

(v) Advising the oil companies to tighten up the supervision over their retail outlets.

Silent valley project in Kerala

*33. SRHI P. K. KODIYAN:

SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the Silent Valley Project in Kerala after a study by a Central Team has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, in the meanwhile, the State Government has asked the Union Government to allow them to continue the work there; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) to (d). The Chief Minister of Kerala, in a recent letter to the Prime Minister, has asked for concurrence for going ahead with the Silent Valley Hydel Project. In view of the serious reservations expressed by environmentalists and ecologists about the degradation that would occur if the project is executed, the Prime Minister had suggested that the work should be suspended in order that the ecological aspects of the project may be fully studied.

Generation of Power by DVC

*34. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) generates hardly 350 MW to 400 MW now when its installed capacity was 1,350 MW which cannot even cater to the barest minimum requirements of the coalfields; and

(b) if so, steps so far taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) The installed capacity in Damodar Valley Corporation is 1361.5 MW, comprising 1257.5 MW thermal and 104 MW hydel. At present there is no hydel generation, as the reservoirs are low. Most of the thermal units have been in service for a long time, and hence, their effective capacity is much lower than their rated figures. On an average, the generation during the last three months has been between 500 and 540 MW. During a period of low generation, distribution of power is based on a pattern of graded restrictions, under which the requirements of coal are given the second highest priority after railway traction.

(b) Close attention is being paid to the early restoration of units that are on outage. A number of betterment measures are being planned for introduction in a planned manner in the near future. In addition, the services of two British Experts are being inducted for analysing the problems and making suitable recommendations. The State Government has also been requested to ensure that satisfactory law and order conditions prevail, to enable the personnel at various power stations to work in a congenial atmosphere.

Caprolactam Project, Kerala

*35. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Caprolactam project has been given to the Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. at Alwaye, Kerala; and

(b) if so, when it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). No decision has yet been taken on the proposal for setting up a caprolactam plant at Alwaye, Kerala as a