

of new projects due to problems of land acquisition and obstruction by local youths wanting employment etc.

Closure of coal mines

651. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to close down twelve coal mines belonging to the Eastern Coalfields Limited by June, 1987;

(b) if so, how many workers will be rendered surplus due to the proposed closure of the said mines; and

(c) how these surplus workers are proposed to be rehabilitated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The Charji Committee, which was appointed by the Government to study the working of the Eastern Coalfields Ltd., identified 22 coal mines which have become uneconomical on account of high cost of production and extremely low output per manshift. After examination of the Report of the Committee, the Government have directed Coal India Ltd./Eastern Coalfields Ltd. to finalise reconstruction and development schemes in respect of 10 mines. For the remaining 12 mines, CIL/ECL have been directed to finalise re-deployment/voluntary retirement scheme for the workers who would be affected due to closure of these mines.

Reorganisation of IDPL

652. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to restructure the IDPL units in the country;

(b) what are the salient features of the action plan launched by Gov-

ernment to make it a viable organisation; and

(c) what specific measures are being taken for restructuring the Madras unit in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH):

(a) to (c) At the instance of the Government, the company set up an in-house task force to identify the constraints and opportunities in respect of each of its plants and to come out with concrete plan for their rehabilitation and revival. On the basis of analysis made by the task force, the company is reviewing the rehabilitation plan for all its units including the unit of Madras.

Loss to Coal India Limited

653. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss to Coal India Limited (CIL) so far during the current year as a result of the reduced coal purchase by SAIL; and

(b) the alternative measures taken by CIL to keep the sale intact?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Against the targetted supply of 53.81 lakh tonnes of coking coal during the period April–September 1986 to steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited by Coal India Limited, the actual materialisation was only of the order of 44.56 lakh tonnes. This was mainly due to lower off-take of coal by the steel plants which were having high stocks. Now, the off-take has shown signs of increase during the last one month and may reach the targetted level by the end of the year. Since the supply of coal to the washeries and steel plants is a continuous process, it is not possible to quantify the extent of loss,

if any, to Coal India Limited at present.

National Power Grid

654. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for implementation of the concept for national grid in the power sector soon;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to include private Sector for its implementation; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Government of India have accepted in principle the need for a National Power Grid. Such a Grid is an evolutionary process requiring appropriate inter-connections and strengthening of the various State Systems and the Central Sector EHV transmission lines. As a step towards formation of the National Grid, Regional Electricity Boards have been set up to accelerate the process of integrated operation of the regional systems. The Central Electricity Authority is carrying out studies in regard to the transmission system needed for the ultimate formation of the National Grid.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to associate the Private Sector in the development of the National Power Grid.

New Drug Policy

655. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new drug policy has since been formulated by Gov-

ernment; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay and by when the policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH):

(a) and (b) The matter is still under the consideration of Government, as a number of important issues is involved.

Board to boost biogas programme

656. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Board or Commission to develop biogas programme in order to boost its production and use; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Commission for Additional Sources of Energy (CASE) already exists which has taken policy decisions during last two years that have boosted the biogas programme and other non-conventional energy programmes. The CASE consists of Secretary, Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources as Chairman; Secretaries of Departments of Expenditure, Power, Science & Technology, Planning Commission; Director-General of India Council of Agricultural Research and Chairman, Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Issue of letter of intent for cement plant in Tamil Nadu

657. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an application from the Government of