

than 60 per cent of the reserves can be extracted, open cast method of mining is being introduced, whenever feasible facilitating recovery of 90—95 per cent of the reserves. In the underground mines Longwall method of mining is being gradually introduced which also results in increased recovery.

To meet the shortage of sand for stowing, experiments are being made with crushed stone. This would also ensure higher percentage of coal extraction from underground mines.

#### Shortage of Postal Stamps, Post Cards, Inland Letters and Envelopes in West Bengal

4293. PROF. SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is an acute shortage of postal stamps, post cards, inland letters and envelopes etc. in different post offices in West Bengal;

(b) what are the reasons; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to remove the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a to (c). There has been some shortage of postage stamps and postal stationery from time to time, as the production of these items has not always been able to keep pace with the increasing demands.

Several measures taken/proposed to be taken to remove shortage are detailed in the statement laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See no. LT-2832-A/81).

#### Life of Thermal and Super Thermal Plants

4294. SHRI KALI CHARAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the life of Thermal and Super Thermal Power Stations of all the States and of N.T.P.C.;

(b) what provision has been made for the replacement of these projects every year and what has been the aggregate of this amount upto this day; and

(c) how much derating has been done in these projects upto this day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The accepted life of a Thermal Power Station is 25 years though the life of individual component varies.

(b) There is a provision for depreciation under the Electricity Supply Act where the principles of depreciation have also been elaborated. The ageing of existing units and the need to compensate for the reduced generation from them is taken into account while formulating power plans.

(c) The Central Electricity Authority has accepted deration of 381.7 MW of the installed capacity of thermal power stations in the country.

#### Progress made in setting up Petrochemical complexes Based on Bombay High Gas

4295. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state what is the progress made in setting up the petrochemical complexes based on Bombay High gas so far, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Preparatory work on the Maharashtra gas cracker project has been taken in hand. Details on the Gujarat gas cracker project are being worked out.

#### Appointment of Producers from Staff Artistes

4296. SHRI RAMAYAN RAI: Will the the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to

refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6712 on 7th April, 1981 regarding promotion of Assistant Station Director and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that producers are appointed for planning and production of the programmes and they are supposed to be experts in their field;

(b) whether the Staff Artistes working in other field as Announcers, Musicians, Production Assistance are also supposed to be expert in their line; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose appointing only producers in A.I.R. and T.V. from the category of other Staff Artistes and give them more powers to produce better programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Both Producers and the Programme Executives are assigned the duties of planning and producing programmes, under the over all supervision of the Station Directors on the basis of their suitability and specialisation in their respective disciplines.

(b) The Production Assistants, Announcers and Musicians assist in the production and presentation of programmes produced and planned by the programme officers, as a Team. They have the required proficiency and specialisation in their respective field of work.

(c) There is no such proposal.

#### Meeting of Deputy Minister and All India Small Newspapers Editor's Conference

4297. SHRI CHINGWANG  
KONYAK:

SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of the All India Small Newspapers Editors' Conference had met

the Deputy Minister in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, whether the delegation had put forward certain demands to her in regard to the distribution of News Print, need for more slow speed news bulletin, abolition of sales tax on newsprints and to remedy several irregularities in the distribution of advertisement etc., if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the decision taken on the demand of the Conference?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The demands are being examined.

#### Advisory Committee for different Stations of Akashvani and Doordarshan

4298. SHRI RUP CHAND PAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed any Advisory Committees for the different stations of 'Akashvani' and Doordarshan'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Programme Advisory Committees at four AIR Stations, namely, Bangalore, Jalgaon, Raipur and Silchar have already been formed. Further, Advisory Committees for 23 AIR Stations have been communicated to the concerned Stations. For rest of the Stations, the Committees are in the process of constitution.