

(b) whether coal transportation by rail is banned within Bihar because of the distance limit of 200 miles due to which coal in Haryana or Punjab is cheaper than that in northern areas of Bihar, e.g. Jaynagar, Sitamarhi, Bagahaer; if so, any remedial steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) Coal prices at the pithead are fixed by Government and are applicable all over the country. Consumers pay all other statutory levies and transportation charges on coal and as such the prices of coal to the consumers vary place to place.

(b) Movement of coal to consumers within 200 miles of pithead by rail in Bihar is not banned. In all cases consumers pay for the transportation charges.

Linking of Raigarh Thermal Power Station with two IBA Coal Mines in M.P.

4868. SHRI B. R. NAHATA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board for linking of the proposed Raigarh Thermal Power Station in Madhya Pradesh with two IBA Coal Mines in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Coal Authorities are linking these coal mines with other Power Stations which are at a longer distance and if so, what are the reasons for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). A proposal has been received from the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board regarding coal supply from Mand river and Ib valley coalfields for setting up of a power station of 3x210 MW capacity near Raigarh. However, no project report has so far been received for techno-economic clear-

ance by the Central Electricity Authority. The project can be considered for techno-economic clearance only after all the necessary inputs are tied up.

A few thermal power stations in the Western Region have been linked to the Ib valley coalfields. The exploration of the Mand-Raigarh coalfield is still at a preliminary stage and their production potential can be determined only after detailed exploration is carried out. Even in respect of the Ib valley coalfields, further exploration is being carried out to determine the full production potential. Coal linkages are provided to the power stations keeping in view, *inter alia*, the quality and the quantity of coal required by the power station and the facilities that exist for transportation of the coal from the coalfield to the power station.

Hydel projects of M.P.

4869. SHRI B. R. NAHATA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) as to how many Hydel Power Project proposals have been submitted for sanction to the Central Electricity Authority by Madhya Pradesh;

(b) when they were submitted and what is the result; and

(c) whether it is a fact that none of these Hydel Projects are being sanctioned for the year 1982-83, and if so, for what reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). The Project report of Seven multipurpose/hydro-electric projects, received from the State authorities are under examination in the Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission. Details of these schemes are given in the statement enclosed.

These projects would be taken up for implementation after their techno-economic feasibility is established and the schemes are included in the Plan.