

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). To improve the competitive position of coir goods in the world market and to put the labour intensive coir industry on a sound footing, there is a proposal to canalise export of coir.

#### **Electrification of Ernakulam-Trivandrum Line**

\*132. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN :  
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala had offered to make available electricity at reasonable rates for the electrification of Ernakulam-Trivandrum line ; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to low density of traffic, the heavy capital investment on electrification of this section is not economically justified, even after taking into account the electric energy being made available at low rates.

#### **Supply of Coal to Bangladesh**

\*133. SHRI N. K. SANGHI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether against an agreement reached for supply of six lakh tonnes of coal to Bangladesh by India, only 60,000 tonnes have so far been ordered for supply ;

(b) whether some differences over the price of coal have developed between the two countries ; and

(c) if so, the nature of differences and whether any settlement has since been reached ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) To meet the urgent requirements of Bangladesh, the Government of India are supplying 50,000 tonnes of coal under their Commodity and Relief Grants.

Besides this, there is provision for commercial exports of coal to the extent of Rs. 4 crores under the Trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh. In terms of this, the Coal Controller of Bangladesh has placed orders for 60,000 tonnes of coal at prices mutually agreed between him and the MMTC. These prices are lower than prices obtained elsewhere by the MMTC for exports of similar coals.

Details of further exports to Bangladesh are to be discussed shortly between the Coal Controller, Bangladesh and the MMTC, after an assessment has been made of the requirements of the different centres of consumption in Bangladesh and of the railway and river transport arrangements in that country.

(b) and (c). There have been no differences between the two Governments on the approach to prices to be charged. It is recognised by both the Governments that it would be in their long term interest for trade transactions to take place at competitive prices.

There have been unfounded reports in the press of prices being higher than prices in the domestic market. These have obviously emanated from quarters who are not reconciled to state trading.

#### **Construction of Major Reservoir across the Godavari**

\*134. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY :  
SHRI B. K. MODAK :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly has passed a Resolution requesting the Centre to construct major reservoir across the Godavari river ;

(b) whether the State Government have submitted any scheme in this connection ; if so, the broad outlines thereof ;

(c) the estimated cost of the scheme ; and

(d) the decisions taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). No scheme has been so far received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for irrigation of areas in Vishakhapatnam and Srikakulam district by Godavari waters. Further, the consideration of any such scheme would have to await the award of the Godavari Tribunal.