

(d) the reaction of Government and when the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No such proposal is pending with this Department. However, M/s. Indo-Swiss Synthetic Gem Manufacturing Company Limited has submitted an application to the Specified Authority under section 72-A of the Income Tax Act, for claiming tax relief for revival of M/s. Introc Pharmaceuticals Limited.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Orissa's Power Projects and Rural Electrification Schemes

3335. **SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA:** Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how many power projects proposals and rural electrification proposals of the Government of Orissa are awaiting clearance from the Union Government; and

(b) is there any special weightage in rural electrification programme for backward areas like Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) One Multi-purpose project and four hydro-Electric schemes, (i) Bhimkund Multi-purpose project, (ii) Hirakud St. III, (iii) Balimela St. II, (iv) Upper Kolab Extn. and (v) Rengali Extension, submitted by Government of Orissa are currently under examination in the Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission. Also, 42 rural Electrification schemes involving a loan outlay of Rs. 14.94 crores submitted by the Orissa State Electricity Board were awaiting financial sanction by the Rural Electrification Corporation as on 31.5.1980. Of these,

12 schemes for a loan outlay of Rs. 4.39 crores were at various stages of examination in the Corporation and the remaining 30 schemes involving a loan outlay of Rs. 10.55 crores had, after appraisal, been referred back to the Orissa State Electricity Board and were pending with them for revision/clarification.

(b) The Corporation has been offering concessional terms in regard to rates of interest and period of repayments and also liberalised norms in regard to viability criteria in backward areas including those in Orissa. Orissa, whose level of village electrification is less than 50 per cent, is also eligible to draw special funds for rural electrification under the Revised Minimum Needs Programme (RMNP) on liberalised terms and conditions.

Setting up of State Electricity Board in Tripura

3336. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS:** Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tripura have submitted any proposal to the Central Government for setting up of State Electricity Board in Tripura;

(b) if so, whether Government have approved the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reason thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The Government of Tripura submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Energy in January, 1979 for issue of a notification by the Government of India under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, to enable the State Government to constitute a State Electricity Board in Tripura.

(b) The Government of India did not approve the proposal.

(c) The main reason for not approving the proposal of Tripura Govern-

ment is that the power system in Tripura is relatively small and the total sales during 1977-78 were of the order of 17 million units and the number of consumers was about 20,000 only. The cost of generation in the State is already very high and it has not been possible for the State to meet the operational expenditure from the energy sale proceeds in spite of a fairly high average rate of realization of revenue. The setting up of a State Electricity Board would further add to overheads and will lead to a higher cost on the Organisation and was not, therefore, considered to be a viable proposition.

Demand and Allotment of Tar to Kerala

3337. SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand and the annual allotment of tar to Kerala during the past five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that only 20 per cent of the requirement of Kerala has been met so far;

(c) whether the urgent repair work of roads has suffered due to this;

(d) whether the oil refinery in Cochin has the capacity to meet the requirements of Kerala; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to meet the full requirements of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Total demand estimates for Bitumen for Kerala are not readily available. Actual supply of bitumen for the 1205 LS—4.

past five years and the allocation for 1980-81 for Kerala are given below:—

(In thousand tonnes)

Year	Supply
1975-76	29.4
1976-77	28.1
1977-78	29.3
1978-79	32.2
1979-80	31.1
1980-81	37.0

(allocation)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No such reports are available..

(d) The present level of production of Cochin Refinery is not sufficient to meet the demand for bitumen in Kerala State.

(e) Oil industry has been asked to make supplies of bitumen from different sources to Kerala as per allocation made to that State for 1980-81.

Accident in Vurrugarh Colliery in Bihar

3338. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) number of miners killed and injured on 14th April, 1980, in an accident at Vurrugarh Colliery in Bihar;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) steps taken by Government to prevent accident in Collieries; and

(d) how much compensation has been given to the families of victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). 2 persons were killed and I was seriously injured in the accident on 13-4-1980 in the Burrugarh (not Vur-