

keeps a continual watch on the production and movement of coal, particularly to power stations.

Raichur Thermal Power Project, Karnataka

4351. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) when the Raichur Thermal Power Project in Karnataka is likely to be completed;

(b) what is the total costs of expenditure involved;

(c) what will be its total capacity;

(d) what are the main causes of its delay;

(e) to what extent the projects will provide electricity in the Karnataka State;

(f) whether any foreign assistance was sought in respect of project;

(g) what is the total expenditures so far involved; and

(h) whether the delay in completing the construction has increased its cost; if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The project is being executed by Mysore Power Corporation. As per information supplied by them the first unit of 210 MW capacity of Raichur Thermal Project is expected to be commissioned during 1982-83 and the second unit of 210 MW capacity by 1983-84.

(b) The revised estimated cost of the project is Rs. 220 crores.

(c) The total capacity of the project now sanctioned is 420 MW.

(d) The works at the project could not be commenced due to delay in handing over of the land.

(e) After the units are commissioned, additional 420 MW or 6.0 Million unit per day of electricity will be generated in Karnataka State.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) An expenditure of Rs. 21.42 crores has been incurred till the end of March, 1980.

(h) The original estimate of the project was Rs. 159.25 crores. The revised cost indicated by the project now is about Rs. 220 crores on account of escalation in the equipment cost and civil works.

Romania's Offer to set up Hydro Electric Power Stations

4352. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Romanian Government has offered India its full cooperation in regard to the setting up of a hydro power stations in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer and cooperation made by them; and

(c) what are the hydro power stations that are likely to be set up with the help and assistance of the Romanian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) There has been no specific offer as yet, in this regard.

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

Giving Preference to Hydel Power Stations

4353. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken a final decision to give more preference to hydel power stations than the thermal power stations; and

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). The Working Group on Energy Policy has recommended that the share of

hydro power generation in the total energy supply may be increased in the future plan periods. The report of the Working Group on Energy Policy is under consideration of the Government.

The advantages of hydel power generation are:

- (i) Low operating cost.
- (ii) Utilisation of water resources, a renewable resource.
- (iii) Pollution free operation.
- (iv) Reduction of pressure on mining and transport of coal.

Supply of Coal from Singareni Collieries to Andhra Pradesh

4354. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to supply coal from Singareni Collieries to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the total quantity of coal to be supplied to Andhra Pradesh from the above collieries;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ash content of the coal is very high;

(d) whether the Union Government are actively considering a proposal to set up washeries near the coal mines or near the thermal power projects;

(e) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(f) when the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Singareni collieries is already supplying coal to Andhra Pradesh. It also meets a substantial part of the coal demand of the other Southern States namely, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala and Union Territory of Pondicherry.

(b) Singareni collieries supplied 4.87 million tonnes of coal in 1979-80 to the consumers in Andhra Pradesh, out of

a total production of 9.38 million tonnes.

(c) The Singareni coal in general has a high ash content.

(d), (e) and (f). Washeries to beneficiate coking coal are normally established under the coalmines. The feasibility of constructing washeries to beneficiate non-coking coal for use in Thermal Power Stations is under examination. A decision regarding establishment of these washeries could only be taken after assessing the techno-economics of the proposal. The washeries would be established near the coalmines so that the transport system does not have to carry the reject material, over a long distance.

Romania's Offer to set up Hydro-electric Power Station

4355. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any final decision in regard to the offer made by the Romania for know how for reducing the gestation period for the setting up of hydro power stations;

(b) if so, what are the details and condition of which offer has been made; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in accepting the offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) There has been no specific offer as yet, in this regard.

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

National Power Grid

4356. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Centre in consultation with States to build a national power grid;