

in 1979-80 (upto February) at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 314 crores. These mines when completed will add 22.8 million tonnes/annum of coal production capacity.

(v) The implementation of the many schemes are delayed because of land acquisition problems, particularly in Bihar-Bengal area. The matter has been taken up with the state government to expedite the release of land for mining operations on a priority basis.

(vi) Steps are being taken to monitor the implementation of new projects with a view to eliminating delays in attaining production targets.

Annual Output of Coal

110. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual output of coal in the States of Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh for the last two years;

(b) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to increase the output and to save the wastage thereof to meet the increasing demand of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The total annual output of coal of Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh during the last years is as follows:—

	(In million tonnes)	
	1977-78	1978-79
Bihar	39.25	39.54
Bengal	22.79	19.77
Orissa	2.16	2.66
Madhya Pradesh	20.31	21.81

(b) and (c). The following steps are under implementation to step up production and supply of coal to consumers:

(i) Power supply to coal companies in the Eastern Region is being improved through better generation by DVC.

(ii) Steps are being taken to increase the supply of diesel to the coal companies.

(iii) Explosives are being imported to make up the shortfall in indigenous availability.

(iv) Steps are being taken in consultation with the State Governments to bring about an improvement in the law and order situation in the Bengal-Bihar coalfield. A special cell has been constituted for this purpose by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(v) A constant liaison is maintained with the Railways to maximise the movement of coal to the various consumers so as to reduce distress at the consumer end. Coal companies are also releasing coal by road to consumers in distress against their sponsored quantities.

Effect of Power Shedding on Agriculture and Industry

111. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is constant power shedding in the country and more particularly in the capital;

(b) if so, the details of its adverse effects on agriculture and industry in the country and particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to overcome such hindrance