

felt more, as the traffic noise is at a low level.

(c) The Central pollution control Board has constituted a committee to evolve standards for noise from industrial operations including Thermal Power Plants. Compliance to the stipulated standards shall be secured through the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as amended in 1987.

Noise pollution by coal based Power Generation Plants

8724. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great noise pollution by coal based power generation plants;

(b) whether the noise pollution is considerably reduced in gas-based power generation plants;

(c) whether Government propose to replace coal-based power units by gas-based ones in big cities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b). The noise level from coal-based and gas based power stations is normally within the stipulated acceptable limits and is specified at the design stage itself.

(c) and (d): Do not arise.

Addition of Hydel Power Generation capacity

8725. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have

planned to add hydel power generation capacity during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, whether any programme in this regard has been chalked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target set for the hydel power generation capacity in the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (d). It is tentatively envisaged to add a generating capacity of about 38000 MW during the Eighth Five Year Plan, of which about 8000 MW would be from hydro generating stations.

Minimum Economic Scale of Plants Manufacturing Petrochemical Intermediates

8726. SHRIMATI BASAVARA JESHWARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Mehta committee regarding substantial increase in the minimum economic scale of plants manufacturing petrochemical intermediates;

(b) if so, what are the other recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) how many of them have been accepted; and

(d) the steps taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (d). A final view on the recommendations of the Committee, set up under the Chairmanship of Shri J. J.