

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) It is not true that the people of Herangadi are experiencing hardship on account of delay in receiving mail. Mail is received daily at 9.30 a.m. from Honnavar Port sub-post office through State transport bus and delivered the same day.

(b) There is no proposal at present to upgrade Herangadi branch office.

[*Translation*]

Acquisition of Land for Damodar Valley Corporation, Bihar

9386. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the area of agricultural land acquired by Damodar Valley Corporation so far in Bihar for various projects;

(b) the total area of land on which trees have been planted and the percentage of trees actually remained live;

(c) the total area of land on which soil conservation work has been taken up; and

(d) the amount spent on afforestation and soil conservation every year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Automatic Telephone Exchange at Vuyyuru in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh

9387. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new building is being constructed for Telephone Exchange at

Vuyyuru in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Telecommunications Department proposes to instal automatic equipment in it and provide S.T.D. facility to the subscribers; and

(c) if so, the likely date by which these facilities will be available to the subscribers at Vuyyuru?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir, the new building is already constructed at Vuyyuru in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c). The department has programmed for installation of four hundred lines MAX-II exchange during the year 1988-89 with STD facility.

Exploitation of Coal as Energy Source

9388. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has suggested that the exploitation of coal as an energy source should be abandoned;

(b) if so, the reasons advanced by that body in their observations; and

(c) whether there is any re-thinking on the Government's energy policy in the light of the above observations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) and (b). The Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) has suggested, *inter-alia*, a policy orientation towards substitute of coal by greater use of hydrocarbons such as fuel oil and natural gas as the primary energy source. According to BICP, the cost of production and transportation of domestic coal has been rapidly increasing and its quality has been deteriorating.

(c) The Planning Commission has initiated a study on long-term energy mod-