

The expansion and modernisation programme in respect of exchanges at Midnapore, Haldia and Ghatol is as below:

[Translation]

**Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited**

(1) Midnapore—Existing 1300 line MAX II exchange with working connections 1222 and waiting list of 278 is planned to be replaced by 2000 line C-DOT Electronic Exchange during 1994-95.

1161. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:  
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(2) Haldia—Haldia is presently having 3 exchanges namely Haldia (I), Haldia (T) and Durgachak.

(a) whether the construction cost of Power Projects offered by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is less in comparison to the multinational Power companies;

(i) Haldia (I): Haldia (I) electromechanical exchange of 500 lines capacity with working connections as 472 and waiting list 15 as on 30.6.94 is planned to be replaced by 1000 line C-DOT Electronic Exchange during 1994-95.

(b) if so, the details thereof including per mega-watt cost of construction of the power-generation project offered by the B.H.E.L. and multinational Power companies;

(ii) Haldia (T) : Haldia (T) NEAX Electronic exchange of 500 lines with working connections of 480 and waiting list 73 as on 30.6.94 is planned to be expanded by 500 lines during 1995-96.

(c) whether the Union Government have any proposal to review the policy on power-generation keeping in view the difference in the cost of construction of the power projects; and

(iii) Durgachak : Existing 380 lines electromechanical exchange working with 361 telephone connections and waiting list of 126 as on 30.6.94 is planned to be replaced by 1000 line C-DOT electronic exchange during 1994-95.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(3) Ghatol: During the year 1993-94 Ghatol Exchange has been converted to 512 line ILT Electronic Exchange. As on 30.6.94 it is having 274 working connections with waiting list of 28 will be expanded as more demand for telephone connection is received.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (d). The construction cost of power projects offered by BHEL is not invariably less in comparison to the multinational power companies. The plants put up by overseas firms are often backed by substantial volume of supplier's credit. The project costs differ according to the fuel, technology used and the site.

The power projects funded by foreign governments or multilateral aid agencies are required to be awarded on the basis of bidding procedure in which BHEL often competes with foreign suppliers. This practice will have to be continued as long as foreign aid is availed of for the purposes of setting

up power projects.

[*English*]

**Autonomous Body**

1162. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up an autonomous regulatory authority to regulate all the service providers in the Telecom sector in pursuance of its new policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Inefficient Functioning of Thermal Power Stations**

1163. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will

the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power generation targets are not being achieved owing to inefficient functioning of Thermal Power Stations;

(b) if so, the details of such power stations; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b). The actual thermal generation in the country is 2.8% more than the target set for the period (April-June) in the current year 1994-95. However, some of the Thermal Power Stations generated less than the target during this period. The details of such stations are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Various measures taken to improve the generation in the country include Renovation & Modernisation of old units, assistance to Electricity Boards in undertaking plant betterment programme, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal and training of operation & maintenance personnel.