

**Gold with Temples**

**521. Shri Warior:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of gold in the possession of the various temples in the country; and

(b) how much of this has been invested by the temples in Gold Bonds so far?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri):** (a) and (b). Under the Defence of India Rules, 1962, Part XII A, all declarations made relating to possession of gold are required to be treated as confidential. A copy of the relevant Rule 126 0(1) is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6536/66*]. Similarly, under the Gold Bond Scheme identity of persons including temples, subscribing gold under the Scheme is treated as confidential. It is, therefore, regretted that it is not possible to furnish the information required.

**Southern Power Grid**

**522. Shri Warior:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in establishing the Southern Power Grid; and

(b) the amount so far spent in this connection?

**The Minister for Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):** (a) As a first step in establishing the Southern Power Grid, 220 KV lines between Madras and Mysore, Madras and Kerala and Madras and Andhra and a 110 KV line between Mysore and Kerala have been programmed to facilitate transfer of power from one State to the other. The line between Madras and Mysore has already been completed and power is being supplied from Mysore to Madras. The line between Kerala and Mysore has been completed and also test charged. The lines between Madras and Kerala,

and Madras and Andhra Pradesh, are in various stages of construction and are likely to be completed by about the end of 1966 and the middle of 1967 respectively.

(b) The amount so far spent is nearly Rs. 280 lakhs.

**Thermal Power Project in Kerala**

**523. Shri Linga Reddy:**

**Shri Warior:**

**Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**

**Shri A. V. Raghavan:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures have been taken by Government in regard to the proposal to set up a thermal power plant in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken; and

(c) when the thermal plant is likely to go into operation?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):**

(a) Yes.

(b) A Thermal Power Station of 30 MW capacity at Cochin has been sanctioned by the Planning Commission. The site for this power station near Ernakulam has been selected. Specifications for the Plant and equipment are under preparation.

(c) The plant is expected to go into operation in about 3 to 3½ years' time.

**National Minimum Wage for Workers**

**524. Shri Warior:** Will the Minister of Planning and Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission's Panel on Labour has recommended legislation to fix up a national minimum wage for workers; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon?

**The Minister of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta):** (a) and (b). The need for a national minimum