

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the employees of the State-owned EPT have proposed to take over this sick company as a cooperative venture to ensure its viability? If so, what is the reaction of the Government?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Employees have made various proposals. But the question of employees' taking over will also involve financing etc. and the viability of the project itself. All these matters, as I have said in my written statement, will be taken into account when a final decision is taken.

Setting up of Coir Industry at Konaseema in East Godavari District (A.P.)

*317. **SHRI A. J. V. B. MAHESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any applications for starting coir industry at Konaseema in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, when Government propose to start the coir industry there ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to start this industry by Government themselves as a large quantity of coconuts is produced in this district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Just like Kerala, this area is also mainly producing coconuts. There is no industry by the Central Government in this area. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal in the Seventh Plan, to set up a coir industry in Konaseema region.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I have already said that there is no proposal. But if the

State Government, or any private organisation, or any cooperative organisation comes forward to start such an industry, we will definitely consider it.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Private members have sent so many representations to the hon. Minister, but no licences are issued. As many applications have already been sent to the Minister, may I know whether he would immediately sanction the licence to put a coir industry in this area ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not know as to which application he is referring to. Applications are examined and if found viable, we will definitely consider the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Vasantji, invite him to your office.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You can come and meet the Minister of Industry.

[Translation]

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to ask you a question.

MR. SPEAKER : Of me? Yes, you may.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : The moment the clock strikes 12, you leave the House for your Chamber, but the hon. Ministers say 'yes' to 'yes' and 'no' to 'no' before 12'0 clock.

MR. SPEAKER : I remain very much here ; I do not go anywhere. I am at your service both here as well as there.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : But in reply to the questions asked thereafter, they say 'no' to even 'yes'.

MR. SPEAKER : In future, you ask only such questions whose answers are all 'yes'.

[English]

Capacity utilisation of Power Plants in Public Sector vis-a-vis Private Sector

*318. **DR. A.K. PATIL :**
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :