

(b) and (c). The estimated consumption of coking coal in 1983-84 is around 35 m.t. At the anticipated rate of consumption, and with present technology for mining and beneficiation, these reserves of coking coal may last another 50 years. However, the life of coking coal may be prolonged with improvement in the technology for extraction of coal and its optimum utilisation in metallurgical industry.

(d) As an alternate source of energy for metallurgical purposes, a Formed Coke Plant using non-coking coal is being set up. Besides, projects like coal dust injection and stack gas injection in Blast Furnace is under consideration. The production of sponge iron by using non-coking coal is also being developed.

#### Coal Mines

502. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state whether the Government of India has decided to denationalise all the coal mines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): No, Sir.

#### Mananthavadi Project in Kerala

503. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether Central Government has been approached by Kerala Government for clearance of Mananthavadi Project, a hydro-electric scheme;

(b) the reasons for delay in sanctioning this project; and

(c) the details regarding its scope and expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed scheme is located on the tributary of the Cauvery which is an inter-State river between the States of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and it contemplates the westward diversion of waters of the Cauvery for irrigation and power generation.

As the proposed scheme will affect the use of waters in the Cauvery basin and has inter-State implications, it cannot be finalised till an agreement is reached on the scope and size of the scheme in consultation with the concerned State Governments.

(c) The project is estimated to afford an annual energy generation of 578 GWH (million units). Details of expenditure likely have not been finalised and no expenditure has been incurred.

#### Nationalisation of Foreign owned Plantations in Kerala

504. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government propose to give clearance to the Kerala Government to issue an Ordinance for the nationalisation of foreign owned plantations which is pending with the Government for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH): No, Sir. The State Government was informed accordingly in June, 1976 and no such Ordinance is now pending with the Government of India.