

(c) the conditions for giving licences to agents ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) :** (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Rules for licencing of such agents are under finalisation and have yet to be notified.

#### **Irrigation Capacity and its Utilization**

1461. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present irrigation capacity in the country and the extent of its utilisation ;

(b) steps being taken to augment the irrigation capacity ; and

(c) what will be the gestation period for the major and medium irrigation projects and the steps to reduce this period ?

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :** (a) At the end of Sixth Plan period it is estimated that about 68. m. ha. of irrigation potential would be created out of which nearly 5 m. ha. is likely to be unutilised.

(b) The State Governments have been urged as a broad strategy to adequately fund the on-going schemes which are in an advanced stage and are capable of yielding partial or full benefits during the Seventh Plan period.

(c) The gestation period varies from project to project depending upon various factors. Normally medium and major projects are expected to be completed between 5—7 and 10—15 years respectively, but in fact most projects have taken much longer. Among the steps taken to reduce the construction period are :

(i) the issue of guidelines to the States for the preparation of detailed project reports ;

(ii) advising the States to allocate adequate funds to on-going projects;

(iii) the monitoring of projects at the State level and of selected projects at the Central level ; and

(iv) assistance in arranging supplies of scarce material in time.

#### **Raidur Thermal Power Plant**

1462. **SHRI D. K. NAIKAR :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Raidur Thermal Power Plant is ready for commissioning ;

(b) if so, when the plant will generate power ;

(c) were there any constraints to cause delay ; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to supply power to aluminium factory at Belgaum this plant disconnecting the present supply ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) :** (a) to (c) The first unit of Raichur Thermal Power Plant Stage-I (2 × 210 MW) was synchronised on 29-3-85 on oil firing. The unit is presently under shutdown on account of work for preparation of coal firing and modification of stator cooling system. The unit is expected to come back into operation with coal firing from first week of September, 1985. The second unit of the plant is presently under construction and is expected to be commissioned during the last quarter of the current financial year. There has been some delay in commissioning of this project due to delay in completion of various civil works particularly main Power House, slow rate of T. G. erection and replacement of fire damaged items.

(d) Power generated from Raichur Thermal Power Station will be fed into the State power grid. The various industries are supplied power by the State from the power grid.

#### **Floating of Global Tenders for Transmission Lines for Supper T.P.P.**

1463. **SHRI B. V. DESAI :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :