

[Translation]

Power Generation by Naphtha based Project

*231. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a target of 8000 M.W. power generation has been fixed for naphtha based projects;

(b) if so, whether the other developed and developing countries of the world are promoting naphtha based power projects in less number;

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have worked out the cost of power generated through the naphtha based projects; and

(e) if so, the extent to which it is more than the cost of power generated through thermal, hydel and atomic power projects and the average cost estimated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) A limited capacity of 12,000 MW based on liquid fuel including naphtha has been fixed for the country after detailed consultation with Planning Commission, CEA and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Internationally naphtha is not a preferred fuel for power plants; in India naphtha based plants are proposed to be set as a one time measure to meet the deficit in the power generation capacity in the short run.

(d) and (e) The tariff for naphtha based power projects will vary depending upon the location, cost of fuel, mode of operation ambient temperature, among other factors. However, the higher fuel cost is somewhat compensated by the higher plant efficiency compared to coal based plants and the relatively lower capital costs. Naphtha based plants will also have the advantage of a shorter gestation period. It is difficult to compare naphtha based tariffs with the tariffs applicable for hydel and atomic power plants as the tariff schedule would depend on the location, cost of fuel, gestation period of the project among other factors.

Purchase of Power from Pakistan

*232. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is going to purchase 3000 M.W. of power from Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether any agreement to this effect has been signed during the visit of Indian team of experts;

(c) whether any SAARC power grid is being set up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) A proposal for the sale of power from Pakistan to India was received from Indian Embassy, Washington. The proposal is under preliminary stage of assessment and scrutiny. A team of experts have to identify the points for transfer of power, voltage level mode of interconnection and the quantum of power to be transferred. Thereafter a feasibility study would be commissioned to examine the technical financial and economic viability of the investments required to establish the transmission link.

(b) No Indian team of experts has visited Pakistan.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[English]

Demand for Wagons

*233. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Railways are facing slack demand for wagons even during the peak months of February-March, 1997;

(b) if so, the name of worst sufferer railway zone;

(c) the extent to which their target of carrying freight fell short between April, 1996 to January, 1997;

(d) the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the tonnage target set for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) South Eastern Railway.

(c) On South Eastern Railway freight loading target between April '96 to January '97 was 135.90 million tonnes. Against this actual loading during this period was 133.54 million tonnes resulting in a shortfall of -2.36 million tonnes.

(d) Loading on South Eastern Railway was mainly less because of less offer of raw-materials to and finished products from steel plants and less offer of iron-ore traffic for export.