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				Tamil Nadu Govt. to divert some of the waters of this basin eastward. The Govt. of Kerala had intimated that this matter is presently under discussion between two States Govts. The Pandiar Punnapuzha tailrace scheme of Kerala can be considered for clearance only after a decision on the implementation of Tamil Nadu Scheme is taken.
6.	Silent Valley Hydel Project.	2x60	58.00 April, 1978	The Project has been leared by CEA in Feb. 79. However in view of the serious reservations expressed by Environmentalists and ecologists, the matter is under re-examination by the Joint Centre-State Committee.
7.	Punyan-Kutty Hydel Project.	750	565.16 Mar., 1981	The project report has been examined and comments of CEA and CWC reg. estimates of cost of civil works, electrical works, hydrology, civil designs etc. were forwarded to the State and their replies are awaited. The scheme would considered for techno-economic clearance, after its technical and economic feasibility is established.

#### **Curtailment of supply to Calcutta by D.V.C.**

872. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that Government of West Bengal had jointly set up the Damodar Valley Corporation, and has, over the years, contributed significantly to the building of its capital stock, Government of West Bengal has any right to question the DVC's recent decision (April onwards) to curtail the supply of power to the Calcutta system without any prior consultation with the State Government; and

(b) if so, the steps taken against the DVC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (c).

The revised allocation of power from D.V.C. is fully within the statutory enactment governing DVC.

#### **Oil exploration in West Bengal**

873. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) is there any proposal for oil exploration in West Bengal both on-shore and off-shore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the target, if any; and

(c) names of the places where this programme would be carried on?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been carrying out oil exploration

work in the Bengal basin for quite some time.

(b) and (c). At present, one Indo-Soviet party, four Indian seismic parties and two gravity-cum-magnetic parties are engaged in geophysical surveys in Bengal basin with the following targets during 1981-82 field seasons:

Seismic Survey	—800 line kms.
Gravity-magnetic Survey	—4,500 stations

Drilling is currently in progress at Jaguli-1 and Vishnupur. The targetted depths of these wells are 5,000 metres and 3,000 metres respectively. Drilling at Bodra-2 is proposed to be taken up during the current year.

#### **Planning of hydel projects particularly from Himalayan rivers**

874. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2752 on 9th March, 1982 regarding generation of power from various sources and per capita availability and state:

(a) whether hydel is the cheapest and more durable source of energy; and

(b) if so, what steps are being made to plan and implement hydel projects particularly those from the Himalayan rivers to meet the country's growing needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Hydro-electric power is reasonably cheap, clean and renewable source of energy.

(b) Government is anxious to exploit the country's hydro-power potential. In this connection, following steps have been taken:—

(i) Hydro-electric projects with a total installed capacity of approximately 10,000 MW are already at different stages of construction.

(ii) The reassessment of hydro-electric potential in the country is being carried out in the Central Electricity Authority.

(iii) In pursuance of the above reassessment, the Central Electricity Authority has undertaken a study to identify further hydel schemes that could be taken up for execution in a phased manner.

(iv) The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation have been established in the Central Sector, for taking up the execution of suitable H.E. projects which would supplement the efforts of the State in this regard.

(v) Serious attention is also being given to improving the methods of investigation and construction, to compress the completion schedule of the projects within the shortest time-frame.

#### **Threatened strike by Supreme Court Bar Association**

875. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether Supreme Court Bar Association had threatened strike on suggestion for quick disposal of cases of certain categories without hearing lawyers; if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL): As per information received from the Supreme Court Registry, the Registrar of the Supreme Court had addressed a letter to the Honorary Secretary, Supreme Court Bar Association on 19-4-1982 saying that the Chief Justice of India and other Judges were anxious to consider and take steps for the speedy disposal of cases in the Supreme Court, and as a step in that direction, it was considered that certain categories of matters should be disposed of by circulation by a Bench consisting of 2 Hon'ble Judges sitting in Chambers once a week. The letter