

not arise. However, in order to help the small scale industrial units who cannot import soda ash on their own, 19100 tonnes of soda ash were imported by the State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India (CPC) at the behest of the Government during the year 1979-80. The soda ash so imported was placed at the disposal of such State Government as came forward to take it for allotment to actual users, particularly small scale units. In January, 1981 CPC again imported 10,000 tonnes of soda ash. A quantity of about 8000 tonnes of soda ash is still available with CPC. Any actual industrial users can directly purchase the soda ash from CPC.

Super Thermal Power Project at Talcher

5096. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Super-Thermal Project at Talcher was one of the six projects under contemplation about six years ago and that while other five projects have been constructed, work for Talcher project is yet to start; and

(b) if so, whether this project is getting priority over any other new super-thermal project in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). Talcher was one of the 11 sites (which included 4 sites in the Eastern Region) suggested by a Site Selection Committee in April 1976 for detailed investigations for setting up of large pit head thermal stations. The National Thermal Power Corporation has prepared a Feasibility Report for setting up a large Thermal Power Station at Talcher in Orissa which envisages the installation of final capacity of 2800 MW in three stages. The Feasibility Report has yet to be granted techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority.

Plan to Exploit Coal reserves in Bankura-Ardhagram-Barjora Region

5097. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute submitted a detailed integrated plan for exploitation of coal reserves in the entire Bankulia-Ardhagram-Barojora region including Kalidaspur-Kalikapur projects in Bankura district of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken or to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). Central Mine Planning and Design Institute has carried out detailed exploration at Mejia block in Bankura district. Three blocks have been identified having reasonable prospect for mining. Of these, Kalikapur and Kalidaspur blocks, have already been explored and about 47 million tonnes of reserves have been proved. A feasibility report has already been drawn up for mining part of Kalikapur block and whole of Kalidaspur block. The adjacent Ardhagram block is currently under exploration. CMPDIL has estimated that the whole of Ardhagram block and part of Kalikapur block could be developed to sustain a production of about one million tonnes per annum. Additional exploration is in progress in this area.

Increase in Demand of Power in Eastern region and Plans of D. V. C. to meet it

5098. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for power is growing in the eastern region in the country; what