

(b) The Planning Commission has allocated an outlay of Rs. 880 crores to Rural Electrification Corporation, for the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) as per details given below:—

	(Rs. in crores)
(i) Normal programme of Rural Electrification Corporation	595.00
(ii) Special Project Agriculture (SPA)	210.00
(iii) Rural Cooperatives	33.00
(iv) System Improvements	42.00
Total:	880.00

(c) The annual expenditure incurred by the Corporation on staff, salaries, travel and administrative expenses, for the past five years 1975—80) is as follows:—

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)
1975-76	119
1976-77	147
1977-78	182
1978-79	192
1979-80	220
Total:	860

Assistance to Industries to set up their own Power Generation Units

2119. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have under consideration any scheme of financial assistance to the State Governments which are currently suffering from power shortage

to permit the industries to set up their own power generating units and the Centre would subsidise the cost;

(b) whether the States of Rajasthan, West Bengal and Bihar are worst hit so far as the availability of power is concerned for industries;

(c) if so, the nature of decision taken and the amount of help that would be made available to the State Governments; and

(d) if not, in what way Government propose to deal with the difficulties of the industries in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The existing policy of the Government in respect of captive power plants is that where in industries process steam is required or where waste heat is available, captive generation capacity should be encouraged in accordance with the "total energy concept". Keeping in view the shortage of capacity to meet the power demand in the country and the need to insulate productive sectors like core industries of steel, fertilisers and aluminium, Government have recently been more sympathetic in considering proposals for setting up captive power plants based on coal in such units. Necessary financial resources for this purpose will have to be raised by the industries either internally or through various financial institutions.

(b) to (d). Industries located in Bihar and West Bengal are affected due to power shortage while the impact of the temporary power shortage on industries in Rajasthan has not been assessed. A number of short term and long term measures have been taken to improve the power availability in the country. These measures include:

- (i) better management of load demand by staggering of holidays, shifting of loads from day time to night etc.

- (ii) accelerated addition of new generating capacity in the system;
- (iii) detailed monitoring of the construction schedules of all the on-going projects to ensure expeditious completion of the projects; and
- (iv) close monitoring of operation of existing stations is being undertaken and assistance has been extended to the State Electricity Boards to enable them to improve the operation and maintenance of existing thermal power plants with a view to maximising generation from the existing installed capacity.

Alleged racket in Coal in Dhanbad Area

2120. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:
 SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:
 SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY:
 SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:
 SHRI KRISHAN CHANDRA HALDAR:
 SHRI R. L. BHATIA:
 SHRI DHARAM VIR SINHA:
 SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big racket in coal in the Dhanbad area involving crores of rupees has been unearthed;

(b) whether it is a fact that huge sale and delivery orders were secured in the names of fake firms of coal users and they were sold in black market;

(c) how many persons have since been arrested and the details of the modus operandi followed in this case; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to check similar incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). Raids were conducted by CBI from December 1979 to February 1980 and three cases were registered by them for investigation into alleged release of a huge quantity of hard coke in favour of non existing and fictitious parties on the basis of forged delivery orders. In this connections, CBI have so far arrested 17 persons, and out of them, two are officers of BCCL. The cases are still under investigation by CBI.

(d) Vigilance in the Sales and Marketing Divisions of Coal India Ltd. and BCCL has been tightened in order to check the recurrence of such cases in future. Government has also formulated a policy for the rotational transfer of officers and staff posted in the sensitive positions at fixed intervals.

Decision regarding Introduce of Commercial Channel in T.V

2121. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:
 SHRI K. MALLANNA:
 SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to introduce commercial channel in T.V. soon;

(b) if so, which T.V. stations of the country will have this facility;

(c) whether Government have worked out the tariff for such advertisements and the time that will be allotted for this purpose; and

(d) whether Government have considered the impact that the new service will have on AIR commercial service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD