

### Broadcast/Telecast of Election Meeting News

1603. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the news of election meetings etc. have been broadcast and telecast by AIR and Doordarshan during the last elections in Andhra, Karnataka, Tripura, Assam and Delhi;

(b) how many times the news from Government side and opposition side were announced respectively; and

(c) how many lines of news-items were read-out from Government side-leaders, and Opposition side-leaders during the election campaigns of the above-mentioned elections?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The information is not available in a compiled form nor can it be compiled in a reasonable time since the labour involves scrutiny of thousands of news bulletins.

### Purchase of Rigs for Bombay High

1604. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government approved \$ 70 million for purchase of two work over rigs for exploration and exploitation of oils at Bombay High, if so, whether global tenders have been issued for purchase thereof; and

(b) if not, the procedure for purchase of these rigs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM, IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) The ONGC have submitted a proposal to the Government for purchase of two jack-up rigs for workover operations in offshore areas after inviting

global tenders. This proposal is under examination in the Government.

### Permission to Tamil Nadu for Import of Cooking Coal

1605. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Tamil Nadu have asked Central Government's clearance for the import of coal from Australia for the generation of power in the State;

(b) what is Central Government's stand in this matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that Tamil Nadu is not receiving sufficient coal supply from the various collieries in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (d) It is a fact that the Government of Tamil Nadu have asked the Central Government to permit them to import 5 lakh tonnes of coal for their Tuticorin Power Station as an interim one time measure to build up buffer stocks.

The coal requirements of the Tuticorin Thermal Power Station are met from the Bengal-Bihar collieries of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. through rail-cum-sea route via Haldia Port. The Eastern Coalfields Limited is capable of meeting the full requirements of the aforesaid power station. However, there have been some constraints with regard to the movement of coal to the power station via Haldia Port, both at the loading and the unloading ends. Coal Supplies are being regularly monitored by the Government and there has been considerable improvement in the supply of coal to the power station. The endeavour of the Government is to maximise the movement of indigenous