

with them from time to time in limited quantity only, and that they had no stocks available for supply at that time. Since the demand for this formulation is small and not steady, it is not imported regularly by suppliers.

Villages Electrified in Karnataka

2902. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is the only State where large number of villages have not been provided with street lights and also all its villages had not been electrified;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) how many villages have been electrified there so far;

(d) whether State Government had put forward certain proposals and had asked for financial aid for electrifying the villages;

(e) if so, how much has been provided to the State so far; and

(f) how much will be provided during the current financial year for achieving the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) & (b). No, Sir.

(c) According to the latest progress Report received from the Karnataka Electricity Board, 16,505 villages have been electrified up to the end of December, 1980.

(d) Since the inception of the Rural Electrification Corporation up to 31-1-1981, the Karnataka Electricity Board have sponsored 177 rural electrification schemes for a total financial assistance of Rs. 57.25 crores.

(e) Up to the end of February, 1981, Rural Electrification Corporation has disbursed an amount of Rs. 30.39 crores to the Karnataka Electricity Board. This includes Rs. 1.53 crores disbursed during the year 1980-81.

(f) During the current financial year (1980-81), Rural Electrification Corporation has allocated an amount of Rs. 5 crores for disbursement to the Karnataka Electricity Board. This is in addition to Rs. 6.07 crores allocated to the State for its own normal development programme.

Synthetic Diesel from Coal

2903. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Fuel Research Institute has successfully produced and tested synthetic diesel from coal for the first time in India;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the synthetic crude to be produced by the process evolved by the above Institute; and

(c) the steps being taken to exploit this for commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c). A small quantity of diesel oil was obtained from synthetic crude oil produced from coal at a laboratory pilot plant at Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad. It was used to drive a diesel engine Jeep for a distance of 8 Km. It is too early to assess the cost of the process or commercial production. Further tests are required over a longer period.