

(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