000 tonnes on 1.8.1995, and had further declined to 1,21,000 tonnes on 16.8.1995. While the Steel Plants at Bokaro and IISCO are having 1 to 2 days stock, the stock position of indigenous coal as on 16.8.1995 at the different Plants is as follows:—

(Units '000 tonnes)

Plant	Stock
BSP	52
DSP	25
RSP	34
BSL	5
IISCO	5
Total:	121

SAIL Plants are interacting on a Continuous basis with Coal India Limited and Railways to step up supplies of coking coal to Steel Plants.

Ad hoc Promotions by the Ministry

2543. SHRI H. HANUMAN THAPPA:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that his Ministry has made certain Ad hoc promotions, if so the basis and the details pertaining to the last one year including the name and post;

(b) the total staff in Drug Division of his Ministry and break up of Senior and Junior;

(c) the job allocated to each officer; and

(d) whether it is a fact that his Ministry received complaints against certain officials if so, when and the nature of complaints and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) 70 officers / staff of the Central Secretariat Service and Central Secretariat Stenographer's Service and 8 officers of other services were promoted / allowed to continue on *ad-hoc* promotions during the Financial Year 1994-95 in the Ministry. Such ad-hoc promotions were made to fill up the vacancies for smooth functioning pending the availability of suitable officers / staff for regular appointments against the vacant posts.

(b) and (c) The total staff strength in the Pharmaceutical Industry Division in the Ministry is 62. Of these 33 belong to Group 'A' and 'B' Services while remaining 29 are Group 'C' and 'D' staff. The Division deals with and is administratively responsible for the policy framework for development of the pharmaceutical industry and all aspects connected therewith including the implementation of the Drugs Price Control Order, as well as the administrative control of public sector undertakings in the pharmaceutical sector.

(d) One officer of the Pharmaceutical Industry Division was transferred from the Ministry on the basis of an inquiry report into the allegations against him. Complaint received in May, 1995 regarding mis-use of official position by another officer of the Pharmaceutical Industry Division was also enquired into. During the inquiry the allegations were not substantiated and the complainant denied having sent the said complaint.

सरकारी कर्मचारियों से संबंधित आंकड़े

2544. प्रो.विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: क्या शहरी कार्य और