

regard to the power sector, the Indian side took note of the expertise available in GDR and agreed to give all necessary assistance in selecting cooperation partners in India.

Specific coal projects identified for collaboration are Niljai Opencast Project in Western Coalfields Ltd. and Ramagundam II Opencast Project in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. The GDR side has submitted a techno-economic study for the exploitation and operation of a Lignite Mine III at Neyveli and a hydrogeological model for the Neyveli Basin. Cooperation with the GDR is envisaged in the Lignite projects at Palana in Rajasthan and Panandhro in Gujarat. The GDR side has also sent offers for the reconstruction of the briquetting process and modernisation of the existing Briquetting and Carbonisation (B & C) Plant at Neyveli. They have also made an offer for a feasibility study for the construction of a new B & C Plant. Final decision on these offers would be made by December, 1985 January, 1986.

Joint Sector Projects for Power Generation

2337. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up joint sector projects for power generation, thermal as well as hydro-electric ;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of management of such enterprises ; and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure that the proposed joint sector power generation units serve the social purposes for which these are being set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Thermal Power Station at Sagardighi

2338. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposal submitted by the West Bengal Government for constructing a Thermal Power Station at Sagardighi (Monigram) in the District of Murshidabad ; and

(b) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) had received, in October, 1982, a proposal for setting up of a Thermal Power Station (4 × 500 MW) in Murshidabad District of West Bengal at an estimated cost of Rs. 1385.0 crores. However, in September, 1983 the West Bengal State Electricity Board informed the Central Electricity Authority about their intention to instal 5 × 210 MW units in Stage-I to be augmented by 2 × 500 MW units in Stage-II. The modified proposal has not been received.

Insurance Cover for LPG Consumers

2339. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state whether Government propose to introduce compulsory insurance cover for LPG consumers in view of increasing gas bursts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : Each LPG distributor has a third party insurance coverage which entitles the consumer or his legal heirs to get compensation.

New Telephone Exchanges in Bangalore City

2340. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges proposed to be opened during 1985-86 in Bangalore city ; and

(b) the areas which will be covered by these new telephone exchanges ?