

(Estimated cost Rs. 10.05 crores) at South Andaman has been accorded techno-economic approval by the Central Electricity Authority and the Ministry of Energy has recommended the scheme on 20th March 1980 to the Planning Commission for approval.

(b) and (c). Detailed studies have been carried out in the CEA to find out relative economics between capital investments, cost of generation and present worth of the total capital expenses and running expenses on fuel for three different options of thermal generation, i.e., (i) coal based station of 2x5 MW (ii) oil fired unit of similar capacity or (iii) diesel station. It has been found that for meeting the longterm power requirement, of South Andaman, installation of a coal based thermal power plant would be more economical and reliable than putting isolated diesel stations which will also consume scarce oil resources of the country.

Dam at Chandil over Subarnarekka River

*342 SHRI D. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dam at Chandil over the river Subarnarekha is proposed to be constructed;

(b) if so, what progress has been achieved in the construction work of the said project; and

(c) the role of the Union Government in assisting the State of Bihar, since this is a multi-State project?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary works such as construction of approach roads, camps, collection of materials and machines have been nearly completed. The work on the main dam foundation is proposed to be taken up after the monsoon of 1980.

(c) The Subarnarekha multipurpose project is an inter-State project and the three State Governments of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal have entered into an agreement among themselves in August 1978, regarding sharing of Subarnarekha waters and execution of the project. The Chandil dam is a component of this Project which has been tentatively included in the pipeline of projects to be posed for World Bank assistance.

New Coal Permit System

*343. SHRI N. E. HORO:

SHRI K. MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Government have adopted a new coal permit system and have given some concessions to the consumers; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the new policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Petroleum and Gas Deposits in East Coast

*344. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places in the East Coast where traces of petroleum and natural gas deposits have been found;

(b) how far Government were successful in mobilising all the required resources at their command to find out the nature as well as the extent of these deposits; and

(c) what kind of arrangements Government have made during similar occasion at Bombay-High?