

hydro power generation in the total energy supply may be increased in the future plan periods. The report of the Working Group on Energy Policy is under consideration of the Government.

The advantages of hydel power generation are:

- (i) Low operating cost.
- (ii) Utilisation of water resources, a renewable resource.
- (iii) Pollution free operation.
- (iv) Reduction of pressure on mining and transport of coal.

**Supply of Coal from Singareni Collieries to Andhra Pradesh**

4354. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to supply coal from Singareni Collieries to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the total quantity of coal to be supplied to Andhra Pradesh from the above collieries;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ash content of the coal is very high;

(d) whether the Union Government are actively considering a proposal to set up washeries near the coal mines or near the thermal power projects;

(e) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(f) when the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Singareni collieries is already supplying coal to Andhra Pradesh. It also meets a substantial part of the coal demand of the other Southern States namely, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala and Union Territory of Pondicherry.

(b) Singareni collieries supplied 4.87 million tonnes of coal in 1979-80 to the consumers in Andhra Pradesh, out of

a total production of 9.38 million tonnes.

(c) The Singareni coal in general has a high ash content.

(d), (e) and (f). Washeries to beneficiate coking coal are normally established under the coalmines. The feasibility of constructing washeries to beneficiate non-coking coal for use in Thermal Power Stations is under examination. A decision regarding establishment of these washeries could only be taken after assessing the techno-economics of the proposal. The washeries would be established near the coalmines so that the transport system does not have to carry the reject material, over a long distance.

**Romania's Offer to set up Hydro-electric Power Station**

4355. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any final decision in regard to the offer made by the Romania for know how for reducing the gestation period for the setting up of hydro power stations;

(b) if so, what are the details and condition of which offer has been made; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in accepting the offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) There has been no specific offer as yet, in this regard.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

**National Power Grid**

4356. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Centre in consultation with States to build a national power grid;