

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) There is no new method adopted in the Barura washery of Bharat Coking Coal Limited. The method adopted at Baroda is quite conventional.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Lignite-Based Thermal Plants in Rajasthan and Gujarat

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

(a) whether Government have decided to set up two thermal power plants based on lignite, one in Bikaner district of Rajasthan and the other in Kutch district of Gujarat;

(b) what are the broad features of the proposed plants; and

(c) at what stage these proposals stand at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). The scheme for the installation of a lignite based thermal power stations in Kutch district of Gujarat comprising of two units of 60 MW each was approved by the Planning Commission on 28th Spt. 1979 at an estimated cost of Rs. 71.27 crores. The scheme is at present under execution. As per the latest assessment the commissioning of these units is expected to be in June 1986 and Dec., 1986.

The scheme for the installation of lignite based thermal power station at Palana in Bikaner district of Rajasthan comprising of two units of 60 MW each has been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority at an estimated cost of Rs. 67.3 crores. The Central Electricity Authority while according techno-economic clearance to Palana Thermal Power Project has recommended simultaneous sanction of the Palana Power Project and Palana Mining

Project. The first unit of 60 MW at Palana Thermal Power Station is expected to be commissioned in 56 months from the date of sanction and the second unit six months thereafter, provided both the power project and the mining project are sanctioned and taken up simultaneously.

This scheme is awaiting investment decision by the Planning Commission.

#### Information Policy for Information Media

880. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any information policy in all the information media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). Information and Communication are regarded by the Government as essential tools in the process of development. The role of information media, therefore, is to inform and educate the people and to motivate them to participate in the national development activity as envisaged in the Five Year Plans. The policy with regard to the information media thus reflects the country's development policy. However, the Government media have been issued guidelines as to how the publicity activity is to be undertaken by each of the media units—All India Radio, Doordarshan Films Division, Press Information Bureau, Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Dte. of Field Publicity, Dte. of Publications Division etc. The guidelines clearly indicate the priorities in publicity effort and the emphasis to be given in publicity programme. The guidelines also highlight the need for objective, credible and convincing presentation of the publicity programmes with a view to convincing