

Pandiyar Punnapuzha Hydro Electric Project in Kerala

742 SHRI C H MOHAMED KOYA Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether the Kerala Pandiyar Punnapuzha Hydro-electric Project is pending clearance from the Central Water and Power Commission, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) (a) and (b) The project report of the Pandiyar Punnapuzha Hydro Electric Scheme is being examined by the Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance

Idamalayar Hydro-Electric Project

743 SHRI C H MOHAMED KOYA Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state whether the progress in the execution of the Idamalayar Hydro electric Project is hampered due to paucity of funds?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) The requirements of funds for the Idamalayar Hydro-electric Project in Kerala was discussed in detail with the State authorities at the time of the formulation of the State's Annual Plan for 1976-77 and the requirement of funds assessed has been fully provided in the approved Annual Plan

Electrification of villages

744 SHRI R S PANDEY Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the number of villages in the country yet to be electrified?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) The total number of villages in the country as per 1971 Census is 575936 Upto

31-1-1976, 1,72,415 villages have been electrified and 403,521 remain to be electrified

Non-conventional raw material for paper production

745 SHRI P GANGADEB Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state

(a) whether his Ministry is considering setting up of a major research unit to find out alternative non-conventional raw materials for the production of paper, and

(b) if so, broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B P MAURYA) (a) and (b) Government is planning to set up a Central Research and Development Institute for filling up the gap in the existing research and development programmes relating to pulp, paper and newsprint industries and coordinating these activities throughout the country. Identification of non-conventional raw materials for manufacture of paper and newsprint and the development of the process know-how for the utilisation of the various raw materials would be some of the issues with which the Institute would concern itself

In the scheme tentatively worked out for the setting up of the Institute, it is proposed that it would be an autonomous organisation registered under the Societies Act. The membership of the Institute would be open to all companies/corporate bodies engaged in the manufacture or otherwise interested in the development of paper pulp and newsprint and allied products. The management of the Institute would vest with a Governing Council

A final decision regarding the setting up of this Institute is however, yet to be taken