

(e) if so, steps being taken to improve the power position in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (e). The overall power supply position in the country has not worsened during the current year. In a few States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu, however the power position has been affected by low hydro availability on account of weak monsoon activity in the catchment areas of hydel stations. On the other hand there will be increased generation in most other States.

The Union Government are constantly reviewing the situation and steps to maximise generation and ensure that Power projects under construction keep to schedules, are being taken.

In the matter of supply of power, due priority is given to the industrial sector.

Inter-State Gang Operating Parallel Transport Authority

284. SHRI AMARSINH CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the Delhi Police, while investigating a murder case, has chanced on an inter-State gang allegedly operating a "Parallel transport authority" on Delhi-Uttar Pradesh Border and arrested six persons;

(b) whether the gang was said to be engaged in issuing forged inter-State route permits, driving licences, and road tokens;

(c) whether in a series of raids, the police recovered large stocks of forged seals, rubber stamp of various transport authorities, fake driving licences, registration books and road tax tokens; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During investigation another 12 persons were arrested from various places and incriminating documents and material were also recovered. A case FIR No. 384 dated 16-7-1976 u/s 472/473 IPC was registered at P.S. Shahdra.

Location of Coal Seams in Eastern Extension of Raniganj fields

285. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether five virgin coal seams have been located in Eastern Extension of Raniganj field at Moira and Katdih Bazar (West Bengal);

(b) if so, steps being taken to complete all relevant processes before the mines can be actually worked up; and

(c) by what time these mines would be worked up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDHESHWAR PRASAD):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For working out details of the seams in some areas drilling by the Geological Survey of India is in progress and feasibility report is under preparation.

(c) The programme for working out of these mines may be finalised depending on the production target of the Sixth Plan.

Development of Attappadi and Wynad of Kerala

286. SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA: SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala have sent some specific

schemes for the development of Attappadi and Wymad to the Central Government for approval and for financial assistance under the Western Ghat Development Programme; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to improve the living conditions of the people inhabiting in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SANKAR GHOSE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three schemes proposed by the State Government have been approved and are being implemented.

Pending Applications for Industrial Licence from Kerala

287. SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA
SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether applications from the State of Kerala for grant of Industrial licence are pending with the Government of India; and

(b) if so, the number and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). Out of the industrial licence applications for Kerala received till 31.7.78, 11 applications are pending. Various considerations such as availability of infra-structure, raw materials, know-how, demand, capacity installed etc. are kept in view while taking decisions on industrial licence applications. Every effect is being made to dispose of the pending applications as expeditiously as possible.

Issue of letters of intent to Assam

288. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters of intent issued to Assam by the Government during the last financial year; and

(b) how many of them have so far been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) 10 letters of intent were issued under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, for location of industrial units in Assam State during the last financial year 1978-79.

(b) The initial validity period of a letter of intent is one year, which can be further extended for another one year. Therefore, letters of intent issued during last financial year are at various stages of implementation.

Indian Craft on Newspool

289. SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he played an important role in getting the Indian Draft on the setting up of the newspool okayed at the Ministerial Conference of non-aligned countries on news agencies pool;

(b) the possible difficulties in the creation and working of the newspool and how these difficulties could be overcome; and

(c) whether India is prepared to give facilities in imparting education in the field of newspaper, Radio and Television to the member countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) Minister (Information and Broadcasting) was elected as the President of the Ministerial Conference of the Non-aligned Countries on the Press Agencies Pool and as such he was naturally associated actively with all the work and the decision of the Conference, which were, however, the result of close cooperation and dedication of all the participating delegations.