

Shortage of explosives faced by Coal Industry

8175. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of explosives which have been haunting the coal industry for the last two years has further aggravated and is likely to continue till 1983-84 as has been expressed by the findings of an inter-ministerial expert group set up to look into the input requirements of this industry;

(b) what are the other points made by the group in this regard;

(c) whether Government have examined the findings of the group; and

(d) if so, what decision Government have taken to solve the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Annual Advertising Budget of each Public Undertaking under the Ministry of Energy

8176. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual advertising budget of each Public Undertaking under his Ministry for the last two years;

(b) the names of the advertising agency/agencies which handled the publicity of each undertaking during the last two years; and

(c) what are the reasons for not entrusting publicity work to DAVP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c).. The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irregular Supply of Coal to Karnataka

8177. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) has it come to the notice of Government that there is no regular supply of coal and coke to Karnataka particularly to Bangalore, an industrial city;

(b) do Government propose examining the matter, in consultation with Railway Ministry and see that the supply of coal and coke in sufficient quantity is arranged early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). There has been some shortfall in the supply of coal and coke to Karnataka including Bangalore city due to inadequate availability of transport capacity. The Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure has approved a loading programme of 10920 wagons/day between Coal India and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. and the movement of coal by the Railways is also monitored by this Committee. There has also been a significant improvement in the loading of coal by Railways since December '80. The coal companies are also maintaining close liaison with the Railways at various operating levels to maximise the movement of coal and coke by Railways.

Percentage of Harijans and Adivasis employed in Giddi-C and Religora Argada area of C.C.L.

8178. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) number of new employment provided in the Giddi-C and Religora Argada Area of the Central Coalfield Limited under voluntary retirement scheme and the percentage of Harijans and Adivasis in that in the last three years;

(b) percentage of the Harijans and Adivasis in the retiring employees opted for V. R. S. facts in details;

(c) whether he is aware that many fraudulent employment of non-Adivasis in the place of Adivasis posing as adopted son or son-in-laws of the adivasis, if so, fact in details;

(d) whether a specific complaint has been received recently about the involvement of a high official in the area in such fraudulent employment; and

(e) if so, steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY: (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

News-item captioned "K. L. Rao attacks import of hydel expertise"

8179. **SHRI HARINATH MISHRA:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn in a news-item under the caption "K. L. RAO attacks import of hydel expertise" appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 18th March, 1981.

(b) if so, what are the main points in the views expressed by Dr. K. L. Rao, former Power Minister and the Government's reaction to each of these points; and

(c) in how many hydro-power projects in our country work is being done in collaboration with foreign countries and with relevant details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). The Statement of Dr. K. L. Rao which appeared in the Newspaper has

been seen in this Ministry. Dr. Rao in his statement has observed that there is no need for India to import foreign technology, as Indian engineers are quite competent to deal with our projects. He has also observed that projects like Bhakra, Idukki and Koyna were done by Indian engineers. In these examples quoted by Dr. K. L. Rao, it is seen that Bhakra Project had very active involvement of American engineers, the Idukki Project had Canadian engineers, and in the Koyna Project consultancy of Swiss engineering firm was engaged.

It is not the intention of this Ministry to induct foreign technology in an indiscriminate manner. It is also not the view of the Ministry that Indian engineers are not capable of handling our projects. (However, this Ministry would like to induct foreign technology only in selective areas where indigenous capability is not available either in terms of equipment or in terms of technical expertise, with a view to expediting the completion of work. Even in such cases, Indian technical personnel will be fully associated.

(c) So far only one specific proposal involving the grant of 250,000 Canadian Dollars, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for the deployment of experts from M/s. Surveyer, Nenniger and Chnevert Inc (SNC), a leading engineering consultancy firm in Canada has been approved. M/s. SNC have had long experience in India through their involvement in the execution of the Idukki Dam in Kerala. M/s. SNC have offered to assist in the investigation of the Chamara Hydroelectric Project in Himachal Pradesh, where they expect to complete the work in about 8 to 10 months' time. At the end of this period, M/s. SNC along with the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation jointly will provide (a) a field investigation report (b) the feasibility report (c)