

Use of Kapurdi Lignite Deposits for Power Generation

2885. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge deposits of lignite have been found at Kapurdi in Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is proposed to set up a thermal plant to exploit this deposit of lignite;

(c) whether deposits of lignite have also been found near Media in addition to Karpurdi in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the time by which Government propose to chalk out a programme for its exploitation ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Exploration for lignite is in progress in Kapurdi area in Rajasthan. The size of the deposit as well as the possibility of installing a thermal plant based on these deposits can be decided only after the exploration work is completed and the availability of requisite quantity and quality of lignite is established in the area.

(c) and (d). Some lignite reserves have been located at Merta area. Exploration work is continuing in this area also. It is too early to propose any programme for its exploitation.

Production of Janata Cloth for Handloom Sector

2886. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering proposals and representations regarding enhancement of procurement price of four sarees of six yards each from 110.60 to 164.40; and

(b) whether there is any truth in its ascertain that the handloom weaver could be denied the minimum wages and put to loss unless enhancement is effected as indicated above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES

(SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) There is no such proposal before the Central Government. The procurement prices for janata cloth are fixed by the state governments and the handloom agencies of the states implementing janata cloth scheme. On the basis of the proposals received from the state governments, the Central Government fixes maximum selling prices for different varieties of janata cloth. The state governments fix the procurement prices on the basis of maximum selling price fixed by the Central Government and the subsidy available.

(b) There is no uniform system of payment of minimum wages to handloom weavers in all the States. The wages to be paid for production of janata cloth are also fixed by the state governments and their handloom agencies.

Kanithi Balancing Reservoir of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

2887. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) when was work in Kanithi Balancing Reservoir started by private contractor and what was tender amount and estimated amount as per principal consultants of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) when concerned authorities noticed that principal consultants could not finalise drawings of 'dykes';

(c) the Quantum of work completed by private contractor referred to in part (a) and by what time work was completed;

(d) when design working drawings were received from principal consultants of Kanithi Balancing Reservoir;

(e) by whom and when and under what circumstances it was decided to get these drawings checked by the Central Design Organisation of Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(f) when opinion from that agency was received and whether it differed from the working drawings of principal consultants; and

(g) when the drawings are finally approved and whether in the meantime any instructions were issued to the tendering private firm ?