

States have been taken into consideration while planning for production in future. Therefore, the requests from the Governments of Bihar and Maharashtra have not been agreed to.

♦256. [Transferred to the 2nd August, 1978.]

Reduction in Air Force Squadrons

•257. SHRI ROSHAN LAL:

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:
SHRI KALP NATH RAI:
SHRI L. R. NAIK:
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE;

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the strength of the Indian Air Force is being reduced by two Squadrons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b) Presumably, Hon'ble Member has in mind reports that the existing fleet of Canberras and Hunters is proposed to be replaced with fewer Squadrons of whatever type of aircraft is finally selected for the replacement. While these reports are correct, it is not true that the overall strength of the Indian Air Force as such, is being reduced.

Shortage of Coal in the Vidarbha region

•258. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV:
SHRI DEORAO PATIL:
SHRI KRISHNARAO NARAYAN DHULAP;
SHRI HARISINH BHAGUBAVA MAHIDA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of coal in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the small industries and power station in the region are facing crisis due to this shortage; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ease the situation there?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, occasional complaints about inadequate coal supply have been received. But there is no situation of crisis.

(c) The following steps have been taken to meet the full requirement of coal of this region: —

(i) Partial linkage of Koradi thermal power station to the Singareni collieries.

(ii) Identification and implementation by the coal companies of short gestation projects from which additional coal production can be made available quickly.

(iii) Procurement of additional wagons by Railways.

(iv) Strengthening coordination between Railways and the coal companies.

(v) Movement of coal by lorry-trucks wherever possible

Statehood to Delhi

*259. SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI:
SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:
SHRI KALP NATH RAI:
SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:
SHRI RISHI KUMAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision regarding grant of Statehood to Delhi with a Legislative Assembly; and