

Stoppage of the Sale of Coal Rejects from Chandrapura and Bokaro by DVC

239. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DVC stopped sale of coal rejects from Chandrapura and Bokaro despite huge accumulation and fire hazard because many transport contractors were procuring these rejects for mixing with the coal usually supplied to DVC and thereby not only making unscrupulous profits but also causing sharp deterioration in the quality of coal leading to poor generation;

(b) is it a fact that a Calcutta based private firm, recently applied for permission to lift waste and reject coal of Bokaro, Chandrapura and Santaldih; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) to (c). Presently, the practice of allowing contractors to lift coal rejects has been discontinued in the DVC as the Railways have declined to allot wagons for this purpose. The lifting of coal rejects by road was tried and it was found that coal rejects were being recycled and sold back. Tenders for lifting coal rejects by the DVC will be invited as and when adequate number of wagons become available for lifting these rejects.

Coal Deposits in Palasthali-Ilambazar Belt

240. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state the steps taken by Government for extracting coal from the huge deposits in Palasthali-Ilambazar belt in West Bengal-Bihar border?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): A small quarry with a production of about 5,000 tonnes per month has been opened at Palasthali-Jorekuri mines. Two underground units are being de-watered to assess the reserves in underground mines, abandoned in the past. Geological drilling has also been started to prove additional reserves.

Teesta Barrage Scheme

241. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 34, on 11th March, 1980 regarding News item captioned "Experts yet to suggest Teesta Waters Plan" and state:

(a) what is the amount already spent on the Teesta Barrage Scheme;

(b) the details of the scheme and the benefits to accrue from the scheme;

(c) by what time the construction of the barrage is likely to be completed;

(d) the arguments advanced by Bangladesh to justify their claim on the Teesta Waters;

(e) whether Government of West Bengal has been associated during the discussion with Bangladesh; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): (a) The expenditure incurred on the Tista Barrage Scheme upto March, 1980 is about Rs. 37 crores.

(b) The Tista Scheme comprises a barrage across the river Tista near Gajaldoba with head regulators on either side. A lined main canal 185 Km. long takes off from the right bank. A left bank canal will also come up later. The Scheme aims

at irrigating lands in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Darjeeling, West Dinajpur and Malda. The ultimate area to be irrigated is estimated as 923 thousand hectares (22.8 lakh acres) which will be carried out in successive stages. The irrigation in Stage I will be for 547 thousand hectares (13.5 lakh acres).

(c) The Tista barrage and the part of the right bank canal system now under execution are programmed for completion by 1985-86.

(d) Bangladesh have stated that they have vast areas in that country which are dependent on the waters of the Tista and that they have under construction their Tista Barrage Project to irrigate 540 thousand hectares (13.35 lakh acres), which according to them requires nearly all the dry season flows of the Tista.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Tata's Proposal for Thermal Power Unit at Trombay

242. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata's proposal of thermal power unit at Trombay has already been cleared;

(b) if so, the present stage of its implementation;

(c) whether Government, following the clearance of the Tata's proposal, have decided to allow the private sector to enter into the power sector;

(d) if so, the reasons for the departure from the erstwhile policy;

(e) whether other industrial houses have approached Government to set up power plants; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI):—(a) Yes, Sir. A proposal to establish one 500 MW unit at Trombay by Tata Electric Companies has been cleared in 1977.

(b) Award for the supply of Steam Generating Plant and Turbine Generator and Accessories has been made during 1978. Contracts for several other equipment packages including CW pumps, Instrumentation and control system Power transformers, has been awarded. Pilling work in Steam Generator and Turbine Hall area is in progress and the work of foundation concreting has commenced. The 500 MW generating unit is targetted for commissioning in December, 1982.

(c) and (d). The role of private sector as utility in the field of power generation is at present governed by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 under which generation and distribution of electricity is included in Schedule 'A' of the Resolution, which lists industries in which all new units, save where their establishment in the private sector has already been approved, will be set up only by the State. This Resolution does not preclude the expansion of the existing privately owned units or the possibility of the State securing the co-operation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units when the national interest so require. The proposals of private utilities for setting up power generating plants are considered on their merits keeping in view the spirit of the Industrial Policy Resolution.

(e) and (f). The Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Limited, a private utility, have submitted a proposal for establishing a new power generating plant of capacity 2X210 MW or 1X500 MW at Bassein in Maharashtra.

(ii) Ahmedabad Electricity Company Limited, a private utility operating mainly in Ahmedabad city