

the field by U.K. experts were also reviewed by the Steering group; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The import of coal was not discussed during the meeting. The training of Indian specialists by U.K. experts, however, formed part of the agenda.

(c) In the meeting, the Joint Steering Group reviewed the progress of training programmes during the year 1984-85 and outlined the needs for the year 1985-86 in three broad categories of: (a) development of training, (b) technical/operational assistance for longwall mining in CIL and in SCCL; and (c) technical cooperation for CMPDIL.

Demand and production of coking coal

317. **SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what was the demand for coking coal during the Sixth Plan period, year-wise; and what will be the anticipated demand of coking coal during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) what was the total production of coking coal during the Sixth Plan period and what is the production target of the same during the Seventh Plan period, year-wise;

(c) whether adequate funds and other facilities are proposed to be made available to the coal sector to meet the increased demand for the coking coal; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

(a) and (b) The demand of raw coking coal assessed by the Planning Commission and the production of raw coking coal, of all the varieties, including that or non-metallurgical purposes, yearwise during the Sixth Plan period have been as follows:—

(in million tonnes)

Year	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Demand	26.75	27.50	26.50	27.50	28.50
Production	24.41	30.25	31.73	31.24 (P)	25.41* (P)

'P' Provisional

(* upto Jan. 85 and excluding coking coal used for non-metallurgical purposes)

The demand for raw coking coal as assessed by the Working Group on Coal and Lignite for the 7th Plan and the projected production of raw coking coal as assessed by the Working Group for the 7th Plan are as follows:—

(in million tonnes)

Year	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Demand	30.12	31.96	34.45	38.32	41.14
Production	31.56	34.97	37.54	40.76	45.23

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Working Group on Coal and Lignite for the Seventh Five Year Plan set up by the Planning Commission have recommended adequate investment during the Seventh Plan period, for the development of various projects of CIL including, coking coal projects.

Shortage of coking coal during Seventh Plan period

318. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER. Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an acute shortage of coking coal is anticipated during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) It has been estimated that during the Seventh Plan period the availability of coking coal from domestic sources may be marginally short of the requirements of the steel industry. SAIL will import adequate quantities to cover the shortfall.

The following steps are being taken to increase the indigenous availability of coking coal:—

1. Reconstruction of the existing mines and the opening of new coking coal mines. A detailed Master Plan for the reconstruction of the Jharia coalfield, the only source of prime coking coal in the country, has been prepared. Its implementation is being expedited.
2. Modification and better maintenance and operation of existing washeries and setting up of new washeries with modern technology. Appropriate steps have been taken in respect of Dugda I and II

washeries and the modernisation of the Patherdih washery is being taken up. A number of new washeries have been planned to be commissioned in the Seventh Plan period to wash prime, medium and blendable coking coal.

3. Persistent shortage of power supply in Jharia coalfield has been coming in the way of increasing the production of coking coal and better performance of washeries. There is a proposal to set up coal based captive thermal power stations in the coalfield areas to provide additional power for ensuring better performance of mines and washeries.

4. A number of steps like augmenting the infrastructural facilities, setting up of workshops and other supporting services are being taken to increase the production from the Jharia coalfield.

5. As a short-term measures, Bharat Coking Coal Limited has launched a project for dewatering of submerged mines by installing special borehole pumps. This will provide some extra working areas, which will be immediately available for mining.

Price increase of steel

319. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' of the 22nd February, 1985 captioned 'Surprise over steel price increase';

(b) whether it is a fact that the Federation of Engineering Industry of India, the Tamil Nadu Small Scale Industries Associations and others