

OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The levels and storage of the major reservoirs in Kerala are given below :

Levels	As on 13.7.1997 (Meters)	As on 13.7.1996 (Meters)
Idukki	700.56	700.91
Sabirigiri	932.28	941.76
Storages	MU	MU
Idukki	203.42	217.07
Kakki	61.63	115.10

As can be seen from the above, the levels and storage in Idukki are more or less as in the last year, whereas the levels and storage in Kakki are slightly less this year compared to the last year.

(b) to (d) The allocation to Kerala from the 15% unallocated power of the Central generating stations in the Sothern Region was 30% with effect from 8.5.1997. The share was increased to 50% with effect from 12.6.97 and further to 65% with effect from 1.7.1997.

E-Mail Services

391. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to make the E-mail services, more people oriented and effective;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir, Licences have been awarded on non-exclusive basis for operation of E-Mail Service to sixteen service providers. The Licensees have to provide the service within the defined ceiling tariff and quality of service has to be met.

- (b) The cost-effective and good quality service shall become available to Indian public through competition between the service providers.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Allotment of STD/PCO Booths

392. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of

priorities/reservations offered to the SC/ST applicants for the allotment of STD/PCO booths ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Sir, SC/ST applicants are among the preferential Category of applicants to be considered for allotment of STD PCOs by STD/PCO Allotment Committees alongwith other preferential categories of applicants. However, there is no reservation on for any category of applicants.

Barge Power Generating Unit in Kerala

393. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for sanction of Barge Power Generating Units in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government of Kerala has also requested for more quota of fuel for such purposes; and
- (d) whether such projects are proposed to be taken up by Cochin Ship Yard or other Government undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala have requested for allocation of liquid fuel for barge mounted power plants in the State. This request is under consideration.

(d) The agencies to execute these projects (in case the request of Government of Kerala is accepted) will have to be decided by the State Government.

[Translation]

Production Cost of Steel

394. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the production cost of various types of steel in India is more than in comparison to other countries;
- (b) if so, the average production cost of steel in the