

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you inviting trouble ? Already, there is a dispute regarding the signatures on the passport forms.

Thermal Power Generation in Kapurdi Area (Rajasthan)

*227. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work to process lignite in sufficient quantity for generating 500 megawatts thermal power in Kapurdi area of Barmer District of Rajasthan is being carried out by the Mineral Exploration Corporation under the directions of the Expert Group constituted by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the time by which the project report in this regard will be prepared; and

(d) whether Government propose to meet the power requirement of desert areas and other parts of the State by including the said scheme in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) M/s. Mineral Exploration Corporation have been commissioned to evaluate the lignite potential of the Kapurdi area in the Barmer District.

(b) The present estimate of deposits is approximately 57 million tonnes. Movable deposits have yet to be established.

(c) The report of M/s. Mineral Exploration Corporation is expected to be completed by 1987-88.

(d) If movable commercial deposits are established, only, thereafter, the question of including this scheme in the Seventh or Eighth Plan can be considered for meeting the power requirements of the desert areas and other parts of the State.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Hon. Speaker, Sir, Mineral Exploration

Corporation has been doing exploratory and drilling work in Kapurdi area of Barmer district for the last four years. Earlier also, when I asked this question, an assurance was given that this work would be completed by 1986-87 and only after its completion a conclusion would be arrived at whether 500 MW Power station could be set up or of a different capacity. Therefore, I would like to know the reasons for its delay. Is the non-availability of drilling machines at the site one of the reasons ? Will the Government accelerate the pace of this work ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been no delay in this matter and the work is going on according to the schedule. Compared to the drilling done earlier, now the drilling is being done very closely so that a definite assessment of how movable deposits are spread out could be made. Only after the completion of this work in 1987-88, we shall be able to assess the quantum of commercially movable and viable resources which in turn will help us decide the capacity of the power house to be set up. This is the process and unless these things are known, no further step can be taken. Eleven agencies are engaged in this operation and the exploration work is in full swing.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Sir, I know that the information regarding the commercial viability of the mineral deposits is essential and then only the project can be set up, but I would like to know whether in view of the power crisis in the desert areas in Rajasthan, the speed of this work would be accelerated and it would be taken up on war footing ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the work is already going on war footing.

[English]

Import and Export of Crude Oil

*228. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL † : SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of crude oil imported during 1984 and 1985 and whether any contract has been signed for 1986;