

(c) and (d). A suitably empowered body namely, Hazardous Substances Central Board (HSCB) is proposed to be created which will take policy decisions with regard to import, manufacture, handling and disposal of hazardous substance.

[English]

**Dangerous Condition of Edamalayar Dam (Kerala)**

1409. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Edamalayar Dam in Kerala is in a dangerous state and there is very likelihood of its bursting;

(b) whether serious complaints have been made to Government about these conditions;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to enquire into the state of this Dam; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d). Leakage in the Power Tunnel through cracks in the lining was noticed in July, 1985. On a request from the Chairman, Kerala State Electricity Board, a team of officers from Central Water Commission, Central Electricity Authority and Geological Survey of India visited the project site. The team has given suggestions to the State Electricity Board for taking necessary remedial action. The State Government has, however, assured that Idamalayar Dam is in sound condition and there is no danger at all. The State Government has also decided to conduct a judicial enquiry by a High Court Judge into the reasons for the leak etc.

**Soft Loans to States for Power Projects**

1410. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to arrange soft loans to the States for construction of power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any restrictions on States in getting loans from private organisations or Governments of foreign countries if they agree for barter payments; and

(d) whether there are any such instances of taking loans so far ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All external commercial assistance is negotiated by Government of India.

(d) No, Sir.

**Coal Slurry Pipeline Project in Gujarat**

1411. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Gujarat had submitted a project for coal slurry pipeline to improve transportation of coal to the power projects in the State;

(b) if so, for how long the project is pending clearance with the Union Government; and

(c) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to the State ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). In 1981 the Government of Gujarat made a request to the Planning Commission for taking up a slurry transportation project in Gujarat State in the Central Sector. The State Government was informed that action in the matter would be taken after the Working Group appointed by the Government of India submitted its final report. Arising out of the deliberations of the Working Group, a Group under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Coal was constituted to advise on the preparation of a Feasibility Report for establishing a short distance demonstration pipeline for coal slurry transportation in India, connecting a coal source to a power plant. Following the Group's decision a demonstration slurry pipeline project from New Majri Opencast