

(b) whether the Bureau of Public Enterprises continues to perform its functions of Management Development, assisting the Public Enterprises Selection Board, maintaining a data bank of senior management personnel, undertaking investment and performance appraisal, monitoring the implementation of projects and conducting post-completion studies, issuing guidelines for implementation of Government policies, etc. in respect of all the Central Public enterprises ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). There has been no change in the role and functions of the Bureau of Public Enterprises consequent on its transfer from Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Industry. It continues to be a separate administrative unit within the Department of Public Enterprises in the Ministry of Industry.

State Governments' Reservations regarding Functioning of the NTPC

288. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the State Governments have reservations regarding the functioning of the National Thermal Power Corporation so far as tariff system and plant load factor are concerned;

(b) if so, what are those reservations;

(c) whether the Union Government held any discussion to sort out the reservations;

(d) if so, when and the outcome of such discussions;

(e) if not, whether Government propose to hold such discussions now; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (f). While finalising the agreements with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for the bulk supply of power from Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station, the States in the Southern region had expressed reservations

on the proposed tariff with particular reference to the capital costs, fuel oil consumption, rate of return and heat rate per unit of energy produced. The States in the Eastern region (particularly West Bengal) had suggested that the plant load factor may be fixed at 63% in the bulk power supply agreements in respect of Farakka Super Thermal Power Station of the NTPC without regard to the constraints in achieving the same in the Eastern region. Discussions on these issues were held in December, 1984, Feb., 1985 and July, 1985. As a result of these discussions the bulk power supply agreements with the States in the Southern and Eastern regions have been concluded between March and August, 1985.

Some of the States have also suggested that a uniform tariff on all India basis may be adopted for the supply of power from the Super Thermal Power Stations of NTPC. In order to examine this issue of uniformity of tariff the Central Government have constituted a Committee in February, 1985 which has held discussions subsequently, *inter-alia*, with Chairmen as some State Electricity Boards. This Committee is likely to submit its report shortly.

Production of Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.

289. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the production of Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. *vis-a-vis* its installed capacity since nationalisation, year-wise;

(b) the causes of under-utilisation of capacity;

(c) whether there are plans to utilise the capacity in full in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI) : (a) The production of Cycle Corporation of India since nationalisation against a production Capacity of 3,16,000 cycles has been as under :

Year	Production
1980-82 (17½ months)	4,28,560
1982-83	2,51,191
1983-84	2,70,442
1984-85	2,55,446

(b) The age of the machinery, labour problems acute power shortage in the area, labour force, aged and lacking in flexibility, etc. have been the main reasons for under utilisation of capacity.

(c) to (e). A new CMD who had taken over on 17th August, 1985 is appraising various measures which are necessary to enable the Corporation to compete with better organised units in the private sector who have the advantages of lower wage levels, better scales of production and flexibility in buying of cheaper components etc.

New Process to Generate Power from Coal in West Bengal and Bihar

290. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether new process to generate power directly from coal will be started in West Bengal and Bihar; and

(b) whether any such process has already been started elsewhere in India ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). A pilot plant for the generation of electricity with coal as primary energy source using the Magnetohydrodynamic principle which involves direct conversion of heat into electricity has been established at Tiruchirappalli under a project sponsored by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. A two year programme of experimental work is presently in progress. Thereafter the possibility of setting up commercial scale plants in any part of India could be investigated.

Opposition to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property

291. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India have acceded to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property;

(b) whether there has been some opposition in the country in this matter if so, the basis for such opposition; and

(c) Government's reaction to the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question whether India should accede to the Paris Convention or not is being studied. While there are opinions, which support the proposal, there are also opinions, which oppose it. All views will be taken into consideration while arriving at a final decision in the national interest.

[Translation]

Setting up of a Paper Mill in Kumar Bagh (Betia), Bihar

292. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not setting up a paper mill in Kumar Bagh (Betia) so far when Hindustan Paper Corporation had been given the letter of intent for the same seven years ago and Government of Bihar had allotted 500 acres of land to the Corporation;

(b) whether there is possibility of setting up of this mill during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) if so, the amount proposed to be allocated for this mill in 1986-87 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :