

(d) when the same is likely to be implemented; and

(e) whether Government have decided to constitute a Committee for this purpose, if so, when and the names of Members of the Committee and the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a), (c), (d) and (e). Government have no proposal to set up any separate Committee for this purpose. The Press Commission is proposed to be re-constituted shortly with revised and more comprehensive terms of reference. The inclusion of an item on diffusion and delinking of newspapers from big industrial houses in the revised terms of reference will be given due consideration.

(b) The names of newspaper companies/undertakings, who are presently registered Under Section 26 of the Monopolies Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, are as follows:

1. Capital Limited—Birla Group
2. Eastern Economist Limited.—Birla Group.
3. Newspapers Ltd.—Birla Group
4. Tamilnadu—Thiagaraja Chettiar Group.
5. A few undertakings belonging to the Indian Express Group.

Insufficient Coal supply to Thermal Stations in Bihar

58. SHRI SATISH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thermal stations in Bihar are not getting sufficient coal to run the plants to full capacity; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) Thermal power stations in Bihar have not been getting the linked quantities of coal resulting in depletion of their coal stocks, particularly at Barauni.

(b) A number of steps have been taken to step up supplies of coal to the thermal power stations in Bihar.

Some of these are as follows:—

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

(ii) Close liaison is being maintained between the Department of Coal, Railways and Department of Power.

(iii) High level inter-ministerial meetings are also held periodically to review coal supplies to the power stations.

(iv) A control room has been set up in the Railway Board to monitor the coal supplies to power stations on daily basis.

Diversion of Coal to other States in bulk by Bihar

59. SHRI SATISH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal is being diverted to other States in bulk by Bihar State;

(b) if so, the quantities so diverted to other States, details thereof;

(c) whether the rest of the coal is not sufficient for the users of Bihar State; and

(d) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take to provide coal to the common users of Bihar State?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b). Bihar is a major producer of coal in the country and meets the requirement of other states also, besides its own requirements. The production and consumption of coal in Bihar and despatch outside the State from 1976-77 to 1978-79 is given below:

year	Production	Consumption in the state	Despatch outside the state
		(in million tonnes)	
1976-77	41.52	15.30	26.22
1977-78	41.49	17.64	23.85
1978-79	41.68	18.05	23.65

(c) After allocation of coal to other states from Bihar, the quantities of coal available is sufficient to meet the demand of Bihar.

(d) A programme has been drawn up for stepping up the movement of soft coke which required by common users in the State and to streamline the distribution system.

Restriction on use of Petroleum Fuel for power generation

60. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a firm policy has been formulated by Government not to allow any more power generation by petroleum fuel and also to switch over the existing plants to coal within a time schedule; and

(b) if so, the policy adopted in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b). The Government has been following a policy of basing thermal power generation mainly on coal. Thermal power generation based on petroleum fuel was resorted to in a few power plants in the past close to some refineries in order to utilise the surplus fuel oil. Following the oil price rise of 1973, the power plants which could be converted to coal-firing technologically have already been converted to coal firing. The Government continues with this policy and permits power generation based on petroleum fuels only in exceptional circumstances mainly to mitigate power shortages in the short term.

Measures to increase production of Coal during 1980-81

61. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures have been adopted to increase production of coal in the year 1980-81 in the country;

(b) if so, what measures have been adopted by now;

(c) whether government are aware that because of short supply of coal, plants are using diesel for generating energy; and

(d) whether the position in coal front has improved now?

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

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

(1) Attempts are being made to improve power generation in DVC which