

Commissioning of Heavy Water Plants

•254. SHRI L. R. NAIK:

SHRI KALP NATH RAI:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA;
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA
PANT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the construction of four heavy water plants and by when these plants are likely to be commissioned; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to accelerate the commissioning of these plants and to augment the capacity of the existing nuclear plants and the nuclear power reactors?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) Four Heavy Water Plants are being set up in the country—one each at Tuticorin, Talcher, Kota and Baroda. In Tuticorin production of heavy water started on July 17, 1978. Commissioning of the Heavy Water Plant at Talcher and Kota is expected to start in February and May, 1979 respectively. The Heavy Water Plant at Baroda suffered a setback due to a mishap to the machinery and is likely to be recommissioned by the third quarter of 1979.

(b) All efforts are being made to commission these plants according to schedule. It is expected that heavy water from domestic production will be available for Madras and Narora Atomic Power Stations. It is also proposed to set up a few more Heavy Water Plants in the VI & VII Five Year Plan periods to meet the future requirements of the heavy water for the nuclear power programme.

Mining of Coal

•255. SHRI S. W. DHABE:

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
SAHU:
SHRI L. R. NAIK:
SHRIMATI AMARJIT
KAUR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Governments have received recently any proposals from Bihar, Maharashtra and some other State Governments for the mining of coal;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Bihar have requested the Central Government for agreeing to the working of the coal mines by the Bihar Mineral Development Corporation, which have been affected by the enactment of the Coalmines (Nationalisation) Amendment Act, 1976. The request points out that by such an arrangement it would create larger employment and also increase revenue by the State Government.

The Government of Maharashtra are proposing to increase power generation in the State by expanding of new thermal power units. Accordingly, they requested the Central Government that they be allowed to take up coal mining for supply of coal to the thermal power stations and also to some other basic industries in the State.

(c) Coal India Ltd. have been entrusted with the responsibility of exploitation of coal resources in consonance with the demand of coal. All the increasing demand in all the