

power houses and the fertilizer plants. The following steps are taken to streamline the supply of coal to these sectors:

(i) **POWER**:—The coal demand of the power stations is discussed at meetings of the Standing Linkage Committee which are held quarterly, in which the Railways, Departments of Power and Coal, Central Electricity Authority and coal companies are represented to allot coal to the various thermal power stations depending on the requirements. Further, the movement of coal to the thermal power stations is being monitored at various levels by the coal companies, power houses and Railways and by the Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure.

(ii) **STEEL PLANTS**—The coal supply to the steel plants is discussed at monthly meeting held by the Coal Controller at which the representatives of the steel plants, coal companies and Railways are present. Besides from time to time the coal supply to the steel plants is also monitored at the inter-ministerial levels and by the Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure.

(iii) **FERTILIZERS PLANTS**—The coal requirements of the fertilizer plants are being met in full and inter-ministerial consultations are held whenever needed to ensure fulfilment of their requirement.

The coal companies in general maintain a close watch on the movement of coal to the consumers and in particular to the public sector plants.

Production of Benzene Refineries

3758. SHRI A. A. RAHIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the production of Benzene at Cochin Refineries is lying with Government for clearance; and

(b) whether any decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). The Feasibility Report for the production of Benzene in Cochin Refineries Limited is under examination.

Supply of HP Gas Cylinders in Delhi

3759. SHRI CHATURBHUI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumers were not supplied HP gas cylinders in Delhi/Delhi Cantonment during the course of the last days of November, 1981;

(b) if so, what are the salient reasons therefor; and

(c) steps taken to ensure urgent supply and non-recurrence of the same in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). There was some disruption in supplies of LPG (cooking gas) by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) in Delhi/Delhi Cantonment area during the last week of November this year due to the restructuring of their distribution net work. With the completion of the restructuring work, the supplies of cooking gas by the HPCL has become normal in the area.

Connecting Gangawali with Hospet (Karnataka) by a 60-Channel capacity U.H.F. Radio System

3760. SHRI H. G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that connecting Gangawati with Hospet (Karnataka), by a 60-Channel capacity UHF Radio Relay System has been found to be economically viable;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in implementing the proposal; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Due to severe shortages in the country, the transmission equipment as well as the switching equipment to enable adequate utilisation of the transmission medium are not likely to be available in the near future.

Repayment of "Interim relief" refunded by employees of DESU who resigned before November, 1981

3761. SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Interim Relief" is being paid provisionally to the employees of DESU, if so, since when;

(b) whether the employees who resigned from the services of DESU prior to November 1981 were required to refund the accumulated arrear of the Interim Relief if so, the details of such employees together with the amount they refunded;

(c) whether a uniform policy to this effect has since been adopted by DESU if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the employees (now ex-employees) of DESU who had refunded the arrears of Interim Relief at the time of their resignations will now be given their amounts back if so, by when and if not, the reasons for disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) DESU has reported that 'Interim Relief' payment is being made provisionally to the regular employees of DESU (except

those recruited in the service of the Undertaking after 30-11-1977 as also those covered by the pay scales as per recommendations of the 3rd Central Pay Commission—to who no 'Interim Relief' payment is admissible) w.e.f. 1-4-1972.

(b) The employees who resigned from the service of DESU prior to 17-11-1981 were required to refund the total amount of 'Interim Relief' paid to them as from 1-4-1972 or from the date of their initial appointment in the Undertaking whichever was later. The total number of ex-employees who had resigned is 233 and the total amount on account of Interim Relief so recovered from them is of the order of Rs. 3.52 lakhs.

(c) As per information furnished by DESU, a decision in this regard was taken by the competent authority, which has since been notified for implementation vide office order dated 17-11-1981 *inter-alia* providing as under:—

(i) while considering cases of retiring employees, they may not be called upon to refund the interim relief and this decision may be given effect from 10-8-1973;

(ii) same as at (i) above in cases of resignations but the decision will be given effect only in cases where resignations are accepted on or after the date of this office order; and

(iii) in case of resignations accepted earlier than the date of this office order, recovery of interim relief will be made.

(d) No, Sir. The ex-employees whose resignations had already been accepted prior to 17-11-1981 were paid the amount of inter-relief provisionally pending the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Delhi before whom the matter was still under adjudication. The competent authority also took the decision for not effecting recovery of the amount of IR in the case of employees resigning on or after 17-11-1981. As such the question of