

periodic checks on their domestic/ industrial distributors.

(d) There are about 40 lakh applicants in the waiting lists for cooking gas connections in the country as on 31-12-81.

Commissioning of Mathura Refinery

310. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position regarding commissioning of the Mathura Refinery ;

(b) what will be its initial capacity and what will be its installed capacity ;

(c) the total expenditure to be incurred on the construction of the refinery ;

(d) what was the cost of the pipeline through which crude will reach the refinery ; and

(e) what is the employment potentiality of the refinery and how many persons have already been recruited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The trial runs of crude distillation unit of Mathura refinery commenced from 18th January, 1982.

(b) The initial capacity of the refinery is expected to be around 4 to 4.5 million tonnes per annum against the installed capacity of 6 million tonnes per annum until the secondary processing facilities are commissioned. These facilities are expected to be commissioned in April '82.

(c) As per present indications, the total cost of the refinery is expected to be around Rs. 253.92 crores.

(d) The approved revised cost estimate of the Salya-Viramgam-Koyali-Mathura crude oil pipeline is Rs. 231 crores.

(e) The present sanctioned strength of the Mathura Refinery Project is 1555 persons against which 1250 persons have already been recruited.

Coal Crisis in States

311. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all the States are facing coal crisis ;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for the coal crisis, when we have increased our coal production during the current year ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to solve the problem to save the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c). There is no crisis in the availability of coal in the country. The production of coal in the period April '81—January '82 has increased to 99.6 m. tonnes as against 89.5 m. tonnes in the same period last year i.e. an increase of 11.3%. The supply of coal to the consumers has also increased in the same period to 96.5 m. tonnes as against 85.6 m. t. in the same period last year i.e. an increase of 12.7%. The coal companies are keeping constant liaison with Railways at the various operating levels to step up movement of coal by rail to meet the requirement of the industrial & other consumers. The loading from