they would at least reflect the marginal cost and allow for a reasonable return. A further increase has also been considered desirable to promote conservation of resources and economy in energy use. It has also been pointed out that the price to any user of energy must reflect the real cost of supplying energy. Since a separate tariff for each user is not practicable, a system of pricing structure to reflect at least approximately the real cost has been suggested. The Working Group has recommended an institutional framework for regulating, monitoring and adjusting energy prices in a mutually comparable manner.

ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY FOR AGRICULTURE

The Working Group felt that while every effort should be made to increase the input of energy into the agricultural sector, the nature and quantum of the input should be consistent with resource availability. There is need to explore various alternative energy technologies for supplying the energy requirements of agriculture sector. In the optimal level forecast, which according to the Working Group, could be achieved if the policy prescriptions suggested in the report are followed energy obtainable from alternative energy technologies has not been quantified, as there are several uncertainties still regarding the commercial viability of these technologies and any target for energy supplies would lead to under-estimation of the likely demand for conventional energy sources. Solar pumps, both of solar-electric and solar mechanical types, would require to be developed and tested in different parts of the country. As the use of wind mills for water lifting would depend very largely on the wind regimes, cropping pattern and agro-climatic conditions, more detailed studies of the possibility of using wind energy should be taken up along with the effort of development of wind mills of appropriate designs. Alcohol based engines and producer gas engines working with charcoal as the fuel should be tested in areas where there is likely to be long term availability of alcohol or charcoal.

A Cabinet Committee on Energy and a Secretaries Committee on Energy to assist the Cabinet Committee have been constituted to consider various issues arising out of the recommendations of the Working Group on Energy Policy.

Coal Requirement of Steel Plants

5197. SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that good quality of coking coal is available in Burmo and Girdih which are to be utilized in the steel plants without washing;

(b) whether it is a fact that medium coking coal is available in Karoseam of Hazaribagh Girdih coal field which can be utilized in the steel plant after washing; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a proposal to establish 4 more coal washeries in Hazaribagh coalfield in order to meet the requirements of washed coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Good quality coking coal was available in Giridih which could be used without beneficiation. Such coking coals have now been exhausted. Coal from Bermo area needs beneficiation before it can be used by the steel plants.

(b) Coal of Karo group of seams of Hazaribagh area can be used in steel plant after expensive beneficiation process. Production from one of the seam can be used without beneficiation and is being despatched to the steel plants.

(c) Gidi washery is already in operation. Ramgarh and Kedla washeries are under construction. A new washery is being planned at Parej.