

(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) proposes to issue the tenth series of bonds;

(b) if so, the amount of the tenth series of bonds proposed to be issued;

(c) the purpose of issuing the tenth series of bonds and the period by which the amount will be refunded; and

(d) the details of the interest carried out by the bonds proposed to be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHAMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b) The Rural Electrification Corporation, under its market borrowing programme, has issued PEC bonds—1996 (tenth series) of the notified face value of Rs. 30 crores with a right to retain 10% additional subscription of the notified amount.

(c) The bonds have been issued to augment the financial resources of the Corporation for its lending programme to finance Rural Electrification Projects and Rural Electric Cooperatives in the country.

(d) The currency of the bonds is 12 years from 12th March, 1984 and the amount will be repayable at par on 12th March, 1996. REC bonds (tenth series) carry interest at the rate of 8.25% per annum payable half yearly on 12th September and 12th March every year.

**Illegal Coal Stock detected near
Ramgarh in Hazaribagh
District, Bihar**

6139. SHRI KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal coal stock has been detected from the premises of one hard coke manufacturing unit near Ramgarh in Hazaribagh District, Bihar;

(b) if so, the quantity and the value of the illegal coal stock detected at the above place; and

(c) the action taken against the hard coke manufacturing unit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Central Coalfields Limited have reported that the District Authorities, Hazaribagh have lodged FIR with the Mandu Police Station stating therein that huge quantity of unaccounted coking and hard coke had been stocked inside the compound wall of M/s. Bajrang Bali Hard Coke Company. Subsequently the Police raided the place, and registered a case.

**Setting up of a Bench of Karnataka
High Court at Hubli-Dharwar**

6140. SHRI F.H. MOHSIN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a long standing demand for setting up a Karnataka High Court Bench near Hubli-Dharwar;

(b) whether site and the building has been offered by the Corporation there;

(c) whether Government of Karnataka and the High Court of Karnataka have recommended for such a bench to be established; and

(d) the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL) : (a) and (c) The proposal for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the Karnataka High Court at Hubli-Dharwar was sent by the State Government in December, 1975, but was withdrawn in May, 1976. The proposal was revived by the State Government in August, 1981. Certain information

relevant to the establishment of the Bench was called for from the State Government in September, 1981 which was received partially in September, 1983.

The High Court of Karnataka in a Full Court meeting held in August, 1973, resolved that the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court outside its principal seat would lead to impairment of the efficiency of the High Court and therefore it was not desirable to locate a permanent Bench outside its principal seat. The State Government have furnished with their letter sent in September, 1983 a note containing the opinion of the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, in which he has stated that between Belgaun and Dharwar, the latter is more centrally situated than the former for locating a bench of the High Court. He has further observed that whichever of these two places is chosen for locating a Bench of the High Court of Karnataka, very elaborate preparatory work is absolutely necessary without which it would not be possible to establish a Bench of the High Court.

(b) The position is being ascertained from the State Government.

(d) Part of the information asked for from the State Government was received in September, 1983. In the meantime, in December, 1983, the Government referred the matter to the Jaswant Singh Commission for their examination and report. The Commission is to submit its report by 13th December, 1984.

Fire in Cochin Refinery

6141. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total damage due to fire and explosion in Cochin Refinery in March, 1984 and the loss to private property;

(b) the number of accidents occurred in Cochin Refinery since 1980 and the loss as a result thereof; and

(c) the compensation paid to the private parties due to the accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) Though the precise damage is being assessed, the preliminary estimate of the damage due to the fire in March 1984 is of the order of Rs. 10 crores. The loss to private property in the vicinity of the Refinery is being assessed with the help of State Revenue Authorities. So far they have assessed the total loss covering 144 cases at Rs. 17 lakhs.

(b) and (c) Since 1980 there were a total of six fire accidents including the one that occurred on 8th March, 1984 in the Refinery. The total damage to plant and Equipment as a result of these accidents excluding the one that occurred on 8.3.84 was about Rs. 100.67 lakhs. There was no damage to private property on account of these earlier fires and hence the question of payment of compensation did not arise.

Fire in Mathura Oil Refinery

6142. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a fire broke out in Mathura Refinery on the night of 15th March, 1984;

(b) If so, the causes of the fire;

(c) The estimated loss as a result of this fire;

(d) whether some sabotage is involved; and

(e) if so, full details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF