

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;

(b) if so, what measures are being taken in this direction;

(c) whether some of the State Governments have reduced the voting age to 18 for the local administration elections; and

(d) if so, which are those States?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR):** (a) and (b). The question whether the minimum voting age for elections to Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of States should be reduced from 21 years to 18 years has been under Government's consideration, as part of the proposals for comprehensive electoral reforms. As the proposals involve consideration of important matters of policy, Government are likely to take some more time to take decisions thereon, including the proposal for reducing the voting age.

(c) and (d) According to the information received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have reduced the minimum voting age for Panchayat elections from 21 years to 18 years and Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Rajasthan and West Bengal have reduced the minimum voting age for elections to Municipal Corporations/Municipalities from 21 years to 18 years.

#### Functioning of Special Courts

\*8. SHRI N.E. HOHO Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Courts which were functioning during Janata Party regime have been held illegal recently; and

(b) if so, the details regarding arguments and the number of cases withdrawn as a result thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR):** (a) and (b). Mr. Justice M. L. Jain, Judge, Special Court No. 2 in his judgement dated 15-1-1980 on certain criminal miscellaneous applications filed in Case No. 1 of 1979 and Case No. 2 of 1979 held that the Notification dated 30th May, 1979 creating and establishing the Special Court and the declarations and designations to try the aforementioned cases, were not made in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and were therefore, of no effect and conferred no jurisdiction on the Court. He accordingly held that the Special Court was precluded from proceeding further in these cases. Shri Justice M. S. Joshi, Judge, Special Court No. 1 in his judgements dated 14-2-1980 (in Case No. 2 of 1979) and 18-2-1980 (in Case No. 1 of 1979) gave a similar finding in respect of the Notification dated 30th May, 1979 creating and establishing the Special Courts

None of the cases that were instituted in or transferred to the Special Courts under section 6 of the Special Courts Act, 1979, has been withdrawn.

देश में बिद्युत की कमी तथा बिहार में रबी की फसल पर इसका प्रभाव

\*9 श्री विजय कुमार यादव : क्या ऊर्जा और सिंचाई तथा कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि समूचे देश में विद्युत की आपूर्ति कमी है; यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि विद्युत की देशव्यापी कमी के कारण बिहार राज्य में, विशेषकर नालन्दा जिले में, रबी की फसल पर सबसे अधिक बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार बिहार में विद्युत का संकट दूर करने के लिए कोई कार्यवाही करने का है, यदि हाँ, तो तत्सम्बन्धी धोरा क्या है ?