

(a) whether there is any proposal to reopen the Jyanti Colliery, district Deogher, Bihar; and

(b) if not, whether Government have any proposal to transfer this colliery to Bihar Government or to any private agency ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

Legislation on Protection of Consumers

*9. SHRI MURLI DEORA :
SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD
YOGESH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring a comprehensive legislation on protection of the consumers in the country; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and when it is to be brought forward ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The enactment of a consumer protection legislation is under consideration of the Government. Various aspects of it are under examination.

Thermal Power Generating Station at Bakreswar, West Bengal

*10. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal for setting up of a Thermal Power Generating Station at Bakreswar;

(b) if so, when was the same received and whether the necessary sanction has been accorded; and

(c) the time by which Union Government are likely to convey the approval of

the foreign collaboration as suggested by the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c). The proposal of the West Bengal State Electricity Board for setting up a thermal power station at Bakreswar was received in December, 1983 and has been techno-economically approved by the Central Electricity Authority. While offers of external assistance have been received for turn-key implementation of the project, an investment decision in respect of the project would depend on the receipt of clearance of the State Forest Department for acquisition of land required for ash disposal system, the establishment of coal linkage, and finalisation of the funding pattern of the project.

Untapped Hydro-Power Potential

*11. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than eighty per cent of the total hydro-power potential remains untapped in the country;

(b) if so, the details and reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make use of this untapped hydro-power potential ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c). The hydro-electric potential in the country is being developed keeping in view factors such as the availability of financial resources, the anticipated power demand in various Regions, the techno-economic feasibility and gestation periods of individual projects, and the irrigation and flood control benefits, if any, expected to be derived. About 12 per cent of the total hydro-electric potential of the country has been developed so far, and hydro-electric schemes with a total capacity of about 12646 MW are under implementation at present,