

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above in the negative whether Government propose to give serious consideration to this matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) and (b) The Government is anxious to exploit the country's river waters to accelerate hydro power generation. In this connection following steps have been taken:—

(i) Hydro-power project schemes with a total installed capacity of 10,610 MW are already under different stages of construction;

(ii) The Central Electricity Authority have undertaken a study to identify further possibilities for Hydro power generation. 55 new schemes with a capacity of 13,000 MW have already been identified. These projects will be taken up for execution in a phased manner;

(iii) With a view to increasing the hydro component in the power plan, the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation have been established in the Central Sector, for taking up the execution of suitable projects, and thus supplementing the efforts of the states in this regard; and

(iv) Serious attention is also being paid to improving the methods of construction, with a view to executing projects within the shortest possible time-frame.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Location of a Radio Station at Gangtok**

\*88. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY: SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sikkim Government have approached the Central Govern-

ment to set up a radio station at Gangtok; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have taken any decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Provision has been made to set up a Radio Station at Gangtok during the Sixth Plan (1978—83).

#### **Shifting of headquarters of Western Coalfields Ltd. from Nagpur to Chhindwara**

\*89. SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: SHRI S. W. DHABE:

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

(a) whether any orders were issued after January, 1980 to the management of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) to shift its headquarters from Nagpur to Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of organisations of industries, trade unions and the Nagpur Municipal Corporation have protested against this decision and have sent representations to this effect to his Ministry; and

(d) since when the headquarters of Western Coalfields Limited has been functioning at Nagpur and what amount has been spent for the establishment of the offices at Nagpur including the construction of the building?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) No, Sir. However, instructions have been issued to open a regional office of the W.C.L. at Chhindwara to deal with the local problems.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Representations from Chambers of Commerce and Trade Unions have been received, both for and against the shifting of Headquarters of Western Coalfields Limited from Nagpur to Chhindwara.

(d) The headquarters of WCL has been functioning at Nagpur since May, 1973. and a sum of about Rs. 1.18 crores had been spent so far for the establishment of office.

#### **Revival of the 'Samachar' News Agency**

\*90. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN:  
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD  
MATHUR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for revival of 'Samachar'; and

(b) whether Government have taken note of the overwhelming opinion expressed by the All India Small and Medium Newspapers Association recently against setting up a monopoly news agency?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE): (a) No; Sir.

(b) The resolution passed by the All India Small and Medium Newspapers Association at its meeting held on 24th and 25th February, 1980 with regard to future of News Agencies has been seen by the Government.

#### **Coal production In the country**

\*91. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total coal production in the , year immediately prior to nationalisation and after nationalisation of coal industry, year-wise;

(b) the per capita production of coal for the same period; and

(c) the detail of wages of coal miners for the same period?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) The production of coal in the year immediately prior to its nationalisation and after nationalisation, year-wise is as follows:

Year	(Figures in million tonnes)
1970-71	72.95
1971-72	72.42
1972-73	77.23
1973-74	78.17
1974-75	88.41
1975-76	99.69
1976-77	101.04
1977-78	101.00
1978-79	101.95

(b) The per capita production for the post nationalisation period is as follows:

(Figures expressed in output of coal in tonnes per manshift)		
Year	Coal India	Singareni
1973-74	0.56	0.63
1974-75	0.58	0.65
1975-76	0.66	0.69
1976-77	0.67	0.72
1977-78	0.68	0.72
1978-79	0.67	0.78

Prior to nationalisation many jobs relating to coal production which are now done departmentally were done by contractors. Further, reliable figures of the number of workers engaged in coal production are not available. It is not, therefore, possible to calculate the actual per capita production of coal before nationalisation.