

(b) if so, the number of scientists who have left the Cement Research Institute during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Eleven scientists have left National Council for Cement and Building Materials (formerly called Cement Research Institute of India) during the last three years.

(c) Except one scientist who reported that he had resigned for taking up appointment in the Ministry of Environment and another who expired in a rail accident, all other scientists left National Council for Cement and Building Materials for personal/family reasons.

[English]

Foreign Exchange for Panchet Dam

7988. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commissioning of the Panchet Dam of the Damodar Valley Corporation is now likely to be delayed due to the Corporation being unable to pay the Austrian experts working on the site in foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to tide over this situation; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange involved and the difficulties in arranging the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The spin-

ning of the second unit of the reversible pump generating unit of 40 MW at Panchet was achieved on 31st March, 1990; however, the tail pool dam necessary for the reversible operation of the unit is yet to be completed due to problems in land acquisition.

Energy Requirement for Rural Areas in Eighth Plan

7989. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state whether Government have formulated their policy on energy requirements for rural areas in Eighth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): The Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Purchase of Equipment by DESU

7990. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem published in 'Jansatta' dated 30 March, 1990 wherein it has been stated that loss of crores of rupees has been incurred by DESU due to the burning of important equipments of 30 grid sub-stations during the last one year;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure purchase to good quality equipments in future?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Thermal Power Plant in Bihar

7991. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:
SHRIRAMESHWAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a thermal power plant at Madhubani, Darbhanga or Sitamari districts in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of Thermal and Hydel Power Plants in Bihar at present?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Eight (6 Thermal + 2 Hydel).

[*English*]

Coaches with Large Windows

7992. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to build coaches having a number of large windows which can be opened from inside in the event of accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether safety of passengers in normal times will be kept in view while making such coaches?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a trial measure the windows on some of the existing coaches have been modified by removing the safety bars and improving the inside looking system, to be used as exits in the event of an emergency.

A design of wider windows on coaches is also under consideration.

(c) The design of emergency openable windows will be adopted after establishing the efficacy of the design and safety of passengers.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Gas to Power Plants in Madhya Pradesh

7993. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of gas pipeline in kilometres passing through Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has asked for supply of gas for the gas based power projects and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken by Government on the request of State Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) when the decision is likely to be taken?