

(c) According to available information on 5.9.84, these banks were holding 251 authorisations for opening offices at rural centres in Andhra Pradesh. They have been advised to utilise these authorisations before the end of March 1985.

Production of Steel by Public Sector Plants

160. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantum of steel being produced annually by each public

sector steel plant at present in the country;

(b) what is the estimated annual requirement of steel in the country; and

(c) what special efforts have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to step up the production capacity of each public sector steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Production of saleable steel in public sector steel plants for the last two years and plan of production for 1984-85 are given below:—

| Plant | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1985 85 (Pl n) |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| BSP | 1838 | 1575 | 1840 |
| DSP | 813 | 602 | 720 |
| RSP | 992 | 862 | 940 |
| BSL | 1529 | 1288 | 1500 |
| SAIL Plants | 5172 | 4327 | 5000 |
| IISCO | 500 | 444 | 410 |
| ASP | 46.80 | 33.66 | 55.83 |
| SSP | 6.75 | 6.93 | 16.80 |

(b) For the year 1984-85 the Joint Plant Committee has estimated the demand for finished steel in the country at 9 million tonnes.

(c) the main factors affecting production were restrictions in the supply of power and or quality and inadequate availability of indigenous coking coal as well as some technological deficiencies in the plants. Efforts are being made to improve the supply of power and coking coal of right quality in close cooperation with the supplying organisations. The steel plants are making efforts to maximise their own limited captive power generation. As a long term measure, additional captive power generating units are being established at Bokaro, Rourkela, Durgapur and Bhilai Steel Plant. The technological deficiencies are being met through modernisation|de-bottlenecking schemes already under consideration.

Coal seams in Godavari coalfields in Andhra Pradesh

161. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Geological Survey of India has struck a number of new coal seams in the virgin areas of the Godavari coalfields in Andhra Pradesh during the last field season; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Geological Survey of India has been carrying out regional exploration in four blocks in the Godavari Valley Coalfields during field season 1983-84. The blocks

are (i) Ramakrishnapur (ii) Bhopalpalli-Chelpur (iii) Ramagundam and (iv) Kothagundem. Out of these exploration in Bhopalpalli-Chelpur sector of Warangal Distt. were completed and as a result, five regional seams (Nos. IA, I, II, III and IV) and some local coal seams have been met varying in thickness from 1.5 metres to 2.00 metres. As a result of exploration additional reserves of 2122 million tonnes of coal has been estimated during the fields session 1983-84.

"Jana Raksha" Programme of L.I.C.

162. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation plans to launch a new programme called 'Jana-Raksha' in which farmers and agricultural labourers will be the direct beneficiaries; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India introduced a plan of insurance known as Jana Raksha policy from May, 1981 for catering to the needs of rural population mainly farmers and agricultural labourers who have fluctuating incomes.

The Jana Raksha policy takes into account the fact that people in rural areas are faced with the problem of fluctuating income due to floods, droughts, etc., which can result in non-payment of premium occasionally. Nevertheless, the policy gives, in addition to the benefits under an endowment assurance with profits policy, insurance protection for three years from the date of non-payment of premium and for this purpose a single extra premium is collected with the first premium. For many people in rural areas the standard age proof such as school certificate may not be available. In such cases a self-declaration of age is also acceptable. To facilitate quick completion of the proposal, a very simple proposal form is devised. Simplicity of completion of the proposal

form, provision for self-declaration of age and covering of risk for three years from the date of non-payment of a premium provided the policy has been in force for two years, are the highlights of the Jana raksha policy.

Indo-Soviet protocol on cooperation in new coal projects

163. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the Soviet Union had signed a protocol on the 23rd November, 1984 which envisages Cooperation in new coal projects 1985 to 1990; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

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

(a) On 23.11.84 a programme of cooperation in new areas between the U.S.S.R. and India in the field of coal industry for the period 1985-90 as follows:—

(b) Both sides agreed upon the programme of cooperation in new areas for the period 1985-90 as follows:—

I. Geological Exploration for Coal:

Cooperation on application of cosmocerological methods of surveying, logging of wells, electrical and seismic prospecting while exploring coal deposits were identifies.

II. New Mining Projects:

Cooperation in designing the following coal projects was identified:

(i) An opencast mine in blocks 5 and 6 at Jharia coalfield, with a capacity of 8-10 million tonnes of coking coal per year, with a coal washery.

(ii) The Sitanala mine at Jharia coalfield with a capacity of 2-2.5 m. tonnes of coking coal per year with a washery.