

(d) whether the capital was repatriable along with interest;

(e) whether devaluation has meant virtual confiscation of a big percentage of this capital and interest; and

(f) if so, whether Government propose to devise a scheme to relieve the hardship caused to these small investors of Indian origin abroad?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government of India only exhorted the Indian nationals abroad through publicity literature and Indian Missions to invest in the Savings Certificates in order to mobilise the foreign exchange held by them for the country's defence and other requirements. There was no question of insisting on such investments, which were made voluntarily by them.

(d) Repatriation of the maturity or pre-maturity value of the Certificates as also the interest has necessarily to be in conformity with the Exchange Control Regulations in force in India and in the country of the investors' residence. This was made clear in the publicity literature also.

(e) and (f). Any repatriation on or after 6th June, 1966 when the rupee was devalued can only be at the current exchange rate and not at the pre-devaluation exchange rate merely because the investments were made prior to devaluation. The interest and principal in respect of Small Savings Securities are payable only in India in Indian currency. No loss in terms of foreign exchange would arise if the interest and principal are not repatriated but are retained in India. It is not possible for the Government of India to compensate such investors for any national loss in terms of the foreign exchange equivalent which they might suffer because of the devaluation.

Power Shortage in States

**7763. Shri Madhan Limaye:
Shri S. M. Joshi:
Shri Sradhakar Supakar:
Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:
Shri G. S. Mishra:**

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

(a) whether there is likely to be power shortage in some States;

(b) whether this is due to inadequate rains or strikes; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to counter the effects of this shortage?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Power shortage conditions are prevailing in Rajasthan and also in Eastern Uttar Pradesh at present. During the current year, power shortage conditions are not anticipated in any other States.

(b) Power shortage conditions arise from one or more of the following causes:

(i) Failure of rains which affects the power availability from hydro-electric projects particularly with storage dams.

(ii) Unforeseen breakdown of generating plant or ancillaries. Such breakdown limits power availability for the power station concerned thermal or hydro.

(iii) Delay in the implementation of new power generation scheme. Such delays often lead to demands exceeding the available supply of power.

Strikes may cause delay in the timely implementation of power projects or temporary dislocation in the power supply only.

(c) The following steps are taken to avoid power shortages:

(i) Systematic load surveys are carried out to ascertain precisely the future demands for