

(c) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Based on the regional drilling done so far, reserves of 293 million tonnes of coal have been estimated to occur in Madhukunda area. No detailed drilling to establish "proved" reserves has been carried out so far.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to start any mining project to exploit the above coal reserves.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The coal which has been found in Madhukunda area in the District of Purulia (West Bengal) is grade on equality of coal, that is coking coal; we are importing coking coal for our steel plants. In view of this, do the government propose to undertake any detailed drilling to find out the exact quantity of reserve of coal in that particular area ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Geological Survey of India has informed that Madhukunda block in the western part of Raniganj, Coalfield in Purulia District of West Bengal, had been explored by erst-while Indian Bureau of Mines and later by National Coal Development Corporation and, as I said, a reserve of 280 million tonnes were estimated in Madhukunda block and 39.67 million tonnes in West of Madhukunda block. In early seventies, GSI had explored Porabila block of Raniganj and there also they found a reserve of 151.63 million tonnes. GSI have informed that these figures may be confirmed from CIL. Coal India Ltd. have informed that based on the regional drilling done by GSI in 5 boreholes in Madhukunda block during 1957-60 and later by IBM, a total of 293 million tonnes of coal reserves were estimated. No detailed drilling in Madhukunda block in the 7th Plan period.

The CIL have further informed that a total of 32 boreholes were drilled in area of 56 sq. km. but the drilling in the CSR was stopped further due to slump in the coal demand. Based on the regional nature of drilling carried on in this area, today, there is no possibility of carrying on any further exercise on coal mining.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, Government want to increase the produc-

tion of coal. In view of this, why do the Government not undertake any new project in the area because already it has been stated that 293 million tonnes of coal reserves are there and we are now producing only 147 million tonnes ? So, I want to know from the hon. Minister, why the Government do not want to start any new mining project in the area in view of the aim of the Government to increase the production of coal in our country.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We have a large programme of starting of coal mining in West Bengal. Substantial investment is proposed, provided other facilities like labour conditions, availability of land and all these are made available, then we will have sufficient coal in West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Setting up of Thermal Power Stations
by N.T.P.C.

*305. **SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :**
SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has taken steps to set up thermal power stations in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of thermal power stations set up by NTPC so far ;

(c) the location and capacity of those thermal power stations ; and

(d) how many of those thermal power stations have started power generation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d) The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have been entrusted with the setting up of Super thermal power stations at Singrauli (5 × 200 MW + 2 × 500 MW) in District Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh ; Koroa (3 × 200 MW + 3 × 500 MW) in District Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh ; Ramagundam (3 × 200 MW + 3 × 500 MW) in district Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh ; Farakka

(3X200 MW) in District Murshidabad, West Bengal ; Vindhyachal (6×210 MW) in District Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh ; Rihand (2×500 MW) in District Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh and Kahalgaon (4×210 MW) in District Bhagalpur, Bihar.

Five units of 200 MW each at Singrauli, three units of 200 MW each at Korba and three units of 200 MW each at Ramagundam have been commissioned so far and are under operation.

Allotment of Molasses and Alcohol

*309. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised norms for allotment of molasses and alcohol from surplus states to deficit states ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to meet the requirements of industries in West Bengal for molasses and alcohol ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) The norms for allocation of molasses and alcohol for the current alcohol year 1985-86 (December, 1985—November, 1986) would be decided by the Central Molasses Board in its next meeting which is likely to take place sometime in January/February, 1986. Pending this, adhoc allocations for the months of December, 1985 and January, 1986 are being made.

The facility of duty free import of industrial alcohol (Denatured) for actual users (industrial) including those in West Bengal has been extended upto 31st March, 1986.

Bifurcation of Supreme Court

*310. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Law Commission's suggestion for bifurcation of the Supreme Court and creation of a separate constitutional court, has been considered by Government ;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter ; and

(c) whether Government have ascertained the views of other important organisations like Bar Councils and Bar Associations on this recommendation ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : (a) and (b) Government have considered the Law Commission's suggestion for bifurcation of the Supreme Court and creation of a separate Constitutional Court as contained in its 95th Report on "Constitutional Division within the Supreme Court—a proposal for". Implementation of the suggestions made by the Law Commission would involve restructuring of the Supreme Court, which would necessitate amendment of the Constitution and the laws. The Supreme Court has expressed itself against the bifurcation of the Supreme Court. The Government has not yet been able to accept the suggestion.

(c) Government have not, therefore, felt it necessary to ascertain the views of the Bar Councils and Bar Associations on this suggestion.

Allotment of gas for Sponge Iron Plants in Gujarat

*312. SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gujarat Electricity Board has sought allotment of gas for use in sponge iron plants ;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ; and

(c) the measures being taken to allot adequate gas for use in sponge iron plants in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The Government of Gujarat have requested the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for allocation of 0.50 million cubic metres per day of natural gas for its proposed sponge-iron project ;