

Increase In the Coal Price

1224. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to further increase the price of coal; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GOAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) Due to price escalation of inputs some proposals have been initiated by Coal India Limited. No decision has been taken by Government in this regard.

Small Hydro Electric Power Potential

1215. SHRI ROSHAN LAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a national policy to develop small power stations is under Government's consideration in view of its substantial potential of 25,000 million KW?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): Government attach great importance to the development of micro hydel power. This is an activity that would have to be undertaken by the respective States in which the potential exists and Micro hydel scheme costing less than Rs. 1 crore do not require statutory clearance from the Central Electricity Authority. However, Ministry of Energy have offered to make available to the States the technical assistance that may be required by them in this regard. Also the State authorities have been advised to ensure that provisions are made for generating power by utilising waters released from Dams/Canals being built for irrigation purposes.

Constitution of All India Judicial Service

1216. SHRI R. M. DESAI:
SHRI SATCHIDANANDA:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal presently under Government's consideration to constitute an All India Judicial Service on the lines of IAS;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are taken to maintain the independence of judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL): (a) to (c) The Law Commission in its 77th report recommended the formation of an all India Judicial Service, with the same rank and pay scale as the Indian Administrative Service. The report envisages recruitment from among law graduates and a draining period of two years during which a recruit to the service can acquire familiarity with regional language of the State to which he is allocated. The views of the State Governments and the Chief Justices of the High Courts have been sought in the matter. No detailed scheme has been framed. The question of framing a detailed scheme will arise only after receiving the response of the State Governments and the Chief Justices of the High Courts.

Working of Telephones at Gauhati and Dibrugarh

1217. SHRI ROBIN KAKATL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones which have remained out of order continuously for a period of more than one week in Gauhati and Dibrugarh cities of Assam during the year 1980-81;