

For this 20,000 tonnes of Caustic Soda import, Government have given duty exemption to enable it to be sold at reasonable price.

Committee on National Energy Policy

1055. DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH:

SHRI LAKSHMAN MAL-
LICK:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA
BOSE ALLURI:

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a committee which has been entrusted with the task of formulating a national energy policy with reference to needs, priorities and resources;

(b) if so, when the committee is likely to submit its report;

(c) what are the main features of the report if submitted; and

(d) when the recommendations of the committee is likely to be implemented?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A Working Group on Energy Policy had been set up by Planning Commission.

(b) The Working Group has submitted its Report.

(c) The Working Group estimated the prospective energy demand in the different sectors of the economy up to the turn of the century and reviewed the present and prospective supplies of energy. In order to bring about a better balance between energy supply and demand, the Working Group has suggested a set of policy prescriptions on the following lines:

- (i) the curbing of consumption of oil to the minimum possible level;
- (ii) conserving the use of energy by increasing the efficiency of its utilisation;

(iii) reducing the overall energy demand by lowering the intensity of energy consumption in the economy, particularly in the industries sector;

(iv) increased reliance on renewable energy resources; and

(v) reappraisal of our economic development strategies, especially those elements of the strategy which have a direct link to energy consumption like technology choice, location policies, urban growth, mechanisation in agriculture etc. with reference to the new awareness of the energy supply demand in future.

(d) Since the recommendations of the Working Group have far reaching implications, these need careful consideration by all the concerned Ministries, to whom the report has been sent for examination.

Silent Valley Project

1056. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Committee on Environmental Planning and Co-ordination had approved the Silent Valley Project in Kerala with the conditions that the State Government would agree to on 18 Point Safeguard Programme; and

(b) if so, details of the 18 Point Safeguard Programme?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination (NCEPC) had set up a Task Force for Ecological Planning of the Western Ghats. The Task Force in its report strongly recommended that the Silent Valley Hydel Project should be abandoned.

The Task Force suggested certain safeguards in case Government felt that the project cannot be abandoned for any reason. In April, 78, the then Prime Minister accorded his approval