

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;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time to be taken to build it;

(d) what would be its function; and

(e) whether States also agreed to establish super thermal power stations by the Centre near pit-head?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). It is considered that the optimal development and transmission of power in the country requires the construction and inter-connected operation of a high voltage transmission system. This construction and operation of a national grid system is an evolutionary process which will require inter-connection of the regional systems as well strengthening and augmentation of these systems. Recognising the need to strengthen inter-regional ties, the Central Government is already providing finances by way of 100 per cent loan to the States to construct the inter-State links. A 400 KV transmission system is being planned, the construction of which will have to be taken up in a phased manner.

(d) Through the National Grid, it would be possible to effect bulk transfers of power between States and regions as well as to optimise development of power resources and transmission.

(e) As the benefits from the super Thermal Power stations to be constructed by the Centre would accrue to the States, the State Governments are generally in favour of super thermal power stations at the pit-heads of coal.

#### **Rural Electrification in A.P.**

4357. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some districts in the country were selected to complete the extension of electricity to all the villages this year itself; and

(b) if so, the districts selected in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The Rural Electrification Corporation has in consultation with the State Electricity Boards worked out a programme to complete extension of electricity to all the villages in certain selected districts in different States.

(b) In the State of Andhra Pradesh, the Districts of Medak, Rangareddy and Anantpur have been selected for extension of electricity to all villages in 1980-81.

#### **Non-availability of Aromex**

4358. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kharif crop all over India will suffer a huge loss because of non-availability of Aromex from Digboi which is used by pesticide manufacturers all over India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that import of this ingredient, which is a bye-product of Aromex is also not possible because very few countries in this world manufacture it; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the stocks in Digboi are sufficient and if they are supplied all over the country the needs can be met for another three months and if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c). Partial availability or non-availability of Aromex affects the manufacture of pesticidal formulations and the pest control operations in Kharif. However, there are certain substitutes for aromex like Xylene, Cyclohexanone, Iomex etc. Substitute pesticides are also available as dust and wettable