mentioned that if any one of the Judges was of the opinion that oral arguments should be heard in the matter, the matter would be listed before a Bench in the court. The letter sought an early reply as it was proposed to bring these changes into force with effect from reopening of the court in July, 1982 after the close of the summer vacation. The Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association wrote a letter dated 20-4-1982 to the Registrar, Supreme Court communicating to the resolution of the Supreme Court Bar Association objecting to the letter dated 19-4-1982 from the Registrar and intimating that the Bar would go on an indefinite strike from 23-4-82 if that letter was not rescinded.

No proposal for amendment to the Supreme Court Rules has been received by the Government so far the approval of the President under Article 145 of the Constitution. However, the Government consider it unfortunate that the letter of the Registrar written with the object of eliciting views of the Bar on a step to speed up disposal of cases should have been responded to by a threat of strike.

The Supreme Court Registry have intimated that thereafter, no further notice of strike etc. has been received by them.

Seminar on performance of Thermal Power Stations held in June 1982

876. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on the performance of Thermal Power Stations in India was held at Vigyan Bhavan. New Delhi on June 9, 1982; and

(b) if so, what steps were suggested therein to boost thermal power output?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the various technical sessions of the seminar on performance of thermal power plants held on 9th and 10th June, 1982 were as follows:—

(i) Setting up of a regulatory commission for examining the fitness of the machines for commissioning as well as for availability of trained manpower.

(ii) Need for a central agency like the Central Electricity Authority for collecting the feedback from the various stations and disseminating the same to the individual utilities.

(iii) It was found essential that a time bound programme for rectifying the identified deficient areas of boilers of 210 MW units may be made.

(iv) Inter-changeability of equipment auxiliaries including bought out items in one station must be assured;

(v) It was found essential that the rotor failures in the turbines should be investigated in depth and necessary feed-back given to the various state electricity boards.

(vi) The distortion of flanges in big machines has caused long duration outages and a fresh probe into the matallurgy and possible change in matallurgy needs also to be investigated.

(vii) The causes for high consumption of make-up water in the thermal power stations should be investigated and the consumption should be brought down from 7 per cent to 3 per cent.

(viii) BHEL should have a fresh look at the main elector nozzles to improve their performance.

(ix) The causes of wear in the steel rings of generators may be investigated.

(x) The overhauling of generator after one year of operation and than every 2 to 3 year was considered unsatisfactory and it was felt that

it would be possible to run the generators for 8 to 10 years before necessitating such overhaul.

(xi) For sequencial control of auxiliaries in the control and instrumentation, solid state system should be used.

(xii) For unit protection, relay based system should be used.

(xiii) From the experience of many units in the country it was noted that they tend to run into coal with high ash content of the order of 45 per cent and boiler designs should take this into account in addition to the other properties such as moisture in the rainy seasons.

(xiv) It was also felt that there should be some discipline in regard to the coal supply to power plant to eliminate very large lumps of coal and stone peices to the extent possible.

(xv) The power plant laboratories should be equipped with up-to-date analytical instruments for studying water chemistry.

(xvi) There is a great scarcity of activated carbon in the country. Since this is an essential material required particularly to take care of the organic contaminants in water augmentation of the production of this material should be pursued.

(xvii) Commercial accounting system should be introduced in all the State Electricity Boards.

(xviii) Cadre of thermal engineers should be separated.

Increase in prices of Newsprint

877. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the prices of newsprint;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the reasons for the increase; and

(c) what is the cost of production of newsprint within the country and the cost of procurement of this item from abroad on an average basis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is associated in fixing the price of imported newsprint only. This price is fixed every quarter taking into consideration various factors such as purchese price, freight rates and the exchange rate of the U.S. Dollar *vis-a-vis* the Indian Rupee This may vary from time to time. The High Sea sale price and buffer stock sale price of standard newsprint of 48.8 GSM was Rs. 6120/- and Rs. 6010/- per Metric Tonne respectively during April-June, 1982. The sale price for the current quarter will be announced shortly.

(c) The cost of production of indigenous newsprint differs from unit to unit and also over time. In February, 1982, the cost of production in the case of newsprint produced by Nepa Mills was approximately Rs. 500,200 metric tonnes. The cost of procurement at present of newsprint from abroad is around Rs. 5,500/- per metric tonnes. cost insurance freight (excluding import duty).

New Method to convert substandard Coal into Low Ash (Coal)

878. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new method to convert sub-standard coal into low ashed coking coal has to be adopted at the Barura Washery in Dhanbad;

(b) if so, what are the broad features of this project indicating the economy that is likely to result from this process; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to put this new method into use in other washeries?