

Mahanadi basin where the oil India Limited is operating. That area is being operated by ONGC.

**DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** These particular areas are drilled by the U.S.A. experts. These areas have been explored by two U.S.A. firms and they are sabotaging the drilling operation. Will the Minister categorically answer because the Oil India Ltd., has the lowest role to play whereas the U.S.A. people are sabotaging the oil exploration programme? will the hon. Minister categorically answer that the ONGC will take up this work in collaboration with other companies outside USA which will bring fortune to this particular area?

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR:** I have not come to a stage so that I could advise the concerned company to say that you abandon all fresh contracts with the U.S.A. concerns. If such a situation arises the Government would not, I should say, shirk its responsibility. If it comes out, as my hon. friend is trying to assume that these two companies are trying to sabotage the Indian interest, certainly the Government is competent enough to take a course which will be proper and in the interest of the nation.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Thein Dam Project

\*416. **SHRI L. S. TUR:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government had submitted Thein Dam Project including Hydel Stage II in 1964 and if so, the present status thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that this important project is being delayed due to constraint of funds; and

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to provide funds in view of the serious shortages of power facing the State and need to help step up food production and other ancillary industries?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY):**

(a) Yes, Sir. Haryana and Rajasthan have been claiming a share, of power from this Project, and its execution could not be taken up earlier because of the inter-State issues involved. At a meeting of the concerned Chief Minister on 3rd Oct., 1977, taken by the former Prime Minister, it was decided that Punjab could implement the Project. The outstanding issues were to be examined separately. Work on the infrastructure facilities and excavation of diversion tunnels is in progress.

(b) and (c). The Central Government allocates funds for the State plan as a whole according to formula accepted by the National Development Council and not for individual projects. This Project is being executed by the Punjab Government and in the Sixth Plan period a sum of Rs. 130 crores has been provided for the same.

### Commissioning of Nagarjunasagar Power Project

\*417. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nagarjunasagar Power Project is not likely to be commissioned as per schedule;

(b) if so, facts thereof;

(c) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited are responsible for the delay in the supply of equipments to this Project;

(d) the estimated loss likely to accrue in terms of escalation in prices and industrial production; and

(e) action contemplated by Government in the matter?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY):**

(a) to (e). Nagarjunasagar Conventional Unit (1x110 MW) and the first two units of pumped storage scheme State-I (2x100 MW) Unit III of the Nagarjunasagar Pumped Storage Scheme, Stage I which was scheduled to be commissioned during January—March 1982 is expected to be commissioned by June, 1982. The IVth Unit is expected to be commissioned on schedule in December, 1982.

The delay in commissioning of the III Unit have been due to delay in respect of equipment from BHEL, have indicated that delay has occurred in obtaining the import licence and in complying with the procedures followed by M/s Hitachi for the inspection of the equipment, etc.

It is not possible to estimate the loss in terms of escalation in price and industrial production.

The monitoring of the projects has been stepped up to expedite the timely completion of various activities by the project authorities and the various equipment suppliers.

#### Separate Postal Division for Kalahandi District

\*423. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demands of the people of Kalahandi District for making Kalahandi a separate postal division in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether in view of the backwardness of the district, and in view of the district having two tribal blocks, Government propose creating a separate postal division for Kalahandi soon; and

(c) Whether the proposal for bifurcating the present Bolangir Division has come from the Superintendent of Post Offices of Bolangir Division justifying bifurcation in view of the increasing workload?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIPAY N. PATIL): (a) The proposal for creation of Kalahandi Postal Division was taken up by some of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

(b) and (c). Postal Divisions are at present bifurcated/created in accordance with the norms prescribed in this regard. On the basis of these approved norms, a Postal Division is considered ripe for bifurcation when its work load reached 2.6 units. Work load of Bolangir Postal Division which at present comprises Kalahandi district comes to 2.24 only and, as such, its bifurcation and creation of a separate Kalahandi Division is not found justified.

#### वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स के सोहागपुर क्षेत्र का विभाजन करने का प्रस्ताव

\*424. श्री बलबीर सिंह : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या शहडोल जिले में कोयला खानों का कार्य सुचारु रूप से चलाने की दृष्टि से वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स के सोहागपुर क्षेत्र को दो भागों में विभक्त करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है, और यदि हां, तो यह योजना कब तक क्रियान्वित हो जायेगी ; और

(ख) वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स के सोहागपुर क्षेत्र में शहडोल शहर के चारों ओर के उन स्थानों का ब्यौरा क्या है जहां कोयला पाया गया है और इन स्थानों पर कोयला खनन का कार्य कब तक शुरू किये जाने की संभावना है ?

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री ए. बी. ए. गनी खान चौधरी) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) शहडोल जिले के बीरसिंहपुर-पाली क्षेत्र और धनपुरी-अमलाई क्षेत्र में कोयले के भंडारों का पता चला है ।

धनपुरी क्षेत्र में कोयले का खनन शुरू किया जा चुका है । पाली तथा देवहारा परियोजनाएं 1982-83 में शुरू किए जाने की संभावना है ।

#### Serious Power Shortage in U. P.

\*425. SHRI GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that faced with a projected 30 per cent power deficit in the Sixth Plan and cuts in its annual power outlays Uttar Pradesh is in grip of serious power problem;

(b) whether the Union Government are considering proposals of the State for large hydro-electric projects;