

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for opening new coal mines in Vidharba area in the public sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) About 33 coal mining projects are under various stages of consideration for implementation during the next two years in Western Coalfields Ltd.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Project works of the N.T.P.C.

1645. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects in hand of the National Thermal Power Corporation at present in the country and abroad;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the National Thermal Power Corporation who has been appointed as Secretary in his Ministry, has been holding both the charges at present; and

(c) if so, when a new Chairman of the National Thermal Power Corporation is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation is executing four Super Thermal Power Projects in the country and none abroad. These are located in

Singrauli (Uttar Pradesh), Korba (Madhya Pradesh), Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh) and Farakka (West Bengal). In addition, the NTPC has also been entrusted with the management of the Badarpur Thermal Power Station.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The processes for appointment of a new Chairman have already been initiated.

Hydle Power Projects

1646. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of hydel power projects which are yet to be completed; and

(b) what steps have been taken to speed up the completion of these hydel projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) A Statement (See below showing details of the hydro-electric projects under construction is enclosed.

(b) With a view to expediting construction of hydro-electric projects, close and effective monitoring systems have been set up in the Central Electricity Authority, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and the Ministry of Energy. In addition, periodic meetings are held with the Power Ministers and Chairmen, State Electricity Boards with a view to identifying bottlenecks and taking suitable remedial action. Government have also decided that large hydro projects in the Central Sector be executed by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) which is being strengthened and streamlined with a view to expediting the construction of these Projects.