

(b) This Ministry makes the overall allocation of diesel to the State/Union Territories, including Punjab. The actual allocation of this product, as between the different sectors of consumption, is to be done by the State Government. The State Governments have been advised to give the highest priority in the matter of distribution of diesel to the agricultural sector.

(c) Supplies of diesel are maximised, within the current constraints, to all the States, including Punjab. For March and April, 1981, the diesel allocations have been made at a level 15% more than the actual sales in the corresponding months of the previous year. *Ad-hoc* increases in diesel allocations have also been given to Punjab in March, keeping in view the requirements indicated by the State Government from time to time.

Quota for Slack and Soft Coke allocated to Punjab

5750. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly quota of (i) slack coal and (ii) soft coke allocated to Punjab during the years 1980-81 and 1981-82 and the quantity actually supplied against that during 1980-81;

(b) how does it compare to the actual demand and supply and how far the supply fall short of the demand; and

(c) the steps being taken to make full supply of Punjab's requirements of these two commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). The coal demand for Punjab has been assessed at 4.75 million tonnes for 1980-81 by the Coal Controller. The demand for slack, steam and soft coke has not been assessed separately. During April 1980—January 1981, 1 lakh tonnes of soft coke was supplied to

Punjab by rail and road. During the same period approximately 1.25 million tonnes of coal was despatched to Punjab. The coal companies do not maintain details about the size-wise despatch of coal to the various consumers and as such the quantity of slack coal despatched to Punjab cannot be estimated.

(c) With a view to improve the supply of coal and coke to Punjab and other States, a loading programme of 10,920 wagons/day has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure. Further, the coal companies have adequate coal stocks at the pitheads to meet the demand in full of slack coal and soft coke. The coal companies have also releasing coal from certain identified mines free of any restrictions. A dump for soft coke has also been opened in Jullundur with a view to improve its availability. Soft coke is also being released by road against the sponsorship issued by the State Government.

Electrification of Villages in Gujarat

5751. SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages receiving the benefit of electricity in the State of Gujarat; and

(b) the time when all villages of Gujarat will be provided electricity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN) :

(a) According to the latest progress report received from the Gujarat Electricity Board, 11, 879 villages have been electrified in the State up to the end of December, 1980.

(b) The Perspective Plan received from the Gujarat Electricity Board indicates that subject to availability of the required resources, including finance, all the villages in the State are likely to be electrified by 1987-88.