

distribution losses. The Conference decided to constitute a Committee to formulate a renovation and modernisation programme for hydroelectric projects and to assess the funds required for it. The Conference also decided to set up a Committee to recommend steps for the rigorous enforcement of the amendments in the Indian Electricity Act making theft of energy a cognizable offence and providing for stringent punishment, and to identify system improvement schemes and energy accounting procedures necessary for reduction in transmission and distribution losses.

Shortage of Induction Furnaces Raw Material

*100. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister or INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of raw material for induction furnaces due to which 400 induction furnaces are facing closure ;

(b) if so, the reasons for shortage ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the shortage of raw material to avoid closure of industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) Government are not aware of any reports that Induction Furnaces are being closed due to shortage of raw materials. However, Government are aware that there is a gap between demand and supply of melting scrap.

(b) Shortage is due to the demand for scrap outstripping availability of scrap in the country.

(c) Government has already reduced customs duty on imported steel melting scrap.

Coal India Limited

*101. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTTY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target of 143 million tonnes of production of coal during the current year is likely to be achieved by Coal India Limited ;

(b) the estimated loss likely to be suffered by Coal India Limited in 1986-87 ;

(c) the total additional income the Coal India Limited on account of the hike in coal prices; and

(d) the total additional burden on account of the new agreement reached with the trade unions ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is expected that Coal India may achieve the target of coal production set for 1986-87.

(b) The Accounts of Coal India Limited for the year 1986-87 will be finalised only after the financial year is over.

(c) While considering the proposal for revision of coal price, additional revenue accrual to Coal India Limited on account of price revision effective from 9.1.1986, was estimated to be about Rs. 367 crores during the year 1986-87.

(d) National Coal Wage Agreement-III signed by the representatives of the management and the workers has expired on 31.12.1986. No new agreement has been signed so far.

Increase in Production of Watches

*102. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the measures proposed to be adopted by Government to increase production of watches in India ;

(b) the production target for 1987-88; and

(c) the measures adopted by Government to ensure that cost of indigenous watches is kept low so as to discourage marketing of imported/smuggled watches ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) to (c) With a view to increase indigenous production of watches, reduce the cost of indigenous watches and to discourage smuggling of watches into the country, Government has already taken the following measures :—

(i) A capacity of 22 million Nos. has been approved in the organised sector. Twelve units with an approved capacity of 11.66 million Nos. are already in production in the organised sector.

(ii) The current Import Policy provides for liberal import of watch components.

(iii) A number of foreign collaboration proposals with internationally reputed watch manufacturers have been approved.

(iv) In February, 1985, Government announced a package of concessions to the watch industry including reduction in excise duty and concessional rate of customs duty on the import of raw materials, components and machinery used in the manufacture of wrist watches.

(v) A production target of 8 million watches has been set for 1987-88 for the organised sector.

Biogas Plants

880. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether too many designs of biogas plants have been approved without taking local conditions into consideration ;

(b) if so, reasons thereof ; and

(c) the steps proposed to remedy the situation ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise. With a view to improving reliability and decreasing capital cost of family sized biogas plants,

all proposals for new models developed by various agencies are examined by the Biogas R & D Experts Committee. Basically only the fixed dome and floating dome biogas plants are being built. However, five different models with variation in materials of construction and geometry have been approved for extension depending upon local conditions and individual choice.

Foreign Aid for Telecom Expansion

881. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance received from foreign countries for telecom. expansion programme so far ;

(b) whether the entire assistance received has been utilized in the purchase of machinery/equipment in the respective countries or in other countries indicated by them ; and

(c) whether Japan is also to give a loan and if so, details thereof and how this will be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) We have received financial assistance from the following countries for expansion of Telecom. Programme so far :

Name of the Country	Amount
(i) Hungary	Rs. 108.40 Million
(ii) Canada	C\$ 40.85 Million
(iii) Sweden	Skrs 14.00 Million
(iv) France	FFs 660.19 Million
(v) West Germany	DM 8.00 Million
(vi) Japan	J 66530.00 Million.