

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH):** (a) and (b). In view of the steeply increasing prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the world market, curbs in the consumption of these products are considered essential. To begin with upto 25 per cent reduction in the consumption of Motor Gasoline and Kerosene Oil is aimed at in the coming year. The production of these products can be adjusted in the refineries to ensure this objective.

(c) Overall economy in the consumption of all the other petroleum products is also receiving Government's attention.

(d) Wherever necessary, State Governments are also consulted at the appropriate time.

#### Report on Diffusion of Press Ownership

**\*228. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN:**

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

(a) whether his Ministry has given its opinion on the report on diffusion of press ownership to Government; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE):** (a) and (b). No opinion has been given. But consultation between the Information and Broadcasting and Law Ministry have been going on. The matters is still under consideration.

#### Irrigation works to be undertaken in Cauvery basin

**\*229. SHRI T. V. CHANDRASHEKHARAPPA VEERABASAPPA:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval for undertaking irrigation works in the Cauvery basin; and

(b) if so, whether any permanent Commission has been thought of to assess the flow of water in Cauvery Delta?

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT):** (a) The following irrigation projects in the Cauvery basin have been accepted by the Planning Commission in the course of the Fourth Plan:

#### KARNATAKA

1. Manchanabele Multi-purpose Reservoir Project.
2. Taraka Reservoir Project.
3. Sagare Doddakere Reservoir Project.
4. Gundal Reservoir Project.
5. Votahole Irrigation Project.

#### TAMIL NADU

1. Parappalar Reservoir.
2. Palar Porandalar.
3. Chinnar Reservoir.
4. Ponnaniar Reservoir.
5. Renovation of Nandan Channel.

(b) As decided by the Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala during their discussions in May 1972 on the issues pertaining to Cauvery waters, a Fact Finding Committee was appointed by the Government of India to collect all the connected data pertaining to Cauvery waters, projects in the basin and the water utilisation. The Fact Finding Committee submitted its report in December 1972.

As desired by the Chief Ministers, after considering the report in April, 1973, the Committee was revived in May 1973 to review the data supplied by State Governments in respect of area cropped and area irrigated etc., and undertake such verification as was necessary. The Committee submitted its additional report in August, 1973.

The Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Minister of Irrigation and Power discussed the Committee's reports on 9th and 10th October, 1973. The discussions showed that it might be possible to reach a settlement by negotiation of the dispute on Cauvery waters. During the discussions, the States have agreed that it is necessary to effect economies in the present water utilisation, as well as that envisaged in new projects. The States desired that the Government of India should make a study on the scope for economy in the use of water. These studies are now in progress.

#### Setting up of a Thermal Power Station in Bihar

\*230. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Thermal Power Station near Gaya (Bihar); and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

#### THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT):

(a) There is no such proposal before the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Election Expenses incurred by Candidates

\*235. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred by candidates in the separate Elections to Parliament and Assemblies held in 1971 and 1972 and in the simultaneous Election to Parliament and Assemblies held in 1967, as reported by them to the Election Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): The total expenditure incurred by candidates in the separate Elections to Parliament and Assemblies held in 1971 and 1972 and in the simultaneous Elections to Parliament and Assemblies held in 1967 is as under:—

Nature of Election and year	Amount of election expenditure incurred by candidates
	Rs.
1 General Election, 1967 House of the People	1,11,13,183.66
2 General Election, 1967 Legislative Assembly	3,45,87,766.73
3 General Election, 1971 House of the People	2,59,26,635.53
4 General Election, 1972 Legislative Assemblies	6,79,84,807.58

The expenditure given above does not include the amount of election expenses of the candidates who did not lodge their account of election expenses. In addition to this, the total expenditure shown in respect of the simultaneous general elections held in 1967 does not include the amount of election expenses incurred by the candidates who contested these elections from the State of Bihar, as this information is still awaited from the Chief Electoral Officer of the State.

#### Location of gas reserves in Naharkatiya area

\*236. DR. H. P. SHARMA:  
SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high pressure petroleum gas accumulation has been lately hit at in the Naharkatiya region of Assam: