

sion in June, 1984. This extension was considered necessary for preparing a report on the outcome of the research project. As the Survey has no other ecological study of hydro-electric projects on hand, whenever the research staff of the project applied for posts else-where the applications were freely forwarded. Information to the foregoing effect was sent in response to the representations.

“Supply of Good Quality of Coal to Thermal Power Plants”

6821. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that one of the major reasons of pollution from thermal power plants in the country is due to supply of inferior quality of to the power plants;

(b) whether to avoid the increasing pollution from such thermal power plants, Government propose to take steps to supply the good quality coal to thermal power plants; and

(c) if so, details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Indian coal generally contains less sulphur but has high ash content. Use of such coal in power plants may cause pollution unless high efficiency electrostatic precipitators are provided.

(b) and (c). Washing reduces ash content in coal. However, this has to be examined from techno-economic angle.

“Pollution by Lime Stone Mine near Malabar Cements in Kerala”

6822. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the earth being discharged from the limestone mine near the Malabar Cements, a public undertaking in Kerala is flowing into the Malampuzha reservoir and thus endangering it;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been taken up with the authorities of the Malabar cements;

(c) if so, the result thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to stop the destruction of the reservoir ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) No earth is being discharged from the lime-kiln. The reservoir is not endangered.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

(d) Production has recently commenced and the factory authorities have assured all precautions, such as, contour bunds and check dams etc., are proposed to be taken up shortly.

Abolition of Passport Offices at Cochin and Calicut

6823. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to abolish the passport offices at Cochin and Calicut;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether this will not affect the speedy issue of passport in the State; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Talks between India and Pakistan

6824. SHRI B. V. DESAI :
DR. G. VIJAYRAMA RAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Pakistan resumed official level talks after a gap of nearly 8 months on 5 April, 1985;

(b) if so, the main topics discussed during the talks; and

(c) whether all the conditions put forward by the Government of India for resumption of talks have been fully met by the Pakistan Government; and