

(c) the efforts made by Government to take immediate steps to build up sufficient coal stocks in the States, particularly in the State of Orissa?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Production of soft coke has been increased to about 2.50 lakh tonnes per month. This together with the pithead stocks, which stood at 2.37 lakh tonnes at the end of January, is sufficient to meet the present demand. A plan has been drawn up in consultation with the Railways to increase the supply of wagons for movement of soft coke. The State Governments have also been requested to streamline the distribution machinery for soft coke in the States.

Construction Hydro-Electric Projects over Rivers Sakari, Poon Poon and Phalgu etc. in Bihar

41. SHRI RAM SWAROOP RAM:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct Hydro-electric projects over the rivers Sakari, Poon Poon and Phalgu etc. in Bihar to harness their surplus water and control floods in the Districts of Gaya, Patna and Nawadah;

(b) if so, what are its main features; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above is in negative, the reasons thereof?

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

(a) to (c). No hydro-electric project had been identified over the rivers Sakari, Poon Poon and Phalgu etc., during the systematic survey of hydro-electric resources in late fifties.

However, one irrigation project namely, the Upper Sakari Project, estimated to cost Rs. 4591.81 lakhs and to provide annual irrigation to 29830 hectares in the districts of Nawadah, Hazaribagh, Monghyr has been received from the State authorities and is under examination in the Central Water Commission.

This Project envisages construction of an earthen dam at the confluence of the river Sakari and river Chhotanar near village Jorasimar in Giridih District of Bihar with Canal system on both sides and a pick up wire at Baksoti about 24 km downstream of the dam site with canal system on both banks.

Electrification of Harijan Basties

42. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding the grant of amount given to the State Governments and State Electricity Boards during last three years for electrification of Harijan basties or colonies in urban and rural areas; and

(b) the details of the progress made in the work as against the targets fixed therefor during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b). Rural electrification schemes are formulated as well as implemented by the State Electricity Boards/State Governments. The financing is done through the Normal Development Programme of the States and loan assistance extended to the State Electricity Boards and State Governments (where there are no State Electricity Boards) by the Rural Electrification Corporation. There was no separate financial allocation for electrification of Harijan Basties during the years 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79. However, in all rural electrification schemes where the main villages were proposed to be electrified, electrification of Harijan Basties