

(b) if so, the estimated loss of industrial production as a result thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to fill the gap of production and to avoid breakdown in the Thermal Plants.

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

(b) Although shortage of power does affect industrial production but it has not been possible to estimate loss in industrial production due to shortage of power alone as there are a number of other factors such as availability of raw-material, labour etc. which also affect industrial production.

(c) A senior technical officer of the Central Electricity Authority was deputed to Bihar to suggest measures to improve the working of Patratu and Barauni thermal power stations. His recommendations are under implementation by Bihar State Electricity Board. Multi-disciplinary teams consisting of representatives of B.H.E.L., I.L. Kota, C.E.A. and the concerned power stations are tackling the problem of increasing reliability of the newly commissioned unit at Patrau by identifying the problems and taking immediate necessary remedial measures. All possible assistance is being rendered by Government of India to the State Electricity Board for expediting commissioning of the generating units scheduled for commissioning this year.

Supply of power to Industries in Karnataka

1977. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF; Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are aware that the industries in the State of Karnataka are starving for want of power; and

(b) if so, whether Central Government have taken any steps to improve the power supply position by setting up a thermal power plant—either in Mangalore or near Hospet?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Central Government are aware of the power shortages prevailing in the State of Karnataka resulting in the imposition of power cuts on the various consumer sectors, particularly industries. They have been arranging assistance from the neighbouring States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat to the extent possible. In the long run various alternatives for meeting the power requirements of Karnataka have been under examination. These alternatives include the setting up a thermal station in the state, expediting the construction and commissioning of hydro projects in the state and of importing power from the super thermal stations to be set up in the southern region. Investigations for selecting a suitable site for a thermal power project in the State of Karnataka are in progress.

Modern Sheds at Paradeep Port Trust

1978. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a second cargo berth would be constructed with modern and sophisticated transit sheds at the Paradeep Port; and

(b) if so, when and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b). A proposal for construction of a 2nd general cargo berth at Paradip Port with provision for suitable cargo handling equipment and a transit shed at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.18 crores is under examination.