

Renovation of Thermal Plants

1377. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA
MALIK :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the details of the centrally-sponsored renovation and modernisation scheme of Thermal Plants at a cost of Rs. 500 crores in view of the facts that out of the installed capacity of around 25,000 MW for Thermal Plants nearly one-third is from pretty old units which require immediate renovation and also in view of the fact that the capacity utilisation in Thermal Plants is about 45 per cent only ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): A Centrally sponsored scheme for renovation and modernisation of existing thermal power plants has been approved by Government for implementation from 1984-85. It is proposed to renovate 36 power plants in the country under the programme. Renovation schemes for 23 power stations have already been approved by the Central Electricity Authority and Planning Commission. The plant load factor of thermal power stations, which is about 49.2% for the period April, 1984, to February, 1985, is expected to improve further after implementation of the scheme.

Power Situation in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

1378. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to improve the power situation in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh within the sixth days time limit that has been fixed by the Union Minister of State for Power; and

(b) whether any such time-limit will be fixed for other regions of the country also and if so, the details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The steps taken

to improve the availability of power relate to (i) expending the commissioning of new generating capacity, and (ii) improving the capacity utilisation of existing thermal stations. Measures have been initiated for the supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal to thermal stations. Minister of State for Power has also written to all the State Governments stressing, inter alia, the need for a planned maintenance of thermal stations. While no time limit has been fixed, the progress in increasing supply of power is monitored regularly. The all-India plant load factor in February, 1985, has increased by over 3% as compared to February, 1984. The PLF of Bihar and U.P. State Electricity Boards has also shown an increase of about 2% and 1% respectively.

Additional Passenger Train Service Between Vadodara and Surat

1379. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide additional passenger train service between Vadodara and Surat on the Western Railway for commuters during office hours;

(b) whether there is a need to provide the above service for commuters as the trains on the Section are running overcrowded; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Railways have extended 43/44 Ahmedabad-Vadodara Passenger to/from Surat with effect from 18th November 1984 to meet the demand of commuter traffic on Vadodara-Surat section. It is not proposed to introduce additional train for lack of resources in the shape of coaches, spare line capacity and terminal facilities at terminals.