

TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). The information is furnished in the statement laid on the Table of the House [Plaesed in Library See No.LT-6568/88]

Discovery of rare fungus by Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry

4396. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL
SHRI S.B.SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC) in Pondicherry has discovered a rare fungus of immense commercial value which is considered to be a source of a life saving drug in great demand,

(b) if so, whether this discovery has given a chance for Indian drug firms to enter the world market in a big way;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) to what extent this drug will be manufactured in India?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir The Scientists working at the Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry have succeeded in isolating and identifying an active metabolite-Cyclosporine from a fungal isolate. This compound is used as an immuno suppressant to prevent rejection phenomenon in graft-operation It is an expensive drug and is imported into India Efforts are underway for commercial production of cyclosporine As and when it is achieved, it would be possible for the Indian Pharmaceutical firms to enter the world market

(d) It is difficult to say anything at this stage.

[Translation]

Linking of Mand Collieries with Mand Thermal Power Project, Madhya Pradesh

4397. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH
SHRI ARVIND NETAM

Will the Minister of ENERGY be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has recently informed that the joint Mand Thermal Power Project of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat has not been considered for linking with Mand Collieries upto 1990-95;

(b) whether Government are in a position to reserve surplus coal of these collieries for the above mentioned project which is most essential to meet the increasing demand of power in the western areas of Madhya Pradesh, if not the reasons therefore,

(c) the time by which the coal for this project is likely to be allotted; and

(d) whether Government propose to reserve the coal of this area for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI)

(a) to (d) The Mand Thermal Power Project would be considered for yielding benefits in the time frame of Ninth Plan and beyond.

The logical source of coal supply for the proposed Mand Thermal Power station is the Mano-Raigarh coalfield The exploration work in this coalfield is in progress and it is expected to take about two years time before a geological report is ready Thereafter, the feasibility of mining coal has to be established The question of coal linkage to the Thermal Power Station can be considered only after the completion of detailed exploration, preparation of geological report and establishment of the feasibility of coal production

Supply of Power to Western Area by Vindhyachal Thermal Power Grid

4398 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the time by which arrangements would be made to supply Power to Eastern area by Vindhyachal Thermal Power Grid constructed by the National Thermal Power