

the Government and we have total commitment to the people. I assure the hon. Member that such kind of things will not happen. We are fully competent to take care of such problems.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: The hon. Minister has just now told us about the importance of Singareni collieries which have to supply coal to several thermal power stations not only in Andhra Pradesh but several other southern states also. Also a large number of industries depend upon this. In the absence of adequate quantity of coal cement units also closed down during the summer months. Because of abundant availability of rich quality coal near Maruguru, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what concrete steps are being taken to bring out coal through the open cast process so that coal linkage can be given to super thermal power station which is proposed at Maruguru as well as Vijayawada power station State III.

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: I think, the hon. Member is aware that so far as Singareni coalfields are concerned, the Government of India is not only holding 49 per cent shares but also in all the plan allocations we have been assisting to the fullest possible extent. We know the importance of Singareni coal mines which take care of the entire south. There should no be any paucity of funds. About the project which the hon. Member has mentioned, I do not have the details of it here I will write about it to him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that coal industry is in key sector and its production has increased by seven per cent during the last year. This is a good achievement of this sector. So, far as power houses are concerned, each one has stocks of coal for 7 to 15 days. One more thing, about the sick industries. In West Bengal and at other places many industries have gone sick. These sick industries are also getting Coal

which they sell in black market. I want to know from the hon. Minister through you whether distribution arrangements for coal will be received so that the Key industries may get regular supply of coal.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

National Subscriber Dialling Facilities During Eighth Plan

*365. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has formulated any objectives and programmes for the Eighth Plan with regard to the provision of telecom facilities during the plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been proposed to link on National Subscriber Dialling all the headquarters of district sub-division, tehsil/ sub-tehsil/ block levels and head quarters of the Police Stations;

(d) if so, the exact programme drawn up in this regard; and

(e) if not, whether all the category stations mentioned in part (c) would be covered under the National Subscriber Dialling in the Eighth Plan and the objectives and programmes formulated accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) to (e). The tentative objectives formulated for the Eighth Plan are:

— Automatisation of all manual exchanges.

- Telephone facility in all inhabited hexagons by March, 1995.
- Provision of STD facilities at all Sub Divisional/ Headquarters/ equivalent tehsils.
- Replacement of worn out and un-serviceable exchanges.
- Replacement of all Patna Conta Trunk Automatic Exchanges by digital Trunk Automatic Exchanges.
- Conversion of Electro-Mechanical Telex Exchanges by Electrical Telex Exchanges.
- Policy of providing telex on demand to continue.
- Priority for industrial and commercial growth centres, tourist and pilgrim centres.
- Telephone on demand in exchanges serving rural, backward, hilly and tribal areas.

The proposed draft Plan envisages National Subscriber Dialling upto Sub Divisional Headquarters/ equivalent tehsils only. Detailed programme is yet to be drawn up.

Setting Up of National Industrial Technology Data Bank

*369. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Industrial Technology Data Bank (NITDB) in the country; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Technical assistance is being obtained to design and establish such a Centre in the D.G.T.D. The Centre is expected to be fully operational within a few years.

Release of Central Assistance to OREDA

*373. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) has been facing financial difficulties due to non-release of Union Government assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) is an agency of Government of Orissa and so it is under the administrative control of the State Government of Orissa. However, it is a nodal agency for the implementation of the various renewable energy programmes such as — the National Project on Biogas Development, the National Programme on Improved Chulhas, Solar Thermal Devices, Solar Photovoltaic Systems, Wind Energy etc. Funds for these programmes are made available to the State Government/ their nodal agency from time to time depending on the progress, verification of claims and availability of funds with the Central Government etc. For the major national programmes like biogas development and improved chulhas, the Central Government had already released to the State Government the sums due for the year 1987-88. For the current year, as per the procedure, 50% of the targetted amount has been released in advance to the State Government for the biogas programme. The Central Government is not aware of OREDA facing financial difficulties due to non-release by the State Government or Union Government's assistance. However, the matter