

Yes, Sir. The construction of an integrated thermal power plant of the capacity of 1000 MW (with possibility of expansion up to 3000 MW) together with associated transmission lines of about 900 kms length and stagewise construction of the Nigahi coal mine in the Singrauli region with Soviet assistance was one of the subjects of discussion during the Sixth Session of Indo-USSR Joint Commission held in January, 1981. On the Coal side, Soviet assistance for Jhanjra underground mine, Mukunda Opencast Complex and modernisation of Kathara and Patherdih coal washeries were also discussed during the said Session. The exact scope of the assistance to be provided by the Soviet Union and the time frame for the construction of these projects are being finalised.

#### Supply of bitumen to Kerala

3911. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the repair work and maintenance of roads in Kerala are at standstill owing to the shortage of bitumen; and

(b) steps Government propose to take to provide adequate supply of bitumen?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Representations have been received in this Ministry from the Government of Kerala that the repair and maintenance of roads in the State are affected due to the shortage in the supply of bitumen to the State;

(b) Instructions have been issued to the oil companies to maximise the supply of bitumen to the State including Kerala, to the extent possible. With the increased availability of bitumen it is hoped to make full supplies to the State as per allocations during 1981-82.

#### Recognition to SC/ST employees Welfare association by N.T.P.C. Badarpur Division

3912. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Employees Welfare Association has not been given recognition by the Management of the National Thermal Power Corporation Badarpur Division despite repeated representations by the Association;

(b) whether it is also a fact that reservations in the matter of appointments and promotions of SC/ST employees of the N.T.P.C. is not governed by the policy laid down by the Government in this respect;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Association at the Badarpur Division of the National Thermal Power Corporation was formed in October, 1980. The Association has not submitted to the Management copies of registration certificates, and other documents relevant to the understanding of the objectives of the Association and other related matters. However, in spite of this several meetings have been held with the representatives of the Association to discuss the points brought out in the Memorandum submitted by the Association.

(b) No, Sir. The matter of appointments and promotions of SC/ST employees is being regulated in accordance with the policy guidelines laid down by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Bureau of Public Enterprises.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.