

(b) whether ONGC has been able to reach the target point of any well in Tripura so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) ONGC has so far completed drilling of four wells on the Baramura structure in Tripura. In addition, drilling is currently in progress in 2 wells—one on the Baramura structure and the other on the Gojalia structure.

(b) It has been possible to drill down to the target depth in respect of any of the four completed wells.

(c) The main reason for not being able to reach the target depth has been the abnormally high pressures encountered while drilling, resulting in frequent down hole complications.

#### Non-availability of Diesel and Petroleum Products

\*32. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is still facing a great hardship due to non-availability of diesel and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a): Some reports regarding shortages of High Speed Diesel and other petroleum products have been received by the Government.

(b) The demand for diesel and other petroleum products in the country had gone up steeply on account of shortfall in power generation, large scale movement of bulk goods by road instead of rail and recent drought conditions in several

parts of the country. Moreover, due to the agitations in Assam, the 3 refineries located in that State and Barauni refinery in Bihar had to be shut down from December, 1979/January, 1980. The Gauhati, and Digboi refineries in Assam are functioning now but the Bongaigaon refinery remains closed. The Berauni refinery in Bihar with a 3.3 million capacity continues to remain closed. Apart from the loss of production involved, the closure of these refineries considerably affected the transportation capacity as the Barauni-Kanpur pipeline which transports products of Barauni refinery could not be fully utilized. Areas served by this pipeline could not be fully satisfied by railway movement.

(c) The following measures have been taken by the Government to ease the situation:—

(i) Maximisation of import of petroleum products like diesel and kerosene so that these are no problems of availability of these products at port locations.

(ii) Improving the rail movement of petroleum products by pressing into service more tank wagons, reducing the turn-around time of rail wagons, according higher priority to the movement of these wagons over goods and passenger services, setting up of a special cell in the Railway Board to monitor the tank wagon movement, etc.

(iii) Maximisation of road movement of diesel and kerosene by the oil companies.

(iv) Advising the State Governments to ensure equitable distribution of diesel and kerosene under the Essential Commodities Act and the rules and orders framed thereunder, and also to invoke the provisions of the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of supplies of Essential Commodities Act against those indulging in Black-marketing, hoarding etc.

(v) Advising the oil companies to tighten up the supervision over their retail outlets.

#### Silent valley project in Kerala

\*33. SRHI P. K. KODIYAN:

SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the Silent Valley Project in Kerala after a study by a Central Team has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, in the meanwhile, the State Government has asked the Union Government to allow them to continue the work there; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) to (d). The Chief Minister of Kerala, in a recent letter to the Prime Minister, has asked for concurrence for going ahead with the Silent Valley Hydel Project. In view of the serious reservations expressed by environmentalists and ecologists about the degradation that would occur if the project is executed, the Prime Minister had suggested that the work should be suspended in order that the ecological aspects of the project may be fully studied.

#### Generation of Power by DVC

\*34. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) generates hardly 350 MW to 400 MW now when its installed capacity was 1,350 MW which cannot even cater to the barest minimum requirements of the coalfields; and

(b) if so, steps so far taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) The installed capacity in Damodar Valley Corporation is 1361.5 MW, comprising 1257.5 MW thermal and 104 MW hydel. At present there is no hydel generation, as the reservoirs are low. Most of the thermal units have been in service for a long time, and hence, their effective capacity is much lower than their rated figures. On an average, the generation during the last three months has been between 500 and 540 MW. During a period of low generation, distribution of power is based on a pattern of graded restrictions, under which the requirements of coal are given the second highest priority after railway traction.

(b) Close attention is being paid to the early restoration of units that are on outage. A number of betterment measures are being planned for introduction in a planned manner in the near future. In addition, the services of two British Experts are being inducted for analysing the problems and making suitable recommendations. The State Government has also been requested to ensure that satisfactory law and order conditions prevail, to enable the personnel at various power stations to work in a congenial atmosphere.

#### Caprolactam Project, Kerala

\*35. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Caprolactam project has been given to the Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. at Alwaye, Kerala; and

(b) if so, when it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). No decision has yet been taken on the proposal for setting up a caprolactam plant at Alwaye, Kerala as a