

(d) The proposal was examined in the past and was dropped for want of justification. It has been re-examined and still not found justified.

(e) The question of upgradation does not arise.

Setting up a coal-based fuel and chemical plant

8. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: pleased to state the progress so far made by the Central Government on the West Bengal Government's proposal for setting up a coal-based fuel and chemical plant at Raniganj in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANF KHAN CHAUDHURI): The original proposal of the West Bengal Government for conversion of Raniganj coal into diesel and methanol in Raniganj Coalfield area has been modified to provide for conversion of coal into methanol alone with an annual capacity of 1/2 million tonnes. In consultation with the West Bengal Government, the Ministry has identified the possible sources of coal supply to the proposed plant. The Government of West Bengal has been asked to go ahead with preparation of the feasibility report based on the quality of coal identified. The West Bengal Government have engaged Fertilizers (Planning and Development) India Limited for preparation of the feasibility report.

Award of Contract for setting up of Annapara Thermal Power Station to a Japanese Firm

9. SHRI DIPENDRABHUSAN GHOSH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state what are the reasons for awarding the contract for setting up the Annapara 'B' Thermal Power Project in UP to a Japanese firm instead of awarding the same to public sector undertakings, viz. BHEL which is not lacking in capabilities for undertaking the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): The matter is still under examination.

Jobless Workers of Coal India Limited

10. SHRI DIPENDRABHUSAN GHOSH:

SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fifty thousand workers became jobless in Coal India Limited during the last five years; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regards and what steps have been taken by Government to provide them with alternative jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Thermal Power Stations

11. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation proposes to set up seven major thermal power stations including one in the capital; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) what are the names of the States which suffer from chronic power crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation is setting up Super Thermal Power Stations at Singrauli, Korba, Ramagundam and Farakka. There is a provision for fresh projects to be taken up by NTPC in the 6th Five Year Plan for which the feasibility of setting up