

Merger of Ganga Basin Water Resources Organisation with Central Water Commission

5114. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga Basin Water Resources Organisation with its staff has been merged fully with the Central Water Commission;

(b) if so, why the order for merger of ministerial staff has not been issued so far; and

(c) the present status of the GBWRO?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): (a) Pursuant to the recommendation of Y. K. Murthy Committee in regard to avoiding any duplication and for proper co-ordination of technical work assigned to various Organisations of the Ministry of Irrigation, the Ganga Basin Water Resources Organisation was made an integral part of the Central Water Commission.

(b) The technical gazetted and non-gazetted cadres of the Ganga Basin Water Resources Organisation have been merged with the corresponding cadres of Central Water Commission w.e.f. 23rd May 1978 and 3rd November 1978 respectively. Some officers of the Central Water Commission have filed a Writ Petition in the Court against the merger of the outside organisations with the Commission. The staff of Central Water Commission had also been representing against the merger of the technical posts in the Departmental council of erstwhile Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation. In these circumstances, decision on the proposal of merging the remaining staff (i.e. ministerial and Group 'D') of the Ganga Basin Water Resources Organisation with the Central Water Commission has been deferred.

(c) The Ganga Basin Water Resources Organisation is at present functioning as a sub-ordinate office under the administrative and budget-

ary control of Central Water Commission.

Increase for further Prices of Petroleum Products

5115. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India are considering to increase further the prices of petrol, high speed diesel oil and light diesel oil; and

(b) if so, the time by which the decision will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Television Centres as Health Hazards

5116. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the research conducted by a Foreign university has pointed out health hazards of Television; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b). According to available information, research conducted abroad indicates no adverse effects on watching programmes on television sets at normal distance. The normal distance for a 20" screen TV receiver is about 10-15 feet.

Headquarters of Western Coalfields

5117. SHRI MOTILAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that 75 per cent of the coal is produced in Madhya Pradesh but the headquarter of the Western Coalfield is at Nagpur;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to open office headquarter at Vilaspur which is in the middle of the coal area; and

(c) if so, when the headquarter at Vilaspur is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Western Coal-fields Ltd. are now operating through two divisions viz. one with Headquarters at Nagpur and the other with Headquarters at Bilaspur.

Indane Dealers in Tamil Nadu

5118. SHRI R. MUTHUKUMARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the number of Indane dealers licensed in Tamil Nadu so far and the district-wise break up figures of the number of dealers in each district?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): There are 74 Indane distributors operating in Tamil Nadu. District-wise break-up is as under:

District	Number of distributors
Chingalpet	3
Coimbatore	9
Kanyakumari	1
Madras	27
Madurai	4
Nilgiris	2
North Arcot	6
Pudukkottai	1
Salem	3
Ramanathapuram	2
South Arcot	6
Trichy	3
Tirunelveli	3
Tanjavur	4
TOTAL	74

Grant from Britain for New Mechanical Long-Wall Mining Technology

5119. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to introduce new mechanical long-wall mining technology in the mining of coal in the country to raise its output;

(b) whether Britain has agreed to provide grant of some crores of rupees to pay for the introduction of this technology; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken to fully avail of this grant and gear up the existing machinery for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) In order to raise coal production, a number of underground coal projects have been taken up for introduction of mechanised long-wall mining technology for winning of coal. Two faces with fully mechanised longwall mining equipment have been introduced in Monidih mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited. For efficient operation and maintenance of these equipment, Indian specialists are being deputed to UK for on-the-job training. Simultaneously, UK experts have also been invited to India to impart training to our engineers. Three more longwall face equipments have been ordered during this year and are expected to be in position in 1982.

(b) Yes, Sir. Until now, the Government of UK has agreed to provide a grant of £21 millions to the coal industry on this account.

(c) Out of the grant of £21 millions, a sum of approx £10 millions, has been committed/disbursed by way of import of various equipments from UK. For utilisation of the balance amount, proposals for import of certain more items are under consideration of Coal India Limited.