

Information for 1978-79 and upto February 1980 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e). It has been decided to departmentalise transportation of coal-coke and sand in a phased manner. Some trucks have already been purchased and further trucks are being purchased.

Absorption of Surplus Workers of Jamehari Khas Colliery

1655. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether all surplus men of the New Jamehari Khas Colliery which has been closed down, has been absorbed in Nimcha Incline (Ghusick) scheme assured as earlier;

(b) if not, reasons thereof;

(c) how many workers of New Jamehari Khas Colliery have been absorbed in Nimcha Incline, Jay Kanagar Colliery and other mines in the same area and details thereof;

(d) whether these workmen have faced any obstruction while they reported for duty at Jay Kanagar Colliery;

(e) if so, details thereof;

(f) have workers of NJKC colliery been allowed to join their duties in other mines including Jay Kanagar mine, if so, from when; and

(g) whether there has been any discussion and agreement with the colliery Mazdoor Sabha regarding surplus men of NJKC, if so, details?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) to (g). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Scarcity of Coal in Orissa

1656. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state are the Government of India

aware that in Orissa the stock of coal has been scarce and the prices have gone high; if so, the action taken by the Union Government to check the price rise and adequate regular supply?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): There has been some shortfall in the supply of coal to Orissa due to shortfall in production of certain categories of coal and inadequate availability of rail wagons to transport coal and coke. The price of coal at the consumer end has risen as coal is being transported by road by the consumers to meet their demand. A Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure is regularly monitoring coal production and movement. With improvement in the wagon availability for coal, it is expected that coal prices will come down.

Bhimkund hydel project

1657. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhimkund Hydel project has highest generating potentialities of power in the country; and

(b) whether in view of the power shortage in the country the Government of India propose to take up Bhimkund Hydel Project in Orissa under Central sector?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) (a): and (b). Bhimkund Multi-purpose Project as proposed by Orissa Government will have an overall generating capacity of 393 MW (3X115 MW+3X16 MW) in Stage I and 115 MW in Stage II. It is one of the major projects proposed in the Eastern Region. It is estimated to afford a firm annual energy generation of 1358 Gwh (155 MW continuous) and secondary energy generation to the extent of 422 Gwh in 50% dependable year. The Project has not yet been cleared techno-economically. The question of execution of this project in the Central Sector will be considered at the appropriate stage in consultation with the State Government.