

Power crisis in West Bengal

1244. SHRI C. R. MAHATA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute power crisis in West Bengal;

(b) whether any specific proposal has since been received from the Government of West Bengal for the consideration of the Union Government;

(c) if so, the main features thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). While there have been references to import of gas turbines in communications from West Bengal Government and in discussion with the representatives of West Bengal Government, no definite proposal for import of gas turbines and diesel sets has so far been received from that Government. Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation have submitted a proposal for installation of a power station at Titagarh in Calcutta. This is under consideration.

Compulsory Retirement of Cochin Port Employees

1245. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether all the cases of those employees of the Cochin Port who were compulsorily retired during the emergency have been reviewed by the Government; and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): Yes, Sir. The cases of the three employees of the Cochin Port Trust who

were compulsorily retired during emergency were reviewed and it was decided to reinstate one of them.

Delay in installation of BHEL Turbo-Generator set at Amarkantak Thermal Power Station

1246. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD. Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is going to be a six month delay in the commissioning of a BHEL Turbo-generator set installed at the Amarkantak Thermal Power Station;

(b) if so, the reasons for this failure; and

(c) the total amount of loss likely to be incurred by this delay?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The first 120 MW BHEL Turbo-generator set at Amarkantak Thermal Power Station was synchronised with the system on 11th September, 1977. The set was withdrawn to attend to vibration problems on 14th September, 1977. It is expected back in operation shortly.

(c) It is difficult to quantify the loss. However, a newly commissioned Power Generating Unit usually takes some time before giving a stabilised output.

Atomic Power Plant in Gujarat

1247. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat have requested the Central Government for setting up an atomic power plant in the State in the near future; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir.