

(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

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.

(c) The Government is not aware of any plant having switched over to diesel oil for generating energy due to shortage of coal.

(d) Yes, Sir. The production of coal has risen from 94.8 lakh tonnes in December to 100.7 lakh tonnes in February. Stocks at the pithead have increased from 10.4 million tonnes at the end of December 1979 to an estimated 12.8 million tonnes at the end of February, 1980.

Irrigation and Hydro-electric Projects in Orissa

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

(a) whether any provision is being made in the current year for expediting the construction work of Indravati, Rengali, Brutang, Kuanria and other

irrigation and Hydro-Electric Projects in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the provisions made to increase hydro-generation and irrigation potential in Orissa in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b). The outlay recommended by the Working Groups of the Planning Commission for the year 1980-81 for Hydro-electric power generation in Orissa is Rs. 41.74 crores and for major and medium irrigation Rs. 63.23 crores. However, the final outlays have yet to be decided by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Government.

The provisions recommended for major and medium irrigation and hydro-electric power generation by the Working Group for the year 1980-81 for the specific projects are as under:—

Project	Outlay for major & Medium irrigation	Outlay for Hydro electric power generation
	(Rs. in crore.)	(Rs. in crore.)
1. Rengali	11.6	13.74
2. Upper Koth	5.00	20.00
3. Upper Indravati	4.00	3.00
4. Kuanria	2.00	..
5. Burtang	Nil	..

High Power Committee to improve Position of Coal Movement

63. SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high power committee has been formed to improve the position of coal movement