

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : This matter concerns Uttar Pradesh. (Interruptions).

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : This is a very important matter.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is disallowed.

SUPPLY OF COAL TO THERMAL POWER STATIONS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

*209. **SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE :** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vijayawada Thermal Power Station and some other thermal power plants in Andhra Pradesh produced less power due to shortage of coal;

(b) if so, the estimated loss of power generation due to poor supply of coal at Kothagudem and Vijayawada Thermal Power Stations from January to June 1991; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the output from Singareni Collieries to make available the coal as per linkages to the plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. As reported by Central Electricity Authority, the Vijayawada Thermal Power Station of Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board and Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station of National Thermal Power Corporation have suffered loss of generation for want of coal.

(b) As reported by Central Electricity Authority, Vijayawada Thermal Power Station suffered a loss of generation of about 389 million units during the period

January-June, 1991, and Kothagudem Thermal Power Station has reported a loss of about 36 million units during the same period because of short supply of coal.

(c) Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) is presently facing severe production problems due to adverse law and order situation in the area. However, the Govt. has taken steps to provide alternate sources of supply of coal to two of these thermal power stations, namely 1 lakh tonnes of coal per month to Vijayawada Thermal Power Station from South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and 60,000 tonnes per month to Ramagundam Thermal Power Station from Western Coalfields Ltd. for the period ending September, 1991. A committee Under Secretary, Department of Power has been constituted to suggest measures to improve coal supplies to thermal power stations linked to SCCL.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is most unfortunate that the Vijayawada Thermal Power Station which was having a plant load factor of more than 96 per cent and being one of the best run thermal power stations in this country on par with some other thermal power stations in the entire world, had to lose about 389 million units of power because of coal shortage. The Kothagudem Thermal Power Station also is making very good progress in recent times. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government is taking adequate steps to take out coal from the Manuguru coal belt and also by investing more funds on the Singareni Collieries by utilising the latest technology and the latest machinery to have more coal from the Singareni Collieries. Now, the environment of Singareni Collieries is influenced with Naxalite activities. They are hampering the coal production there. So, I would also like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government of India will send the Central Industrial Security Force to Singareni Collieries, though it is a State managed concern, to curb these Naxalite activities and increase the coal production.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, we have 30 new projects sanctioned under the

SCCL, with an investment of Rs. 1,535 crores of the capacity of 17.50 million tonnes. We have another 12 projects on hand which are under the active consideration of the Government. This is as far as the expansion programme is concerned. As far as the second part of the question is concerned, we do have a lot of law and order problems and some time back the Board of Directors decided to induct the CISF in that area and two companies of CISF consisting of 260 men have already gone to that area. We expect that within a few days' time another 1,187 CISF men would reach there. All the arrangements for accommodation have been completed and they are about to move to that area.

SHRI SOBANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Sir, it is really very sad to know that even the coal that had been produced in the coal mine could not be transported to the thermal power stations because of shortage of railway wagons for some time. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry will take suitable steps in coordination with the Railways, so that this type of shortage of wagons do not take place in future and hamper the power production in the Vijayawada Thermal Power Station which has attained very good standard. In the first question, the Minister has not clarified about the Manuguru aspect. I would like him to clarify that also.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, we are trying our best to improve the movement of coal and we are constantly in touch with the Railway Ministry. I have been talking to the Railway Minister and he has been very cooperative. I am lucky to have a Railway Minister who was the Coal Minister earlier. Regarding the Manuguru aspect, I do not have the details now; I will give it to him later.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is aware that in addition to Singareni being unable to fulfil its obligations towards Andhra Pradesh Thermal Power Stations, it is also failing to fulfil its obligations with regard to Tamil Nadu Thermal Power Stations.

If so, whether his Ministry would give permission to Tamil Nadu to import coal from Australia.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Actually, the question relates to Andhra. But I am very much aware of the problem being faced by the Tamil Nadu Government also. About the question of importing coal from Australia, as of now, the policy is not to allow any import.

SHRI VENKATESWARLU UNNA-REDDY : In Singareni collieries, coal problem is a very complex problem. There are trade unions at loggerheads and there is a lot of labour problem. Even law and order problem is very severe. As a result of these problems, the supply of coal is very much crippled.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what exactly is the proportion of coal that has been earmarked for National Thermal plants which are functioning in Andhra Pradesh and how much is being sent to National Thermal plants functioning in the other neighbouring States.

(b) Though Muddanur thermal plant has been sanctioned long back, it has not come up to the level of functioning for want of coal linkage. What exactly is the position? Andhra Pradesh is a deficit State as far as power is concerned. Muddanur plant is not coming up only for want of coal linkage. When is the Muddanur plant going to be commissioned?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Our target was 22.50 million tonnes. The actual production in that area has been only 17.71 million tonnes. The demand in the entire area which is dependent on the Singareni Colliery is about 30 million tonnes.

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN RAJASTHAN

[Translation]

*210. **SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA** : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the oil and gas exploration conducted by the Oil and Natu-