

additional irrigation potential created in the country during the last three years (1976-77 to 1978-79) is 6.6 million hectares, (3.2 million hectares from major and medium projects and 3.4 million hectares from minor projects).

(b) About 80 per cent of potential created during these three years is being utilised.

Curtailment of production in IDPL plants

375. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was curtailment of production in IDPL, Rishikesh and IDPL, Hyderabad during 1978-79 due to simultaneous expansion activities, and modification job for implementation of Italian technology and labour problems;

(b) the period upto which this is expected to continue;

(c) what is the total financial loss as a result of this curtailment of production; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to attain full production expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) IDPL, Hyderabad:

Production was adversely affected due to 55 days strike by workmen from 17th October, 1978 to 10th December, 1978.

IDPL, Rishikesh:

Production was affected due to the fact that the expansion of Penicillin and Tetracycline capacity had to be achieved by the modification of existing fermentors for operating with better strains and modification/creation of down stream facilities in tune with the new technology. At the

same time some increase in production was also achieved particularly in regard to Tetracycline by using the new technology in the existing fermentors.

(b) IDPL, Hyderabad:

Does not arise, since the loss of production was due to strike by the workmen.

IDPL, Rishikesh:

All the fermentors will be converted to the new technology and production stabilised by December, 1980. Endeavour will be made to off-set the loss in production by fermentor modification by pressing into operation more fermentors out of the total of 44 fermentors at Rishikesh.

(c) IDPL, Hyderabad:

The strike by the workmen caused loss of production estimated at Rs. 7.6 crores.

IDPL, Rishikesh:

The effect of expansion activity on production cannot be precisely estimated in view of the off-setting impact of operating unmodified fermentors with new technology.

(d) The present main constraints in attaining full production both in Hyderabad and Rishikesh are (i) power and water shortages at Hyderabad and (ii) power shortages at Rishikesh. The concerned State Governments have been moved to restore full power and water supply.

Decline in the capacity utilisation of various fertiliser units

376. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the capacity utilisation in many fertiliser units like RCF, Trombay, HFC, Dur-

gapur, HFC, Namrup, Rourkela Fertiliser Plant, etc. has come down in 1978-79 as compared to 1976-77; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this widespread decline in the capacity utilisation of the Fertiliser units?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The requisite information is given below:

Name of Plant	Capacity Utilisation for Nitrogen (%)	
	1976-77	1978-79
Trombay .	126.0	106.0
Durgapur .	30.3	24.9
Namrup .	104.4	87.8
Rourkela .	66.7	56.8

(b) The main reasons for lower capacity utilisation in 1978-79 as compared to 1976-77 are indicated below, plant-wise:—

Trombay:—Frequency fluctuation/voltage dips, equipment failures and shortage of intermediates.

Durgapur:—Annual shutdown of the plant had to be extended by two months to carry out modifications in the plant.

Namrup:—Equipment failures and short supply of sulphur.

Rourkela:—Loss of production due to short supply of coke-oven gas from the steel plant and shortage of naphtha.

Loss suffered by Coal India Limited

377. **SHRI PILOO MODY:** Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working of the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries for the year 1978-79 has resulted in a loss of 212.16 crores as against

Rs. 100 crores loss in the previous year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this big loss; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve the working of the Coal India Limited and make it economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) According to the provisional unaudited accounts, the losses of Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries during the year 1977-78 and 1978-79 are Rs. 102.14 crores and Rs. 221.17 crores respectively.

(b) The Coal India Ltd. suffered losses mainly due to unremunerative coal prices coupled with increases in the cost of inputs, increase in the wage bill and loss of production due to shortage of power supply, diesel and explosives, absenteeism and law and order and other problems.

(c) following steps have been taken in this regard:—

(1) Production is being stepped up and for this attempts are being made to remove constraints in the supply of power, explosives and diesel.

(2) Controlling absenteeism among the miners.

(3) Control on man-power and improvement in productivity.

(4) Improvement in the utilisation of equipment.

(5) Control on inventory and economy in the use of stores.

Decline in Profitability of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation

378. **SHRI R. R. MORARKA:**
SHRI PILOO MODY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state: