

(b) whether the present two companies; namely Western Coalfields and Central Coalfields are being amalgamated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). In view of the projected increase in production and investment contemplated for Central Coalfields Limited and Western Coalfields Limited, the extensive geographical areas over which these two companies operate, technical and communication problems etc., Government of India have approved formation of two new companies as subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, by splitting the existing Central Coalfields Limited and Western Coalfields Limited, from the date on which they are incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956. One company will be called the Northern Coalfields Limited, with headquarters at Singrauli (M.P.) and will cover the Singrauli Division of the existing Central Coalfields Limited as its areas of

operation. The other company will be called the South Eastern Coalfields Limited with headquarters at Bilaspur (M.P.).

Setting up of Mini/Micro Hydel Units in Kerala

1457. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :
SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has come from Kerala for setting up of mini/micro hydel units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c). Yes Sir, Details are given in the statement below.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Mini/Micro Hydel Schemes	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. lakhs)	Decision taken
1.	Muvathupuzha	1 × 6	780.2	Scheme have been recommended to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the State Plan.
2.	Malampuzha	1 × 2.5	294.6	
3.	Madupatty	1 × 2	292.3	
4.	Chimoni	1 × 2.5	313.72	

Achievement in the Development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

1458. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the achievement in the development of non-conventional energy sources so far; and

(b) the specific steps being taken to make these sources economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Biogas, improved chulhas of different models and a range of solar thermal energy devices have been developed and extended to the stage where they are now being widely utilised in different parts of the country and this usage

is increasing steadily. These technologies are already proving to be economically viable in several locations taking into account the incentives given by the Government. In addition, solar photovoltaic technology has been developed for direct conversion of sunlight to electricity and many solar photovoltaic systems have actually started being used for providing power for televisions, street lighting, community lighting, drinking water supply and telecommunication in villages, particularly in remote and backward areas. These devices are already economical for certain small power applications in remote areas compared with conventional energy alternatives. Wind pumps have also been developed and more than 1000 are in operation for demonstration and field trial purposes. Wind electric fans are under