

(iii) Ramagundam project located in Karimnagar District of Andhra Pradesh.

(iv) Second Thermal Power Station in South Arcot District of Tamil Nadu.

The Neyveli project is under execution by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. The Super Thermal Projects at Singrauli, Korba and Ramagundam are being executed by the National Thermal Power Corporation and partly financed by the International Development Association (IDA), a soft loan affiliate of the World Bank. The procurement of main plant and equipment and other items covered under IDA financing have to be made on the basis of Global tendering in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the World Bank. So far the Government have not approved any proposal for the import of main generating plant and equipment for the Super Thermal Stations under execution in the Central sector. However, the contract for the water treatment plant and Hydrogen Generation plant for the Singrauli Project has been awarded to foreign firms on the basis of global tenders. The value of the contracts awarded is Rs. 157.84 lakhs and Rs. 41.5 lakhs respectively. The foreign exchange component in respect of these contracts will be Rs. 36.33 lakhs and Rs. 35.37 lakhs respectively.

#### **Popularity of the Programmes, Boardcast and Telecast**

1139. SHRI S. R. REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the reports regarding the popularity of different programmes broadcast and telecast and related aspects of transmission, etc. through general public;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government will exempt the Radio licence fee in view of

the media to uplift the standard of the rural areas and reduce the licence fee of Doordarshan also; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). The Audience Research Unit of All India Radio (which caters to the research requirements of Doordarshan also) regularly undertakes field researches and analysis of listeners'/viewers' letters, which include both quantitative feed-back as well as qualitative assessment of specific programmes. The programme aspects covered under these surveys include popularity rating of different programmes, peak listening/viewing time, programme preferences of the audience and other qualitative aspects. Every individual report which contains recommendations or action points is reviewed by the concerned radio/TV station and the Directorate General, and corrective measures/improvements are undertaken where necessary. During the year 1977-78 the Audience Research Unit conducted 65 surveys for AIR and 25 for Doordarshan. The corresponding figures for the period from 1-4-1978 to-date are 119 and 42 respectively.

(c) and (d). The general question of abolishing or rationalising or modifying the present structure of Broadcast Receiver Licence Fees is under examination.

#### **Token Strike by Coal Mine Workers**

1140. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than half a million coal mine workers went on a day's token strike on 5th February, 1979 throughout the country;

(b) if so, their demands; and

(c) steps taken/being taken to redress their grievances?