

total plastic consumption. We expect that it will reach 3,35,000 tonnes per annum by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, i.e. 1989-90. Further 5,40,000 tonnes in ment for canal and reservoir lining. Drip irrigation, pipes fittings, food packing, edible oil, fruits, vanaspati and vegetables are the things which will be taken up in the future plan.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Sir, the hon. Minister said that he has got a very comprehensive scheme for developing plastic industry for package purposes for agricultural use. But I would like to point out and I would also like to draw his attention to the fact that there is an acute shortage of polymers not only in this country but also all over the world. More than 50 per cent of these package industries in India are closed today. I would like to know how is he going to solve this problem first?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I have answered this question last week. We are laying stress on that in the field of petrochemical industries. Now we are entering the plastic stage. That is why we are contemplating to start more petrochemical industries.

We are importing this year 3 lakh tonnes of raw materials for supplying to all the units next year. It may go up to 5 lakh tonnes.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: In the horticultural and fruit producing States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and the hill districts of U.P. the problem of substituting wood - the main question is wood - by plastics or any other substitute is that wood is subsidised and given at antiquated prices to the people at notional value; and that wood is then used for packaging. To counteract this, you will have to give the material for packaging at comparable prices. Otherwise, you will never compete with this subsidized wood. What is the Ministry of Industry doing to interact with the Ministry of Finance to see that such tax concessions are given to producers who can substitute wood in packages?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Only to save the forests, we are now introducing these plastic crates; and as I mentioned, we are requesting the State Government to supply 50%. Only then we can supply these things very cheaply to the agriculturists.

Central Sector Power Projects in Kerala

*370 **SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any central sector power projects are located in Kerala;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to set up any power projects in Kerala in the central Sector; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the estimated power requirement of Kerala during the Seventh Plan period and the corresponding availability as per present estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Central Sector projects are regional projects and are set up taking into consideration the needs of the region as a whole and not for particular states as such.

(c) The Government of Kerala have proposed implementation of the Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project (2x210 MW), originally envisaged in the State Sector, in the Central Sector. The National Thermal Power Corporation are preparing the feasibility report for the proposed Project.

(d) The estimated power requirement of Kerala during the terminal year of 7th Plan (1989-90) is 6850 million units and the corresponding availability is estimated as 6122 million units.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: The energy crisis in Kerala is acute, inspite of the fact that 50% of the total hydel power potential remains untapped in Kerala. I myself am against the setting up of any more hydel projects in Kerala, because that will lead to the devastation of the existing forests, as well as the total destruction of environment and ecology. The only hope for the people of Kerala, therefore, lies in the alternative sources of energy such as atomic energy as well as thermal power.

The hon. Minister has admitted in his reply that a proposal from the State of Kerala is pending in the Ministry, to start a thermal power project at Kayankulam. May I know from the hon. Minister what decision has been taken by the Ministry in this regard?

I would also like to know whether such a project will be set up in the Central sector or in the joint sector.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: The Kayankulam thermal power station was originally envisaged as a 2x210 MW capacity project in the State sector. As the State Government did not have adequate funds, it requested the Central Government to take over the project in the Central sector. NTPC has been asked to prepare a feasibility report for this project. Simultaneously, Planning Commission have been requested to include this project also, for getting benefits during the 8th Plan period. For this project, environment and forest clearances are awaited. The logistics of coal transportation are still to be tied up ... (Interruptions)

MR. Jaipal Reddy, I will reply to your question. I am ready to reply to any question put by you. Please let me complete.

(Interruptions)

The Chief Minister of Kerala had written a letter to the Prime Minister saying that the capacity of the Kayankulam thermal power station may be enhanced to 2100 MW. He has also suggested that gas-based power project of about 500 MW may be sanctioned

at Cochin. The Nuclear Power Corporation may take up a nuclear power station in Kerala. NTPC may be given the permission... (Interruptions)

Now, the Government of India has recommended this to be included in NTPC projects. The Planning Commission has to clear it. Also, we are than going to include this Kayankulam project in the 8th five-year Plan.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: I would like to know whether it will be set up in the Central sector or the joint sector.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: This will be under the Central sector as the Kerala Government has not come forward to contribute any fund for this project.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, Kerala has a very long coastal line and it is to be noted that energy can be generated from tidal wave as well as from the wind. In this connection, may I know from the hon. Ministry whether any serious efforts have been made by the Ministry to generate energy from the tidal wave as well as from the wind in the State of Kerala?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Sir, this question pertains to non-conventional energy. Therefore, he can address it to the concerned Department.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, the subject of energy comes under the same Ministry, that is, his own Ministry.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Sir, for this separate question is required (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked whether renewable energy can be utilised in Kerala. Now, the renewable energy comes under Ministry of Energy. But the hon. Minister says that it is coming under

non-conventional power which is not under the Power Ministry. Sir, it is a part of his Power Department

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Of course, this refers to power sector. The hon. Member has said that this relates to power sector. But this question does not arise out of this question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I am not satisfied with the answer given by the Minister.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The question is about the generation of power, may be hydel, may be tidal, may be conventional or non-conventional power. All come under the same Ministry (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.A. ANTONY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kerala is rich in power when the rain is full and sit is the cheapest to produce electricity in the State. But now due to the environmental reasons, Silent Valley is one of the most virgin forests attached by the entire world and that should not be disturbed. So, the only way is to depend upon thermal power and other kinds of power generation. So considering the shortage of power in Kerala, would the hon. Minister assure the House that Kayamkulam thermal station will be cleared immediately and also whether the Government has received the proposal for Tirikiripur thermal project in Kerala? What steps have been taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: In Kerala, Kayamkulam project has to be cleared and approved by the Planning Commission. The Forest Department has to clear and their it will be included in the 8th Plan.

Loss of lives due to subsidence in Eastern Coalfields Limited

*371. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be

pleased to state:

(a) The number of places so far identified by the Eastern Coalfields Limited which are critical localities as there has been enormous damage to surface properties and even loss of human lives due to subsidence;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check subsidence as well as to save the properties and human lives there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). 45 locations in West Bengal have been identified as unsafe areas based on the declaration of West Bengal Govt., DGMS and areas listed by CMPDIL in the Master Plan of Raniganj Coalfield. Details of the areas are given in the Table below.

(c) Step taken to check subsidence include:

- (i) Mining operations are carried out in conformity with the rules and regulations and strictly as per conditions imposed by the DGMS;
- (ii) Extraction below built-in areas in done only in conjunction with stowing;
- (iii) Restricted working/extraction in case of workings under shallow cover;
- (iv) Prohibition of construction activities over areas declared unsafe for habitation.
- (v) Regular follow up and liaison