

Grievances of Workers in Steel Yard in Mandi Govindgarh
46. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:
(a) whether any representation has been made to Government to redress - the grievances of the workers working in the Steel Yard in Mandi Govindgarh, Punjab, managed by the Small Scale Industries Corporation; and
(b) if so, the action taken on their representation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.
(b) The representations reecived related to provision of basic amenities, and to direct employment instead of on contract. The representations were taken up with the Punjab Government; as the Mandi Gobindgarh Yard is be-
ing operated by one of their undertakings, namely, Punjab State Small Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh on behalf of SAIL. The State Government have intimated that all basic amenities were being provided to workers. They have, however, not accepted the demand for direct emplcyment of workers by the Corporation in view of the intermittent nature of the work.

## Power Shortage in the Country

47. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that power shortages persist in the country causing great damages to the economy;
(b) if so, whether Government propose to take up a comprehensive programme for the power generation; and
(c) if so, steps taken and proposed to be taken in this direction?
