

agar-1 in the Burdwan District. No drilling is being done in the Birbhum District.

(c) The results of this exploratory drilling will be known only after completion of drilling and production testing.

Loss of Industrial Production Due to Power Cuts

*487. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY:
SHRI S. M. GURADDI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial production in the country has been greatly affected due to power cuts; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Union Government to ensure adequate power supply to the States?

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

(a) The industrial production is dependent of several factors like availability of raw material, demand for the product, industrial relations, forced outage of equipments, management efficiency, etc. Therefore, loss in production on account of power shortage alone cannot be quantified.

(b) With a view to improve the availability of power in the country, various measures, such as, expediting commissioning of new capacity, maximising generation from the existing thermal capacity, early stabilisation of newly commissioned units, improving the performance of the existing thermal power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, implementation of energy conservation and demand management measures, and implementing short gestation projects are being undertaken.

Pilferage of Coal in ECL

*489. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal pilferage is reported on a huge scale in the Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, the estimated loss on this count;

(c) the instances of pilferage which came to notice of Government during the last two years; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Sporadic attempts are made by miscreants and antisocial elements to pilfer coal from wagons, stockyards, depots etc.

(b) It is difficult to make any accurate estimate of loss due to pilferage of coal; but the incidence of pilferage is not sizeable. During the last three years, the following quantity of pilfered coal was recovered:—

Year	Quantity (In M. T.)	Value (Rs. in Lakh)
1987	7,053	19.61
1988	8,227	23.86
1989	2,303	7.85

(Up to 25.3.89)

(c) The instances of pilferage and number of persons arrested since 1987 are as follows:—