

o scientific or authoritative observational data about it.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in the prices of cars after decontrol

*216. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the extent of increase in the prices of Ambassador, President, Premier and Standard cars after decontrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI BHAMA MAITI): After decontrol from January, 1975, the prices of Ambassador and Premier Cars have increased from time to time, to the extent of Rs. 4,748.00 and Rs. 5,687.00 respectively. There has been no increase in the price of the Standard car.

Construction of the Second Bridge over Brahmaputra River at Tezpur Silghat Point

*217. SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken final decision for the construction of the bridge over the Brahmaputra river at Tezpur Silghat point as a Central scheme

(b) if so, when the work is likely to start; and

(c) whether the bridge is proposed to be a rail-cum-road bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) No, Sir. Project Report on construction of a second bridge over Brahmaputra near Silghat prepared by M/s. Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited is being examined by an expert group constituted by the North-Eastern Council;

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tripartite Meeting on sharing of Power among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala

*218. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala for holding a tripartite meeting to reach an agreement on the sharing of power supply;

(b) whether the Central Government have issued any direction regarding the supply of more power to Karnataka to overcome power shortage in that State; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of other concerned State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) It is understood that the Government of Karnataka have proposed a tripartite meeting between Tamil Nadu, Kerala and themselves to explore the possibilities of additional power supply to Karnataka.

(b) and (c) While the Central Government have not issued any direction, they have been in close touch with the power situation in the Southern Region and making every possible effort to help Karnataka State to meet its essential requirements for power to the extent possible. Kerala which is the surplus State in the Region has been providing assistance to both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. During the period from April, 1977 to March, 1978 Kerala supplied a total of about 1651 million Units to Tamil Nadu out of which Tamil Nadu supplied about 388 Million Units to Karnataka. On the basis of recent discussions, Tamil Nadu has agreed to supply 0.5 MU per day to Karnataka from the energy received from Kerala and Kerala has agreed to supply 0.5 MU per day to Karnataka by restricting their own

internal consumption. Assistance from Maharashtra is also being given to Karnataka to the extent available on a day to day basis.

Derecognition of Trade Unions in Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

*219. SHRI S. KUMARAN;
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA;
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH
ANAND;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have directed the Kerala Government to derecognize the trade unions in the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centres at Thumba, Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the State Government's reaction thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) and (b) No question of giving a direction to the State Government arises. The State Government was requested to withdraw the recognition as in my view, supported by the earlier judicial decisions, it was clear that the Scientific Research and Development Organisations were exempt from the definition of 'industry'. In the light of the latest judgment of the Supreme Court however the question is being re-examined.

Shortage of coal in Gujarat

*220. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of factories including textile mills and power houses in Gujarat are facing closure due to acute shortage of coal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the shortage of coal;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to increase the supply of coal to the State so as to prevent closure of the units; and

(d) whether Government propose to transport coal from Calcutta to Porbandar or Bhavnagar by ships till railway transshipment bottlenecks at Sabarmati and Viramgam are overcome?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no acute shortage of coal leading to closure of industries including textile mills and power houses in Gujarat.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total despatches of coal to Gujarat during 1977-78 were already more than those during 1976-77.

(d) No restriction has been imposed by the Government on transportation of coal from Calcutta to Porbandar or Bhavnagar by ships.

Production of Energy

*221. SHRI R. D. JAGTAP AVERGAONKAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated requirement of energy in the country during the year 1978-79:

(b) what amount of energy is likely to be produced from all sources, source-wise, during the above period; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to produce additional energy to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The requirement of electrical energy for the country during 1978-79 is estimated to be 1,11,796 million units, as measured at the station bus bars.