

measures for increasing its capacity utilisation; [Translation]

- (vi) to examine the measures taken by the company for implementing projects for the control of under ground fires in Jharia coalfields and make recommendations for improving and augmenting fire control measures;
- (vii) to examine the problem of availability of sand for BCCL mines and suggest methods for augmenting its supply;
- (viii) to examine the measures taken by the company for departmentalisation of coal transport and suggest improvement in the working of the system and also to examine measures which the company can take to departmentalise transport of sand;
- (ix) to review the existing costing and financial systems and recommend an efficient system of cost and budgetary control and identify areas of cost reduction;
- (x) to suggest a time bound schedule for the implementation of the various recommendations.

The Committee has been asked to submit its report by the end of April, 1986.

Proposal to set up a watch factory in Tripura

*139. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up a watch factory in Tripura; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI) : (a). No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation for Tanda thermal power project (U.P.)

*140. SHRI R. P. SUMAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount fixed initially for Tanda Thermal Power Project under construction in Uttar Pradesh and the amount now being provided therefor;

(b) the total amount allocated during the Sixth Five Year Plan and the amount of each instalment released for this project;

(c) whether a large part of the allocated funds was not released last year resulting in non-completion of work within the time limit and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount allocated for the above project during the ensuing year and whether these funds will be made available as early as possible on priority basis and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The latest estimated cost of the Tanda thermal power project is Rs. 390 crores, as against the originally sanctioned cost of Rs. 159.25 crores.

(b) to (d). The Tanda project is being implemented in the State sector by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board. During the Sixth Plan period, the total outlay approved for the project by the Planning Commission was Rs. 221.42 crores. However, the actual expenditure incurred on the project was Rs. 163.5 crores. For 1985-86, the approved outlay for the project is Rs 63 crores, against which a sum of Rs. 11.32 crores was released by the State authorities upto 31.12.1985. Inadequate cash flow is one of the main reasons for the delay in completion of the project.

[English]

Pending applications for telephone connections in Kerala

*141. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications for telephone connections pending in Kerala at the end of 1985;

(b) the rate of disposal of such applications in Kerala; and

(c) by what time the backlog will be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 68,830 applications were pending for telephone connections in Kerala at the end of December, 1985.

(b) Rate of disposal in Kerala during the past 3 years, is as below :-

Year	No. of telephone provided
1982-83	11,466
1983-84	11,058
1984-85	7,213

In addition, 5949 telephone connections have been given from April, 1985 to December, 1985. About 4500 telephone connections are expected to be provided during January, 1986 to March, 1986.

(c) Telephone connections to most of the existing applicants are expected to be provided progressively during the 7th Plan period depending upon the availability of adequate resources.

Revenue from oil price hike and loss due to gas flaring

*142. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil price hike is to net Rs. 800 crores as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' of 2 February, 1986; and

(b) whether it is a fact that gas worth about Rs. 800 crores is being flared annually, based on retail domestic consumer prices of LPG cylinders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The estimated additional resources on account of increase in prices of petroleum products (on 1.2.1986 and subsequent reduction on 6.2.1986) is likely to be of the order of about Rs. 530 crores per annum on projected offtakes.

(b) Natural gas which is different from LPG is flared as it cannot be compressed and stored economically like LPG, and the imputed value of the quantity flared as reckoned currently at about Rs. 30 crores per annum only.

Revision of rate of disablement pension under Employees State Insurance Scheme

974. SHRI NARSING (SURYA-WANSHI) : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of disablement pension under Employees State Insurance Scheme has not been revised since April, 1981 as compared to revision of pensions by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to revise the rate of disablement pension; and

(d) if so, when and at what rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d). The ESI Corporation has been generally considering the question of enhancement of the rates of Permanent Disablement benefit and Dependant's benefit pension on the recommendations of the valuer, who is appointed by them after every five years to carry out the valuation of their assets and liabilities. The valuer, who had carried out the valuation as on 31-3-1979 had recommended certain increase in the rates of benefits and the Corporation had accordingly sanctioned suitable increase in Permanent Disablement Benefit and Dependant's benefit Pension with effect from 1-4-1980. The valuer's report as on 31-3-1979 did not recommend any increase in the rates of benefits. The valuation as on