

(a) whether phase-wise renovation and modernisation work of four of the six units of the Orissa's oldest hydel power station the Hirakud, has been initiated with the completion of the survey work of the units numbers one, two, five and six; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). The Hirakud Hydel Power Station of the Orissa State Electricity Board has been identified for renovation and up-rating. The work can be undertaken after the State authorities have formulated a detailed project report and necessary inputs and clearances have been tied up.

Loss in Coal India Ltd.

*186. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of the heavy financial loss, the Coal India Ltd. has drawn up a broad strategy to augment the productivity of both underground and open cast mines to achieve the targeted 192 million tonnes in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the separate targets fixed for underground and open cast mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIFF): (a) and (b). The imperative need to improve the productivity of underground and opencast mines has been recognised and steps have already been taken in Coal India Limited to achieve this objective. While the productivity in opencast mines has recorded an improvement in the last three years, the productivity in underground

mines has not recorded such improvement. Special efforts are now contemplated by Coal India Limited to arrest this trend and to improve the productivity in underground mines substantially in the current year alongwith comensurate improvement in opencast mines. The targetted improvement in productivity is planned to be achieved through more effective redeployment of manpower, improved utilisation of the equipment and more efficient utilisation of inputs like power, stores etc.

Electrification of Villages in Bihar

*187. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in Bihar during the last three years; and

(b) the number of villages which are expected to be electrified in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) During the last three years 7641 villages have been electrified in Bihar.

(b) The Planning Commission has fixed a target of electrification of 3342 villages in Bihar during 1988-89. The programme for 1989-90 will be finalised after the Annual Plan discussions between the State representatives and the Planning Commission.

Clearance to Power Projects in Maharashtra

188. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for nine power projects submitted by Maharashtra Gov-

ement to Union Government are pending under the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) since when these proposals are pending with Union Government; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the projects and when these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). All the power projects of Maharashtra targetted for commissioning during the Seventh Five Year Plan period have been approved for implementation.

Reform in Public Sector Management

* 189. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for a reform in the public sector management for increasing efficiency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action is likely to be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). Government is shortly bringing before Parliament a White Paper on Public Sector which will discuss various proposals for bringing about reforms in the public sector management with a view to increasing efficiency.

Export of Polyester Staple Fibre to United States

*190. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to ex-

port polyester staple fibre to the United States;

(b) if so, the value of the agreement for the export;

(c) the quantity of the fibre to be exported and the period for which the agreement is valid; and

(d) the terms of payment of the value of the supply?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d). Having regard to domestic polyester Staple Fibre (PSF) production capacity being in excess of indigenous demand, export of PSF upto a ceiling of 60,000T has been allowed for the licensing year April '88 to March '89.

One of the PSF manufacturers has reportedly entered into a contract for export of 14,800 T of PSF to USA for a FOB value of Rs.22.62 crores for the period upto December '88; supplies are effected against letters of credit.

[Translation]

Telecast of 'Lav-Kush' Episode

*193. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to telecast the 'Lav-Kush' episode also in future after the Ramayan serial;

(b) if so, whether any date has been fixed for the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.