

1973 it was envisaged that the reactors of Unit I and Unit II of the Narora Atomic Power Station would attain criticality by early 1981 and early 1982 respectively. According to the present schedule the first unit of the Project is expected to attain criticality by the end of 1982 and the second unit by the end of 1983. Full commissioning can be expected a few months after criticality.

(b) The slippage in the criticality schedule is mainly on account of :

- (i) some delay in acquiring land for the Project due to resistance by the landowners,
- (ii) extensive work involved in analysis and design of structures and equipment due to location of the project in a seismic zone,
- (iii) decision to adopt closed cooling system with cooling towers at a late stage due to doubts regarding availability of adequate cooling water supply; which in turn resulted in the delays in finalising the associated systems.

(c) and (d). The delays upto now are not ascribable to engineering firms who are manufacturing the reactor components. Orders for fabrication of most of the reactor components have been placed. Raw materials procured by the Department have been delivered to manufacturers and the fabrication of the components is in progress. Efforts are being made to ensure completion of manufacture in accordance with the present schedules.

Expert Committee on Samachar

6085. SHRI KISHORE LAL :

SHRI HARIKESH
BAHADUR :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Expert Committee constituted to study structure of Samachar has submitted its report ;

(b) when was it expected to submit its report ;

(c) whether there is any delay and the reasons thereof ; and

(d) whether Government have fixed time limit for implementation of the Report ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) The Committee has completed its work and its Report is likely to be received shortly.

(b) and (c). No time-limit had been fixed for the Committee to make its recommendations on all the terms of Reference, but it was required to make its recommendations on one of them, namely the structure of Samachar, within three weeks. However, when the Committee took evidence from witnesses and studied the problem it came to the conclusion that it was not feasible to isolate one of the terms of Reference since all of them were inter-connected. Considering the work involved and the other engagements of the Members of the Committee, there has been no delay.

(d) No, Sir. However, the Report will be implemented as quickly as possible.

Labour trouble in B.H.E.L., Bhopal

6086. SHRI KANWAR LAL
GUPTA :

SHRI OM PRAKASH
TYAGI :

SHRI SHANKERSINHJI
VAGHELA :

SHRI ANANT DAVE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is some labour trouble in BHEL, Bhopal ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of loss suffered by the Company due to the strike ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the situation and redress the grievances of workers ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) :

(a) Yes, Sir. There was labour trouble in BHEL, Bhopal from 14th July, 1977 to 26th July, 1977.

(b) The labour trouble started on 14-7-77 consequent upon the tool down strike by C I Grade Artisans for a larger number of promotions over and above those entitled under the promotion policy of the Company. Subsequently other demands such as promotion of workers every 3 years, provision of houses for all employees, encashment of leave travel concession, conveyance allowance to all employees who possess

vehicles at par with officers, conveyance subsidy to all employees irrespective of whether they resided in the township or not and compensation to the office staff whose working hours were increased from 41 hours to 48 hours a week in 1974 were also raised.

(c) The production loss suffered as a result of the tool down strike for this period amounted to about Rs. 5 crores.

(d) Despite the suddenness with which the tool-down strike erupted and spread, BHEL management were immediately willing to take up negotiations but they were faced with the difficulty that there were 25 different unions functioning in BHEL, Bhopal. The Government brought the situation to the notice of the Labour Department of the State Government and kept them fully apprised with the developments from time to time. The Minister of Industry also requested the Chief Minister and the Labour Minister of the State to use their good offices to resolve the dispute and assured them that the workers' main grievance regarding the promotion policy will be looked into. After all the Trade Unions formed themselves into a Joint Council on 19-7-1977, BHEL management immediately took up detailed negotiations and an agreement was signed on the 26th July, 1977. Normal working has been resumed since 27th July, 1977, and it has been agreed by the signatories of the agreement, that, jointly and severally, every effort will be made to make up the loss in production by the 30th November, 1977.

Dis-satisfaction amongst workers of Nirsa-Mugma Zone of Eastern Coal India Ltd.

6087. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :
SHRI A. K. ROY :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether very recently there is serious dis-satisfaction amongst a section of the workers in Nirsa-Mugma Zone of Eastern Coal India Ltd. ;

(b) whether because of certain incidents the senior personnel officer, Shri R. P. Singh was interrogated in connection with the death of a worker Shri Lal Chander by the local police ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Asstt. Chief Personnel Officer, Lachman Singh has also come to adverse notice ;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted ; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (e). Certain complaints against Shri Lachman Singh, Area General Manager (not Asstt. Chief Personnel Officer) of Area No. VIII of Eastern Coalfields Limited were received by the Ministry which have been looked into by the management as well as the Department of Coal. Shri Lachman Singh has since been transferred from his present post.

(b) In connection with the Nirsa Police Station case No. 26(3)/76 under Section 302/120-B/34/80 IPC and 27 Arms Act, Police have interrogated Shri R. P. Singh, a Senior Personnel Officer of the Eastern Coalfields Limited. The case relates to the death of Shri Lal Chand Rajbhar on 25-3-76 and is under investigation.

Salt Production in Sambhar Lake

6088. SHRI MEETHA LAL PATEL :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of salt in the country has been considerably affected for the reasons that Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan was in the grip of floods last year ;

(b) whether Government have not made any such perfect arrangements as may ensure production in accordance with the targets ; and

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to check the floods anticipated in future and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan yields about 3% of the average annual production of salt in the country and therefore the production of salt in the country could be considered to have been affected only to that extent due to floods in the Lake during 1976.

(b) Salt is produced in the country by Solar evaporation which depends upon favourable weather conditions, longer periods of dry and hot weather and normal rainfall. As such, while all steps are taken to achieve the targets of production, there is bound to be some fluctuation due to weather conditions.

(c) After the floods of 1975, Government set up a Technical Committee of Experts consisting of representatives of Central Power and Water Commission, Northern Railway, Geological Survey of