

Punjab and Haryana, till 27.11.86, during the current marketing season.

(c) and (d). No targets of procurement have been fixed, as paddy is bought by the Food Corporation of India and other public procuring agencies to extend price support to farmers, whereas rice is procured from millers/traders under statutory levy.

Raising of MEG prices by Indian Petrochemicals Limited

4357. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Petrochemicals Limited raised MEG prices from Rs. 13,500/- per tonne in March, 1986 to Rs. 15,900/- per tonne from April 1986 onwards;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. During 1985-86, the price of MEG was Rs. 15,500/- per tonne which was raised by Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) by Rs. 400/- per tonne from 1st April, 1986 to partially offset the increase in the input cost. However, IPCL offered during February-March 1986 a trade discount of Rs. 2,000/- per tonne to sell a large stock accumulations.

Power gap in Southern Region

4358. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the prevailing power gap in the Southern Region and the anticipated gap in that Region in 2000 AD;

(b) whether the power shortage in the Southern Region will be made up by installing power stations by bringing coal from Northern India; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for using lignite for improving the power sector and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) During the period April-October, 1986, the energy shortage in the Southern Region was of the order of 12 per cent. The power position in the year 2000 A. D. can be determined after the power programmes in the Eighth and Ninth Plan periods are formulated.

(b) For coal-based thermal power stations in the Southern Region, linkages with coal fields in the country already exist and further linkages could be considered, if necessary.

(c) In the Southern Region, the Neyveli Lignite Corporation's Thermal Power Station-I with a capacity of 600 MW is already in operation. Second Mine Cut and Second Mine Cut Extension power stations have been sanctioned with a capacity of 630 MW and 840 MW respectively. One unit at Second Mine Cut has already been commissioned.

Plywood units in Orissa

4359 SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number and places where plywood units are functioning at present in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether the State of Orissa has requested the Union Government for opening more plywood units in that State; and

(c) if so, the number of production units of plywood proposed to be set up in Orissa alongwith the places identified for the location of such units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM):

(a) At present there is no plywood unit in production in the Organised Sector in the State of Orissa.

(b) and (c). Based on the recommendations of the State Government of Orissa, two approvals were granted for the establishment of Plywood Units at Bolangir and Puri Districts of Orissa.

Industry sponsored power projects

4360. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether industry sponsored power projects would be sanctioned for specific industrial belts which face chronic power shortages;

(b) if so, whether State Electricity Boards and National Thermal Power corporation have reservations about them; and

(c) which are the industrial belts selected for granting such industry sponsored power projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (d) The policy with regard to the generation and distribution of electricity is regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. The expansion of existing privately owned utilities or the establishment of new units in the private sector is not precluded under the Resolution. The installation of captive power plants is also being permitted, particularly where the requirement of power is large and continuous and reliable power supply is necessary.

Specific proposals for installation of power projects are considered on the merits of each case, in the light of the above policy.

(c) No such selection has been made by Government.

Priority to workers of private sector in employment

4361. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to give priority to the workers of the closed units in the private sector for employment in the public sector;

(b) whether any circular in this regard has been issued by the Department of Public Enterprises; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) to (c). No such general decision has been taken. But in the case of Union Carbide Factory at Bhopal, as Madhya Pradesh Government decided to close that Factory, Government have advised the Central public sector undertakings located in Madhya Pradesh to give preference to the employment of the retrenched employees, if necessary, by relaxing the age limit and the order of priority for employment if they are otherwise suitable to be employed.

New power projects in Kerala

4362. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up any hydroelectric, atomic or solar energy power projects in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b). The following hydro-electric projects in Kerala are under construction/sanctioned by the Planning Commission :

<i>Name of the scheme</i>	<i>Installed capacity (MW)</i>
Idamalayar	2 × 37.5
Kakkad	2 × 25
Kallada	2 × 7.5
Lower Periyar	3 × 60
Puyankutty St. I	2 × 120
Madupatty	1 × 2
Malampuzha	1 × 2.5
Muvattapuzha	1 × 6
Chimoni	1 × 2.5