

It may be mentioned that the 500 MW units in the Super Thermal Power Projects are among the first few units being introduced in the Indian power systems and the technology and expertise are new for the power industry in India. As such, the specifications have to be drawn up carefully.

In addition, to the above super thermal power stations, Government approval has been accorded during February, 1978 for construction of a 630 MW capacity super thermal power station at Neyveli with a provision for expansion to 1260 MW. This project has been entrusted to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation for implementation. The first and second generating units are expected to be commissioned in 1983-84 and the third unit in 1984-85.

Arrears due to Coal India Ltd.

*201. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether about Rs. 80 crores are due to Coal India by way of arrears of payment from consumers ;

(b) whether the main defaulters are public sector undertakings like railways, steel plants and power plants ; and

(c) if so, action taken to recover the dues speedily ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The realisation of sales dues and settlement of disputes regarding the amount due or payment is a continuous process. The coal companies are pursuing the matter with the different consumers.

Shortage of Explosives for Coal Industry

*202. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that coal industry in the country is likely to experience shortage of explosives in the middle of year ; and

(b) if so, corrective measures taken to deal with the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) (a) and (b). As a result of steps taken to import explosives, no shortage is likely to be experienced in the middle of the year.

Report Entitled "Why So Much Illegalities in Eastern Coalfields"

1532 SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report published in a Bengali weekly "Coalfields Times" in its issue dated 18th February under the caption "why so much illegalities in the Eastern Coalfields" if so, what action Government proposes to improve the situation, state details ;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to enquire into the whole issues for newspaper report through a Senior Officer from the Ministry ; and

(c) if yes, when, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : (a) to (c). The attention of Government has been drawn to the report. A detailed report on the article is being obtained from Coal India. Suitable action, if necessary will be taken after receipt of the detailed report.

Soft Cole Shortage

1533. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of soft coke for domestic use has resulted hardship in Delhi and other parts of the country ;