

(b) if not, whether it is due to defective planning;

(c) the total cost of the installation and the maintenance cost; and

(d) whether the scheme was approved by the Central Government?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) The gas-turbine is not being run at present since the power requirements of the area are being met by the Umtru und Umiam hydro-electric stations.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The total cost of the Gas-turbine installation is Rs. 109.07 lakhs. The maintenance cost is Rs. 45,000 per annum

(d) Yes

Grid System for Namrup and Gauhati, Assam

6275. Shri K. Barua: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Namrup and Gauhati have been linked up with grid system;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether instead of going ahead with connecting grid, a new proposal has been mooted for coal-based power station at Margharita;

(d) if so, whether the economics of the project have been examined;

(e) whether any clearance has been issued for the stand by machine for Gauhati Thermal Station, and

(f) if not, the reasons for this delay?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) No.

(b) The power available at present for interchange between Namrup and Gauhati power systems is not adequate to justify the large capital expenditure involved in the proposed inter-connections. It has, therefore, been decided to construct the trans-

mission link in stages. The first stage of the proposed link involving construction of a 220 KV line from Gauhati to Nowgong at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.2 crores will be taken up for execution in the current plan period.

(c) and (d) The Assam State Electricity Board have submitted alternative proposals viz. the construction of a coal-based thermal power station at Margharita or the expansion of the existing natural gas-fired Namrup thermal Station. The economic and other aspects of these proposals are being examined by the Central Water and Power Commission.

(e) and (f). The scheme for installation of a 30 MW thermal plant at Gauhati has been approved. The proposal for installing a second 30 MW unit at Gauhati is under consideration.

Price of Petroleum Products

6276. Shri G. S. Mishra:
Shri B. N. Bhargava:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) the broad details of the pricing policy for petroleum products introduced by Government since February, 1966;

(b) whether private companies importing petroleum products also abide by this pricing policy;

(c) the extent of profit margin available to these oil companies in making imports only; and

(d) whether the Indian Oil Corporation propose to handle all the oil imports themselves?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Raghunath Ramakrishna): (a) The policy introduced from 1-2-66 provides for the determination of the basic ceiling selling prices of major petroleum products ex-oil companies' storage points on the principle of 'import parity' from

Abadan (Middle-East). Details are contained in the report of the Working Group on Oil Prices of August, 1965, as modified by the Government of India Resolution No. 101(26)/65-PPD of 1-2-66. Copies of these documents are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No separate profit margin for imported products only has been prescribed, however, since the ceiling selling price for both imported and indigenous products is the same, the profit margin on imported products will be the difference between the selling price and the sum of the actual import price and the marketing and distribution charges. These margins vary from Rs. 13.40 to Rs. 28.00 per selling unit (i.e. kilolitre/Metric ton) for different products.

(d) No, Sir, not wholly. Some imports may have to be made through the private oil companies

Energy Survey Committee

6277. Shri G. S. Mishra: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by Energy Survey Committee,

(b) whether Government have accepted the recommendations; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement the same?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) A copy of the report of the Committee was placed on the Table of the House in February 1966.

(b) and (c). The report covers a wide range of topics relating to planning for energy in the country. Many of the recommendations pertain to policies or programmes which are already under implementation. Some others are proposed to be implemented, whereas the remaining recommen-

dations point to the need for further study and examination, and these are being pursued.

Venkataraman Committee's Report on Power Tariff

6278. Shri G. S. Mishra:
Shri B. N. Bhargava:

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

(a) the broad details of the recommendations made by the Venkataraman Committee on Power Tariff;

(b) whether Government have accepted the recommendations; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to implement them?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) The Committee on the working of the State Electricity Boards set up with Shri R. Venkataraman, the then Minister for Industries, Madras as Convenor, in its report, had made the following recommendations which have a bearing on the question of 'Power Tariff':

(i) The first phase of the objective for all the State Electricity Boards should be to aim at higher revenues sufficient to cover operation and maintenance charges, contributions to the General and Depreciation Reserves and interest charges on loan capital. Boards which have not already achieved this should aim realising the objective within a period of three to five years.

(ii) As a second phase objective, the Boards should aim at achieving a balance of revenue after meeting all the charges indicated in the first phase, working out a net return of 3 per cent on the capital base. Boards which have already achieved the first phase should immediately proceed to realise the second phase