

I am glad to inform the House that the Railway Minister has taken keen interest and now in no time we will be able to supply coal as demanded by the various States for their different regions. For example, in January we despatched coal to U.P. about 17,2 thousand tonnes. This time we are going to send them 31,5 thousand tonnes. I do not want to take the time of the House. We are working out the plans in consultation with the Railways.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Development of Hydro-Power Resources

*5. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that so far only 18 per cent of the hydro-power resources have been developed in the country; and

(b) if so, what positive steps are being taken to accelerate hydro-power generation in the existing projects and in building up of new projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHR) A. H. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI):

(a). Yes, Sir.

(b). The following steps have been taken to accelerate hydro power generation:—

(i) Hydro-power project schemes with a total installed capacity of 10,610 MW are already under different stages of construction;

(ii) The Central Electricity Authority have undertaken a study to identify further possibilities for hydro-power generation. 55 new schemes with a capacity of 13,000 MW have already been identified. These projects will be

taken up for execution in a phased manner;

(iii) With a view to increasing the hydro component in the power plan, the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation have been established in the Central Sector, for taking up the execution of suitable projects, and thus supplementing the efforts of the States in this regard; and

(iv) Serious attention is also being paid to improve the methods of construction, with a view to executing projects within the shortest possible time-frame.

प्रेस आयोग को पुनर्गठित करने का प्रस्ताव

*6 श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी :

श्री लक्ष्मण मलिक :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार प्रेम आयोग को पुनर्गठित करने का है; और

(ख) यदि हा, तो कब तक और उमकी मुख्य-मुख्य बाने क्या हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण तथा पूर्ति और पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री बंसन्त साठे) : (क) जी हाँ ।

(ख) : सशोधित निर्देश-पदों के बारे में सम्बन्धित प्रेम सगटनो/संस्थाओं से सुझाव मागे गए हैं। निर्णय सुझावों पर विचार करने के बाद लिया जाएगा ।

Proposal to reduce Voting Age to 18 Years

*7. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:

SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to reduce the voting age to 18 from the present 21;