

(d) Preliminary work on the implementation of the Haldia project (to be implemented by the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation) is in progress.

Preparatory work regarding the Maharashtra project is in hand.

(e) Foreign assistance, wherever required will be considered at the appropriate time.

Status of National Thermal Projects Corporation

2390. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Project Corporation has been given the status of S.T.C. and SAIL;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) what will be the investment target;

(d) further investment plans; and

(e) to what extent the status has helped this Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). The National Thermal Power Corporation has been recently recategorised as a Schedule 'A' Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of India after taking all factors into consideration specially the magnitude of investment being undertaken through the Corporation.

(c) and (d). An investment programme of Rs. 3580 crores has been approved so far for the setting up of four Regional pit-head Super Thermal Stations and the associated Transmission lines by the Corporation. There is a provision in the present Five Year Plan for the taking up of new projects of pit-head generation in the Central sector through NTPC.

(e) Recategorisation of the Corporation has resulted in the upgradation of the senior posts permitting the induction and retention of suitable technical and managerial personnel by the Corporation.

E.C.L. not following the Guidelines regarding appointment and to open new Mines .

2391. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ECL is not following the guidelines regarding the appointment and to open new mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government against the E.C.L. authorities in this regard?

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.

Coal based Chemical Plant at Raniganj

2393. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the details of steps so far taken by him on the West Bengal's proposal for setting up a Coal-based fuel and Chemical plant at Raniganj in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): The Government of West Bengal is reported to have engaged the Fertilizer (Planning and Development) India Limited for the preparation of a feasibility report for the coal to methanol plant proposed by the State. Discussions were held between officials of Department of Coal, Government of West Bengal and their consultants, Fertilizer (Planning and Development) India Ltd., with a