

operation and maintenance of plant and equipment. Bihar State Electricity Board is making efforts to mobilise the resources necessary to increase power generation in the State.

(e) The commercial losses of Bihar State Electricity Board during 1986-87 are provisionally estimated at about Rs. 147 crores.

Scheme to develop Coal Resources

*917. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to develop coal resources in the country;

(b) if so, whether any long term scheme has been drawn up;

(c) if so, the cost of the programme as projected; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government to check pilferage of coal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Medium and long term plans have been drawn up for development of coal resources in the country. As per these projections, annual coal production will increase from the present level of 165.79 m.t. to 226 m. tonnes, 325 m. tonnes and 417 m. tonnes by the end of Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan periods respectively. An allocation of Rs. 6700.58 crores (including Rs. 120 crores for R & D) has been made in the approved Seventh Five Year Plan.

(d) Some of the steps taken to check pilferage of coal are:—

- (i) Carrying out surprise checks;
- (ii) Detection through flying squads consisting of Police, watch and ward staff of Coal companies and

Central Industrial Security Force personnel;

(iii) Cancellation of licences of private coal depots within a radius of 8 kms by the district authorities;

(iv) Stricter regulation of supply of domestic coal to consumers;

(v) Departmentalisation of internal transport of coal/coke from pitheads to railway sidings.

Setting up of Power Project at Yelahanka near Bangalore

*918. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have finally cleared the proposal to set up a power project based on natural gas at Yelahanka near Bangalore;

(b) the basis on which decision has been taken about the supply of equipment; and

(c) the expected time of the commencement of the project work?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). Approval in principle has been accorded to Government of Yelahanka's proposal to set up a 120 M.W. gas turbine plant at Yelahanka based on liquid petroleum fuel, subject inter alia to the conditions that the capital cost of the generating sets would be borne by the Karnataka Electricity Board, and if the plant is permitted to be imported, international competitive bidding procedure would be followed based on free foreign exchange.

(c) It is expected that the State Electricity Board will commence work on the project by December, 1987.