

medium and small newspapers are facing problems on account of this. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to ensure the supply of newsprint to small and medium newspapers.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I must tell the hon. Member that the problems of small, medium and language newspapers, newsprint or other problems are being governed by the same policy as elsewhere in the country. What we are doing at present is given in the detailed statement and there are certain facilities in regard to newsprint to a certain extent. They are given some excise concession and some other things. But we do feel that small, medium newspapers and the language Press should be encouraged and supported. For that purpose we have appointed a high powered committee known as Suman Dubey Committee. Specific terms of reference have been given to it.

The Prime Minister is very keen that the small, medium and language newspapers should be encouraged in various ways. We hope to have an early report from the Committee and the Government will take action on it. The Government is quite sympathetic to the idea of encouraging these newspapers.

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: What are the additional incentives proposed to be given to the small and medium newspapers brought out from the backward, hilly and tribal areas, and desert areas?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: If necessary, I can read out the terms of reference to the Committee. The terms of reference to the Committee are specific and very wide, that the newspapers in tribal areas should also be given special attention. We would like—as I said, I do not want to anticipate the

decisions of the Committee—the newspapers in the tribal areas to be treated even more sympathetically.

[*Translation*]

Loan for Mini Project In Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

*351. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have provided grants and loans to Laghu Vidyut Nirman Nigam of Uttar Pradesh for construction of mini projects in the hilly areas of the State:

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance given so far;

(c) whether this amount is adequate to the requirement of the Nigam; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to enhance the financial assistance?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):
(a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Micro/mini Hydel projects are normally implemented in the State Sector and allocations for them are made in the State Plans. Central assistance is given for State Plans in the form of block loans/grants and is generally not related to any specific programme such as the setting up of micro hydel projects. No central grant/loan is provided to Laghu Vidyut Nirmal Nigam of Uttar Pradesh directly.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: This reply is not relevant to my question. This reminds me an old tale of "Chacha Luckman Vaidya" which I used to enjoy in my childhood. Our hon. Minister is behaving like him by not replying to the point. He is evading the issue, We are made to swallow "jamalghota".

MR. SPEAKER: It will clear everything.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: One cannot conclude any thing from it. The fact is this that potentiality of hydro-power in Uttar Pradesh has not so far been fully exploited. Whenever financial assistance is sought for by the State Government for optimum exploitation of potential, the Central Government, particularly the Department of Power, turns a deaf ear to the request. It amounts to a stepmotherly treatment to Uttar Pradesh. This stepmotherly treatment is reflected from the attitude it adopts in the matters of granting loans and allocating funds to Uttar Pradesh and giving clearance to its projects. May I know from the hon. Minister what percentage of the total potential of hydro power obtaining in Uttar Pradesh has been exploited and how much amount has been made available in form of central assistance and loans to Uttar Pradesh for 'dohan' (exploitation) of hydel-power potential.

MR. SPEAKER: It may also be stated as to how many 'ratnas' were found in that 'dohan'.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my answer is quite relevant to the question put by the hon member. The hon. Member may appreciate that I am expected to give reply what is put by the hon. Member. The fact is that he is seeking reply to a question which is not relevant to it. I want to tell him that it is on the recommendations of Planning Commission that the Central as-

sistance is granted to State Governments for their annual schemes. It is the responsibility of State Governments to mobilise resources for specific power project.

"Jal Vidyut Nigam", Lucknow was set up for the implementation of Micro/Mini hydel projects in hilly and plain areas in U.P. The projects with 100 kw capacity are known as "Micro hydel" and the projects with 2 MW to 100 KW capacity are known as "Mini hydel" and the projects with capacity up to 15 MW are known as "Small hydel". If the expenditures involved in such projects is less than Rs. 5 crore, there is no need of techno-economic clearance by C.E.A.

India has a potential of about 5000 MW of hydel power which includes small hydel projects also. There are 111 such projects in the country whose capacity is about 201 MW and yet another 82 projects with 218 MW capacity are under construction. Local requirements are fulfilled with these projects and these projects are commissioned in shorter period. We encourage State Governments to set up Such projects.

I would like that the hon. member may request the U.P. Government to submit schemes of mini or micro hydel projects to the Rural Electrification or Power Corporations for consideration. We are ready to consider such projects. In so far as reply to the question is concerned, it has been given whatever put by you.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for his detailed reply covering whole of India though I sought information in respect of U.P. only. As the hon. Minister advised me to ask direct question about which I sought information. I, therefore, want to know from him that the State Government has got a survey of over 100 micro hydel projects in Uttar Pradesh conducted by its Micro Hydel Corporation. I, therefore, would like to know whether he will

make available some funds through his power corporation for the state projects so that the State Government could start the construction of these projects.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the hon. Member to submit the proposals of micro/mini/small projects to Central Government through their corporation so that we could help them in providing assistance from Power Financial Corporation.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the required balance between hydel power and thermal power in the matter of power generation in the country is not being maintained. The raw materials such as coal, etc. for generation of Thermal Power have been depleting fast in the country as their deposits are available in a limited quantity. I am very grateful to the hon. Minister that a number of schemes have been cleared by the Central Electrification Authority. I want reply on very specific point as to whether funds would be made available for the projects which have been cleared by Central Electrification Authority in Eight Five Year Plan keeping the population and backwardness of Uttar Pradesh in view?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the projects cleared by Central Electricity Authority, L.H.P.C...

[English]

MR SPEAKER: This is not relevant to the question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: We have coal and cement for this Thermal Power Station: This is a relevant question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I want relevancy to the question. It is not relevant to the question.

You can put a separate question.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: This is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not questioning the importance of it. I am only questioning the relevancy of it.

Karnal Refinery Project

*352. **SHRI G. BHOOPATHY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economic viability of the proposed Karnal Refinery Project is established;

(b) if so, what further steps are being taken to set up this Refinery; and

(c) if not what is the present position about this Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMADUTT): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Karnal Refinery Project

(a) to (c). The Karnal Refinery Project was initially approved by the Government in September, 1984 as an Indian Oil Corporation Project. However, pursuant to Government's decision in March, 1987 to implement this project as a joint venture by IOC with M/s Tata Chemicals, a detailed Project Report was submitted by the Joint Venture partners in May, 1988. The DPR was examined by the Government and the joint venture partners were requested to incorporate material relating to evaluation of different processing schemes, some detailed engineering etc. essential to arrive at