

RAM SEWAK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Bales of Cotton damaged in Rain

4986. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 80,000 bales of choice cotton remained exposed to rain during June-July, 1970 in some of the up-country stations between Surat and Broach and became useless;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and to whom these bales were sold; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take avoid such waste in future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) Government have not received any complaint in this regard.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Import of Coal for proposed Steel Plant at Vishakhapatnam

4987. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to import coal for the proposed steel plant at Visakhapatnam ; and

(b) if so, the assessment for the first three years and from which countries this import is likely to be made ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) whether coal for the proposed steel plant at Visakhapatnam is to be imported and if so, in what proportion is still under Government's consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Hydro-Electric Project in Nefa

4988. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER

be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3518 on the 18th March, 1970 and state :

(a) whether the detailed investigations regarding the Hydro-electric Project in NEFA have since been completed ;

(b) if so, what is its potential and when the benefits will start accruing to the people; and

(c) if not, at what stage the matter rests ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The investigations are in an advanced stage of progress.

(c) Details of potential and benefits : will be known after the investigations are completed and project report is prepared.

National power grid for Equitable Distribution of Power

4989. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state whether Government have plans to build a national power grid to see that power is equitably distributed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : The concept of unifying power systems has been recognised and schemes for construction of inter-State lines are in progress for effecting the co-ordinated development of Regional Grid Systems with the ultimate object of evolving an all India Grid System for optimum use of generation and transmission facilities in the country.

Plea for Sikkim's Independence

4990. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to reports in the *Hindustan Standard* of