

(b) the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : No Sir; telephones in Patna, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saharan, Champaran, Samastipur and Madhubani areas of Bihar do not remain out of order except in cases of prolonged power failure.

(b) To overcome this problem, engine alternators and highly capacity batteries are being provided in all rural exchanges in a phased manner.

Improvement in Telephone Exchange in Parwalpur, Bihar

4129. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) since when the Parwalpur Telephone Exchange in Bihar is closed;

(b) whether its working has ever been reviewed;

(c) whether it has been found satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the measures taken to bring about improvement therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Telephone Exchange Parwalpur has not been closed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Functioning of this exchange is reviewed periodically by different level of officers. It was inspected by Divisional Engineer Telecom, Patna on 20.12.85. He found it working satisfactorily.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Opening of Petrol/Diesel outlets in Giridih District, Bihar

4130. SHRI SIDHA LAL MURMU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that no petrol and diesel facility has been made available at Bengabad, Tisri, Birni, Sariya, Herodin (Jamua) Patna (Ganwan) of Giridih District Bihar;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make arrangements for petrol pumps for making diesel and petrol available to the farmers and transport vehicles there through Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum or Indian Oil Corporation;

(c) if so, when such arrangements are proposed to be made; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Out of these locations, one retail outlet (Petrol/Diesel) dealership is presently operating at Jamua (Herodih) in Giridih district of Bihar.

(b) to (d) Marketing Plan for setting up Retail Outlets (Petrol/Diesel) are annually prepared by the Oil Industry, on the basis of field surveys carried out to determine market potential and economic viability, taking into account prescribed volume-distance norms. The Marketing plan 1986-87, based on the above criteria, will be finalised in the next few months.

[English]

Performance of Major Public Sector Undertakings

4131. SHRI C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state : the performance of major public sector undertakings during 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM) : The accounting year 1985-86

for most of the Central Public Enterprises will close only by 31st March, 1986. The accounts have to be compiled and got audited thereafter. As such the details are not available.

Permission to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to import coal from Australia

4132. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Union Government to permit Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to import one lakh tonnes of coal from Australia for the Thermal Power Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) Having regard to constraints in the movement of coal for the Tuticorin Thermal Power Station, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board have proposed import of one lakh tonnes of coal, in addition to one lakh tonnes imported earlier for this Station, in order that the power generation is not adversely affected and a buffer stock is built up. The matter is under consideration.

Production of Coal

4133. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :
SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the loss of production of coal due to strikes during 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(b) whether the fall in production contributed to pushing the prices of coal;

(c) whether added to strikes, the coal mine areas are often subjected to law and order cases which also lead to lowering down the production and if so, the year-wise break up of such cases during 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 and the loss in production effected; and

(d) what steps are proposed to ban strikes in coal mines for the next three years so that productivity could be raised and to bring about better law and order situation in the mines areas ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (c) The information pertaining to Coal India Limited is as under :

	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86 (upto Jan. '86)
1. Loss of production due to strikes (in million tonnes)	0.22	0.28	0.08
2. Number of law and order cases	487	370	345
3. Loss of production due to law and order cases (in million tonnes)	0.05	0.03	0.04

(b) Loss in production does contribute to higher cost of production and, therefore, also to higher prices.

(d) Illegal strikes are prohibited under the Industrial Dispute Act 1947 in the coal

industry, which has been declared 'Public Utility Service' under the Act.

Allocation TOF Alcohol to Kerala

4134. SHRI P.A. ANTONY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state ;