

hands to put into cold storage the report to set up a thermal power station at Maithon; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The feasibility report for setting up a thermal power station at Maithon is under examination in the Central Electricity Authority.

#### **Taking over of power Generation and Distribution by the Centre**

3932. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government made a proposal at the recent Power Ministers' Conference to take over power generation and distribution networks in the States;

(b) if so, the reactions of the State Governments thereto;

(c) whether Government have since abandoned the proposal; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) to (d). Question does not arise.

#### **Soviet assistance for starting Open Cast Mines**

3933. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Union has agreed to provide technical assistance to India for starting new open cast mines in place of the existing underground mines;

(b) if so, whether projects have since been finalised to make use of such technical assistances; and

(c) if so, the details of such projects and by when they are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Mukunda opencast mine is being planned in Jharia coalfield, with the assistance of Soviet experts. Both coking and non-coking will be exploited by large scale open cast mining using heavy earth moving machinery.

(b) and (c). The project has not yet been finalised. However, all geological and other data necessary for preparation of Feasibility Report have been collected and handed over to the Soviet side.

#### **Price of Chloramphenicol**

3934. SHRI BABU LAL SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market price of Chloramphenicol is much lower than the notified price by Government;

(b) what is the reasons for such a situation;

(c) whether Government have examined that the price fixation done in this case has been out of proportion; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the examination conducted and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). Some instances of sale of Chloramphenicol at prices lower than the Government fixed pooled prices have come to the notice of my Ministry. Some parties who are importing the penultimate intermediate L-Base are converting it into Chloramphenicol and are selling the same at lower prices.

Government have fixed retention prices for the indigenous manufactures of Chloramphenicol from basic stage and a pooled price at which Chloramphenicol may be sold. The pooled price is Rs. 622/- per kg. for Chloramphenicol Powder and this price