

Narora atomic¹ power plant

1143. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the atomic power plant at Narora is likely to be delayed further by five years;

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the estimated cost escalation in the construction of the plant as a result thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to remove the bottlenecks in the construction of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) The two units of Narora Atomic Power Project are expected to be completed by 1986 and 1987 as against the original scheduled dates of 1981 and 1982 respectively.

(b) and (d) The project is behind schedule on account of problems faced in land acquisition in the initial stages, additional time required to finalise designs after conducting seismic analysis and delayed delivery of major nuclear components due to factors beyond the control of the Department. Necessary steps are being taken to expedite the manufacture of various components which govern the project schedule. Erection and commissioning activities are being paralleled to the extent feasible.

(c) The component of cost escalation directly attributable to the delay in completion of the project is not substantial.

Payment of minimum wages

1144. SHRI SANTOSH MITRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the comments made by the Chairman of the Minorities Commission that West Bengal was the only State in the country which was making a conscientious and determined efforts to pay the minimum wage to workers under the Minimum Wages Act; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) According to the information received from the Minorities Commission the Chairman of the Commission has made no such comment.

(b) Does not arise.

New method for coal carbonisation

1145. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an entirely new method in the field of coal carbonisation, claimed to be the first of its kind in the world, has been developed by a team of scientists led by Shri B. K. Majumdar, Deputy Director of the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad, to make "ashless coal" through a process of chemical demineralisation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI), Dhanbad has undertaken a process for chemical demine-