

(a) whether the first phase of the Patratu Thermal Power Project in Hazaribagh has been completed; and

(b) if so, whether the total power produced will help Bihar ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) Four 50MW each and one 100 MW generating units out of 400 MW comprising the first phase of Patratu Thermal Power Station have been commissioned. The sixth generating unit of 100 MW is under erection and is likely to be commissioned during the current year.

(b) The Project would add 400 MW of installed capacity to the Grid and will feed about 2,000 million Kwh annually into the Bihar Grid which would be of considerable help in meeting demands of industry, agriculture and other loads in the State.

Finalisation of cost of production of Coffee

398. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of production figures finalised by the Coffee Board and sent to Government are still pending acceptance since November, 1970;

(b) whether this has resulted in the Coffee Board being unable to fix the minimum release price for the coming season crop expected in December, 1971; and

(c) whether Government propose to take immediate action to finalise the cost of production ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pending decision by Government Coffee Board is continuing the minimum release price of Rs. 3.10 per point.

(c) The matter is under active consideration.

Orissa Hit by Tidal Waves

399. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any warning had been given to the coastal areas of Orissa regarding the tidal waves which hit those areas on the 29th October, 1971; and

(b) if so, the nature of loss suffered and the help given to Orissa ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) The India Meteorological Department issued warning of a cyclonic storm expected to affect the coastal districts of West Bengal and North Orissa by high priority telegram to the Chief Secretary, Orissa Government and the district Collectors of Balasore and Cuttack at 12.20 Hours (Indian Standard Time) on October 29 and to All India Radio Cuttack and Sambalpur at 16.30 hours (Indian Standard Time) on October 29.

(b) The assessment of the damage caused by the Cyclone is being done by the State Government. According to latest report from the State Government, the population affected is 59 lakhs in 8,540 villages. 9,658 human lives and 50,000 cattle have been lost. About 4 lakh houses have been damaged.

The Army helped in the relief operations. The Central Government sent some planes for air dropping of food for the areas not accessible by roads. An amount of Rs. 2 crores has been sanctioned by the Central Government for immediate relief measures. A sum of Rs. 3 crores has also been sanctioned by the Ministry of Agriculture for providing loan to agriculturists for purchase of fertilizers and seeds.

Committee of Experts on desirability of Bansagar Project

400. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :