

Crisis in fertiliser units for want of Sulphur

165. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

SHRIMATI AHILYA P.
RANGNEKAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the fertilizer units are heading for a serious crisis and even a shut-down for want of sulphur;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government are also aware that for the past 4 months also, over 40,000 tonnes of sulphur were lying in steam-off Bombay Docks because of storing difficulties and MMTC was unwilling to lighten the cargo and give it to the users only because it was not sure who would bear the lighterage charges; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). As a result of the delay in getting the contracted quantity of sulphur from certain countries, there has been difficulty in meeting the sulphur requirements of fertilizer units fully. The situation has, however, been kept under constant review and steps have already been taken by MMTC to augment the imports by entering into fresh contracts.

(c) and (d). Subsequent to the dock labour strike, the waiting period of ships at the Bombay port got prolonged and there was delay in off-loading sulphur. MMTC who are the canalising agency for importing sulphur, agreed on the request of some of the consumers to discharge the sulphur on high-seas to barges levying the extra charge to the consumers. The MMTC also made an announcement through

a press note issued on 31-1-1979 requesting the consumers to avail of this facility.

Collaboration and assistance of British mining Experts

166. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has sought the collaboration and assistance of British mining experts in developing some selected mines in the country as model high out-put mines; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). The U.K. Coal Mission which visited India in April-May, 1978 indicated that the major part of the increase in production from underground sources would have to come from mechanised longwall working. Accordingly, the assistance of a team of experts from the National Coal Board U.K. was sought *inter alia* in the selection of a few mines for mechanisation of coal extraction. The team visited India in January-February, 1979. They are yet to submit their report.

Houses for the Jawans

167. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of houses Government propose to build for the Jawans;

(b) how many Jawans are in need of houses in the army; and

(c) how many Jawans are recruited every year in the Indian Army?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b) About 30,000 officers and 2,10,000 JCO/OR are entitled to be provided with accommodation. The deficiencies as at the end of September 1978 were about 16,000 units for Officers and 87,000 units for JCOs and ORs. The deficiencies are proposed to be made good over a period of 13 years from 1978-79.

(c) Approximately 50,000 Jawans are recruited in place of persons who retire or for making up deficiencies.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation

168. SHRI F. KANNAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the precise progress of the latest project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation with reference to the schedules laid down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): Sanction was accorded by Government of India in February, 1978 to a project relating to the opening of a second mine with a capacity of 4.7 m.t. of lignite per annum and establishment of a second thermal power station with a capacity of 630 MW (with 3 units of 210 MW each). In so far as the progress for the second mine is concerned, global tenders received for the specialised mining equipment have been opened and are being examined. The detail project report is nearing completion. Production from the second mine is scheduled to commence from July, 1982 and the targetted level of production is planned to be attained by 1983-84.

In so far as the progress for the second thermal power station is concerned, global tenders for steam generating plant and turbo generators have already been floated, tenders against which will be received in April, 1979

The generation of power from the second thermal power station is scheduled to commence in 3 stages i.e. 1st phase of 210 MW by 1-10-81, 11nd phase of 210 MW by 1-10-81, and 11nd phase of 210 MW by 1-4-1983.

losses due to inadequate supply of Coal

169. SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimates have been made of the losses to our economy by inadequate supplies of coal for industrial and consumer needs; and

(b) if so, the quantum and value of such losses indicating the firm steps taken to streamline coal production and supplies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) the coal companies have been able to meet, by and large, the demand for coal in the country, although there may be marginal shortages in certain areas. No assessment has been made of the losses to the economy due to such marginal shortages.

(b) With the recovery of almost all the drowned mines in the Bengal-Bihar Coalfields with improved power supply, the production has already picked up. Import of explosives is being done to overcome shortage of explosives. The coal companies have taken steps to identify and implement short gestation projects from which additional coal production can be quickly made available. The present level of pithead stocks which is approximately 12.0 million tonnes is adequate to meet the requirements of the consumers. Close coordination is being maintained with the railways for improvement in wagon supplies. Movement of coal by road is also allowed wherever necessary.