

(v) **Group V Coals:**

Non-coking coal Grade F	}	Two rupees and fifty paise only per tonne
Non-coking coal Grade G		

(vi) **Group VI Coals:**

Coal produced in Andhra Pradesh	}	Five rupees only per tonne
(Singareni Collieries Company Limited)		

Explanation:- For the purpose of this item the specification of each such grade of coal shall be as prescribed under clause 3 of the Colliery Control Order, 1945.

Central Assistance to State Electricity Boards

3622. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance given to the State Electricity Boards during the last three year, year-wise; and

(b) the dues from State Electricity Boards to Union Government and other financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Raw Material in Hindustan Newsprint Ltd., Kerala

3623. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Newsprint Ltd., Vellore, Kerala is facing a crisis due to shortage of raw materials;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). While Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. has not faced any major crisis affecting production due to shortage of raw material, the Company has not been supplied the contracted quantity of reed from the allotted areas by the Government of Kerala. The long-term availability of raw materials on sustained basis, however, is not assured unless fresh plantations are taken up for which the company has approached Government of Kerala.

Bio-Gas Plants

3624. SHRI H.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted of the existing bio-gas plants in the country;

(b) if so, the number of bio-gas plants identified as non-functional in different States;

(c) the number of bio-gas plants functioning properly in those States; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to put the non functional plants in order?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). Evaluation survey studies have been assigned recently to eight independent agencies and their reports are awaited. However, results of the earlier State-wise evaluation survey studies conducted by five independent agencies in 1985-85 indicate that on an all-India basis about 85 percent plants were functional at a given time.

(d) For revival of non-functional plants in different States/Union Territories, the Government has already taken a number of steps, such as organisation of Refresher Training Courses in the detection of defects and repair for village masons and technicians; Users' Training Courses for proper operation and maintenance of biogas plants, provision of repair and maintenance kits consisting of certain essential equipments for State Governments and programme implementing agencies, and provision of financial assistance upto Rs. 500/- per defective plants. Higher repair charges are also given on case by case basis.

Import of Coal from Australia and other Countries

3625. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought the approval of Union Government for importing coal from Australia and other foreign countries for the Raichur Thermal Plant;

(b) if so, whether Government have given approval for the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Non-Domestic LPG Consumers in Bangalore City

3626. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-domestic LPG consumers in Bangalore city;

(b) whether there is any separate LPG distributors for non-domestic LPG consumers there; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to appoint separate LPG distributors for these consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) At present there are about 1,900 non-domestic LPG consumers in Bangalore city;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Indian Oil Corporation has planned a distributorship under 'DEF' category in Bangalore city in 1987-88 Marketing Plan to exclusively handle the requirements of its non-domestic customers.

Pipeline between Bangalore and Mangalore

3627. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay oil pipeline by the Hindustan Petroleum Limited between Bangalore and Mangalore;

(b) if so, the total cost involved;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to