

found, Is the Government thinking of appointing an expert panel to probe into capacity utilisation of computers and electronic data processing machines used in various government departments and public sector corporations? ..

**SHRI K. C. PANT:** If my hon. friend has gone through the statement which I have given, he will see that the Electronics Commission does look into this matter as to what is the capacity available, what are the particular uses of the consumers, and where can pooling be done for the benefit of all government departments located in an area. All these things are definitely looked into the Electronics Commission.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

##### Poverty Conditions in India

\*24. **SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1325 on the 28th January, 1976 regarding poverty conditions in India and state the number and proportion of population below poverty line in the urban and rural areas, separately, as in 1973, 1974 and 1975?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SANKAR GHOSE):** No fresh information has become available since the reply was given to the Unstarred Question No. 1325 on the 28th January 1976.

##### Accumulation of Coal at Pit Heads due to fall in quality

\*31. **SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is accumulation of coal at pit heads and consequential reduction in production target by

ten million tonnes because of fall in quality;

(b) whether complaints have been received regarding supply of coal, specially from M.P. coal fields; and

(c) if so, steps taken to improve the quality?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT)** (a) No, Sir. The accumulation of pit head stocks is due to the demand for coal being below the anticipated level and not due to any fall in quality. The demand for coal by the end of 5th Five Year Plan is now estimated at about 124 million tonnes as against the earlier estimate of 135 million tonnes.

(b) Some complaints have been received from time to time from the consumers regarding supply of inferior quality of coal by the coal producing agencies including those supplying coal from M. P. Coalfields.

(c) Several steps are being taken by coal producing organisations including introduction of screening and sizing arrangements, joint sampling, setting up quality control Departments, Complaint Cells, introduction of contracts with Bonus-cum-Penalty clause, posting of inspectors at the loading points etc so as to ensure the supply of the required quality of coal to consumers. Besides, this, a committee has also been set up to go into the question of quality of coal supplied by the collieries which will make recommendations regarding the steps to be taken for the production and supply of suitable coal to the consumers.

##### Hydro-Electric Potentials in Chakra and Varahi Rivers

\*32. **SHRI P. R. SHENOY:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chakra and Varahi rivers in Karnataka are having hydro-electric potential; and

(b) if so, how this potential is proposed to be used and by what time?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT)** (a) and (b) The Chakra and Varahi rivers in Karnataka are estimated to have an annual energy content of 500 million units and 1000 million units respectively. According to the construction programme drawn up by the project authorities, the Chakra Project is expected to be completed by June, 1980. The Question of taking up the Varahi Project for construction, is under consideration.

**Inquiry into the affairs of the Statesman**

**\*33. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 335 on the 31st March, 1976 regarding inquiry into the affairs of the Statesman and state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to protect the services of the suspended workers of the Statesman, New Delhi; and

(b) what special steps his Ministry has taken to get vacated the stay order obtained by the Statesman management from the Calcutta High Court against the Government's show-cause notice?

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):** (a) It has been ascertained that the management is carrying on inquiries against 14 workmen of the Statesman. They are receiving suspension allowance under orders of the High Court. Since no punishment has yet been awarded to any of these, the question of intervention by Government authorities under legal powers does not arise.

(b) Steps have been taken to contest the writ petition and the matter is sub-judice.

**Escape of Prisoners from Tihar Jail, Delhi**

**\*34. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in May, 1976 some prisoners escaped from Tihar Central Jail, Delhi;

(b) if so, whether they have been re-arrested; and

(c) whether any steps were taken to find out as to how they managed to escape?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA)** (a) to (c). No prisoners escaped from Tihar Central Jail in May, 1976.

**Reservation of Items for Small Scale Sector**

**\*35. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:** Will the Ministry of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reserve some additional items for development in the small scale sector; and

(b) if so, names of those items?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI T. A. PAI):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The additional items reserved are:

1. Certain categories of Electric Motors upto 10 HP.