

of thorium, Government have fixed a programme so that eventually we can generate substantial quantities of power from thorium; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI). (a) and (b). Government have initiated a programme so that eventually substantial quantities of power can be generated using relatively more abundant thorium. The programme consists of the setting up of an experimental Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu by 1979-80 for providing experience in the construction and operation of sodium cooled fast breeder reactors as a first step. The next step will be the construction of commercial fast breeder reactors after sufficient experience has been gained in the operation of the FBTR in the fuel blankets of which thorium 232 will be converted into fissile uranium 233. The inventory of U-233 thus built up will enable us to go over to the thorium 232-uranium 233 breeder cycle in the fourth stage of our nuclear power production. Any significant programme to generate power using thorium can, however, commence only after the stage of setting up of commercial fast breeder reactors decisions on the construction of which have yet to be taken.

Monopoly in 203 Items

2377 PROF MADHU DANDAVATE Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state

(a) whether a survey conducted by the Ministry of Industry and Civil Supplies has revealed that there are 203 items in which a complete monopoly exists; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to break the stronghold of such single firm monopolies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). Although no survey as such was conducted by this Ministry, an internal study was undertaken by the D.G.T.D on items having single source of supply as on 1 November, 1975. The study has revealed that about 55 items have a single source of supply.

It is the policy of Government to reduce concentration of economic power in a few hands and with this end in view, wherever monopoly exists, efforts are made to bring about diffusion of entrepreneurship by allowing new entrepreneurs to set up capacity in such fields.

Management of 'Samachar'

2378 SHRI NOORUL HUDA Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether Government would include the representatives of employees IFWJ and editors of newspapers in the management of 'Samachar'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) The 'Samachar' is a non-governmental and autonomous organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860. It is for its Managing Committee to decide upon requests from representatives of employees, IFWJ and editors of newspapers for membership of either the Society or its Managing Committee.

बोनस के मामले पर कोयला खान में हड़ताल

2379. श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि -

(क) क्या बंगाल, बिहार और मध्य प्रदेश के सभी कोयला खानों के अधिकारों