

Supply of Diesel in Gujarat

224 **SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA**: Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that short supply of diesel in Gujarat has already affected agricultural production in that State; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to meet the requirement of diesel of Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Monthly allocations of High Speed Diesel Oil (HSD) are being made by the Central Government to all States and Union Territories, including Gujarat, taking into account the past consumption and other relevant factors. The allocation of the product between different sectors is to be done by the State Government. The State Governments have been advised to give the highest priority in the matter of supplies of diesel to agriculture. It is not possible to indicate whether agricultural production in the State has been affected, in spite of this priority in supply to this sector.

(b) Additional allocations of High Speed Diesel over and above the original allocations have been made for Gujarat State whenever necessary and possible. The overall supply situation of this product has considerably improved in Gujarat in the last few months.

Feeder Canal of Farakka Affected due to Insufficient Water

*225. **SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISHRA**: Will the Minister of **IRRIGATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the feeder canal of Farakka was seriously affected due to insufficient water; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) and (b). Although there has been no report of the Feeder Canal of Farakka Project being seriously affected, the low flows in the Feeder Canal this year between January and May have proved to be of great disadvantage to the B'nagirathi-Hooghly and the Calcutta Port. The flows in the Feeder Canal during this period went down to as low as 11,000 cusecs against the design capacity of the Canal of 40,000 cusecs.

The Agreement reached between India and Bangladesh in November 1977 provides that the flows of the Ganga should be augmented. The efforts of the Government of India have been to expedite reaching an understanding on the long-term scheme of augmentation. The Agreement also provides for reviews, the first one becoming due in November 1980 and another in May 1982. The abnormally low flows in the Feeder Canal during the last season is an important factor which would be raised by the Government of India during the reviews.

The Government of India are pursuing all possibilities to ensure the full requirements of Calcutta Port.

Workers Fainted in the Damodar Colliery near Raniganj, West Bengal

*226. **SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA**:

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:

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

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the reported incidents of 30 workers fainting underground in the mines of the Damodar Colliery near Raniganj, in

West Bengal, for lack of ventilation because of prolonged power cuts;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the safety measures taken in the Colliery?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. 30 persons were engaged from 29th March, 1980 in sealing operations underground in the Damodar Colliery of Eastern Coalfields Limited. Frequent interruptions in power supply to the mines resulted in ventilation being affected and consequential building up of gases. In spite of normal precautions on 31st March the workers and supervisory staff were affected by the gases. However, the officers and staff of the Colliery did a commendable job in rescuing all the affected persons who were given first aid and necessary treatment.

(c) The normal safety precautions as per rules were in force in this colliery. This particular incident was the result of an unexpected and extensive series of power interruptions. Steps are being taken to increase the overall supply of power to coal mines particularly in BCCL and ECL which have a number of deep and gassy mines.

**Power Restrictions in force on
31-5-80**

*227. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to lay a statement showing State-wise and Union Territory-wise power restriction in force as on May 31, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): A statement showing the State-wise and Union Territory-wise power cuts/restrictions in force

during May, 1980 is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

POWER CUTS/RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE DURING MAY 1980

1. NORTHERN REGION

1.1 DELHI

The following cuts were imposed from January 1, 1978 continued to be in force:

(i) 10 per cent energy cut on all LT and HT consumers.

(ii) 10 per cent energy cut on all domestic and commercial consumers.

(iii) Restriction on display of neon signs, decorative lights, advertising and running of fountains.

(iv) Business hours of commercial establishments have been restricted upto 1900 hrs. w.e.f. middle of July, 1979.

(v) Air-conditioning in hotels, commercial establishments and multi-storied buildings was banned except those buildings where no other measures of ventilation was available.

1.2 HARYANA

The following cuts/restrictions were in force:

(i) 16 hours cut on rural feeders in two groups.

(ii) Large supply industries except seasonal industries were subjected to 10 per cent cut in their weekly energy consumption and their weekly off days are staggered.

(iii) No cut on small power and medium supply industries but their weekly off days are staggered.

(iv) No power was supplied to industrial consumers between 18.00 hrs. to 21.00 hrs.