

(b) Some of the measures adopted to increase coal production are:

(1) Attempts are being made to improve power generation in DVC which supplies the bulk of the power to collieries in Eastern India where production has been affected due to power shortage.

(2) Import of explosives has been arranged to cover the gap between demand and indigenous availability.

(3) Instructions have been issued for the allotment of diesel on a priority basis to the Coal Industry.

(4) Steps are being formulated to curb absenteeism among workers which is usually heavy in the first three months of the year.

(5) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the law and order machinery in areas where production has been affected by frequent disruptions in the law and order. A close watch is being kept on the situation.

(6) Assistance of the State Governments has been sought in expediting land acquisition for commencing new projects.

The production and movement of coal is regularly reviewed by the Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure that has been formed under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

Loss to Thermal Power Stations due to Unsatisfactory Supply of Coal

18. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of major thermal power stations in the country suffered heavy loss of power during 1979 due to unsatisfactory supply of coal;

(b) if so, the total loss of power generation sustained by the thermal power stations, the number of thermal power stations that were shut down (giving the period), the power stations that were generating below their installed capacity (giving the extent of shortfall in their generation), and the reasons for the unsatisfactory supply of coal to three power stations; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI):

(a) Some of the power stations in the country have suffered loss of generation owing to short supply of coal.

(b) As per information received in Central Electricity Authority it is estimated that there has been a loss of about 2600 million units due to shut down of the generating units from time to time due to shortage of coal including lignite. While no power station was shut down completely for want of coal, generation had to be backed down from time to time or individual units had to be shut down on account of shortage of coal.

(c) The following steps have been taken to step up coal supplies to power stations:—

(i) Coal companies and Railways have been asked to step up coal supplies to power stations.

(ii) Close liaison is being maintained between the Department of Coal, Railways and Department of Power and high level inter-ministerial meetings are held periodically to review coal supplies to power stations.

(iii) Monitoring of coal stocks at thermal power stations and ensuring availability of coal. A control room has also been set up in the Railway Board to monitor the coal supplies to power stations on a daily basis.

(iv) The Cabinet Committee on the Industrial infrastructure also keeps a continual watch on the production and movement of coal, particularly to power stations.

Irrigation Facilities in Hill Districts of U.P.

19. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide adequate irrigation facilities in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b). Information has been called for from the U.P. Government and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

Cases Pending in Courts

20. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any observation has been made by the Supreme Court in regard to large number of cases pending in courts; and

(b) if so, the efforts of Government for the quick disposal of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The Supreme Court have intimated that according to their information and knowledge there is no general observation made by that court in regard to the large number of cases pending in courts.

(b) Does not arise.

Scrapping of Press Commission

21. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Commission set up by the previous Government has been scrapped; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Chairman and the Members of the Press Commission submitted their resignations on 14-1-1980 on the change of Government. The resignations were accepted with a view to reconstitute the Commission with revised and more comprehensive terms of reference.

Setting up of a Thermal Power Station at Singrauli

22. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government have proposed to set up a pit head thermal power station in Singrauli Tahsil since 1971 and has submitted project report to the Government of India on several occasions;

(b) whether the major portion of vast Singrauli coal fields are in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh has submitted a Project Report recently to the Government of India for a large thermal power station near Waidhan in Singrauli Tahsil, M.P.; and

(d) what is the latest position in this respect and by which time Government shall take the decision?