

been synchronised. Then, the Manuguru Super Thermal Power Station is under consideration. The Central Electricity Authority has to give the clearance. PIB has to give the clearance. The Planning Commission has to give the approval. The coal linkage has to be established. After these projects come up, we shall be in a position to give more power to Andhra Pradesh and the southern area.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the National Grid is supplying power to the energy deficit States whenever they require and if so what is the procedure followed in this regard. Besides, I would also like to know whether the State of Orissa is reeling under acute shortage of power because of which more than 8 hours power-cuts are imposed now. Has the State Government of Orissa requested the Centre to supply 15 per cent of the reserved power with the Centre through the National Grid as is supplied to Kerala and Karnataka States? What is the reaction of the Government of India on this issue to overcome the acute shortage of power of Orissa State?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: The question of setting up of a National Grid is under consideration of the Central Government. The Central Government is also thinking of having a Transmission Corporation. There is shortage of power in Orissa. For meeting the requirement of Orissa, the Central Government has sanctioned 3000 MW (ultimate) Thermal Power Station at Talcher and the Prime Minister is going to lay the foundation-stone on 15th May in Orissa. After the completion of this project, the power shortage problem of Orissa will be solved.

Use of Alcohol with Petrol

*802 **DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an alcohol surplus leading to exports and also causing problem for distillers; and

(b) if so, whether surplus alcohol can be used with petrol as was being done in India during World War II and is now routinely done in many countries without any changes needed in petrol engines?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. Some surplus quantities available with the distillers are being exported.

(b) Alcohol was used in admixture with petrol in India during World War II when the country was short of petrol. Ministry of Petroleum does not consider it necessary to permit mixing of alcohol with petrol at present. Alcohol is an important raw material and is being used for the manufacture of value added chemicals. It is being exported when surplus to the needs of the country.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Sir, the hon. Minister in his statement has stated that Alcohol is an important raw material and is being used for the manufacture of value-added chemicals in our country. He has also stated that some surplus quantities available with the distillers are being exported. So, in this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the amount of alcohol available in this country and whether the value-added chemical industry people are getting full quota of alcohol for their use. I also want to know from the hon. Minister the amount of foreign exchange we get by way of exporting alcohol. Is it equivalent to the amount of foreign exchange we lose by way of importing the petroleum from foreign countries?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, the hon. Member has asked two questions. One question relates to import of petroleum. We are not importing petroleum. This question was already answered by the Minister of Petroleum vide Starred Question No. 171 dated 22nd November, 1988, wherein he had stated:

"At present the production of petrol in the country is sufficient to meet the requirement. As such, there is no scheme under consideration to use alcohol in petrol as automotive fuel in the vehicles..."

This is the answer that was given by the Minister of Petroleum.

Regarding production of alcohol, we are in surplus now. We are meeting the domestic requirements. We are also exporting it to other countries. Actually, the export up to March, 1989 has been 223.60 lakh litres earning a foreign exchange of Rs. 8.21 crores. The total foreign exchange earning from the allowed quantity of 1200 lakh litres is estimated at Rs. 50 crores. This year, the crushing season is very good. We will earn more foreign exchange as we have got plenty of alcohol. We are giving more Letters of Intent to the alcohol based industries to use the excess alcohol in our country and export the chemicals to other countries.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: The Minister has stated in his reply that we have plenty of alcohol whereas the petrol is not a renewable source. Moreover, the main raw material for alcohol is sugarcane. It is abundantly grown in our rural India. In order to exploit the alcohol and in order to pay the remunerative price to the farmers in future, whether the Minister will come up with a new technology to utilise this alcohol for automobile industry.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: He is putting a question which relates to half a century back position, the Second World War period because at that time, he was not born. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is why, he is interested to know about it.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: At that time, the charcoal was also used for running the buses. Those days were the olden days and he was not born at that time. He is a young man. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is not convincing, at least to me, because the sugarcane production is increasing rapidly in the whole country and keeping in view the demand of all the farmers, the Government is setting up sugar factories at places of its production. In the chain of these factories, other factories manufacturing alcohol are also coming up no matter whether they manufacture industrial alcohol or liquor. This is causing an adverse affect on public health and people at many places are dying by consuming industrial alcohol. Moreover, the drinking habit is also increasing. The Uttar Pradesh Government was requested a number of times that instead of alcohol ad liquor, petro-chemicals should be manufactured by importing new technique, which could be used for running automobiles. Will the hon. Minister apprise the House of his views on the matter?

[*English*]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We are using this alcohol for chemical purposes. There are Members from Andhra Pradesh. We asked the Andhra Pradesh Government about this. But they are not willing to give this alcohol to the chemical industries. They are getting a revenue of Rs. 600 crores from this liquor business which is the highest in the whole of the country (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: The reply is not in accordance with the question asked.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please answer to the question put by Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: There is a

surplus of molasses and alcohol. Now we are exporting molasses and alcohol and we are earning foreign exchange.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: It has been established by several advanced countries of the world including Brazil and they have been using alcohol mixing with petrol. They claim that the pollutant ingredients of petrol have been reduced by mixing it with petrol.

In our country we have been guessing every year whether the distilleries are going to be closed down because there is no demand to lift their produce by the Government: This is particularly so in Uttar Pradesh. On the one hand there is a surplus production of alcohol in our country; but on the other hand we are purchasing petrol and petroleum products from abroad by investing huge amounts of foreign exchange. Therefore I don't find any relevance in the argument that alcohol which is abundantly available in our country will not be mixed with petrol, particularly keeping in view the reduction of the incidence of pollution.

SHRI J. VENGALA RAO: There are two supplementaries. One is about mixing alcohol with petrol and another is that in Uttar Pradesh they are not lifting the alcohol. The first one has been answered by the Petroleum Minister. In November 1988 he mentioned clearly that at present the production of petrol in the country is sufficient to meet the requirements. As such there is no scheme under consideration to mix alcohol with petrol. This is very costly. Two years back we were importing industrial alcohol. Fortunately now the rains are good. That is why we are now getting sufficient quantity of alcohol and we are using it.

We are lifting it from Uttar Pradesh also. This year we have lifted it and exported it. We got the foreign exchange also.

Introduction of Store and forward Telegraph System In North-Western States

*805. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme for the introduction of Store and Forward Telegraph System (SFT) has made any headway in North-Western States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the names of the centres in each one of these States where it has been introduced alongwith the date of introduction and the number of Telegraph Offices linked to these main centres in each State;

(c) the programme for introduction of the system in the final year of the Seventh Plan and the places in each one of these States where it would be introduced/extended during this year; and

(d) the advantages of the SFT system as compared to the traditional Morse Code System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Store and Forward Telegraph Systems have been commissioned during 1988-89 at Ambala and Chandigarh. Equipments have been received at Shimla and Jammu Tawi and installation of the same is being carried out.

Date of commissioning and the Telegraph Offices linked are given in Annexures I and II below.

The programme is as follows:

Himachal Pradesh	-	Shimla
Jammu & Kashmir	-	Jammu Tawi

The Micro-processor based SFT System handles transit traffic automatically, thereby reducing transit delays to telegrams.