

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). 23 out of 61 Power Stations of capacity 20 MW and above have achieved the Plant Load Factor of 60 per cent or above during the period April '77—February '78. While the National average of the Plant factor increased from 52 per cent in 1975-76 to 56 per cent in 1976-77, it is unlikely to keep up this figure this year in view of higher forced outage rate of thermal generation units commissioned after 1974, long outage of some of the thermal units.

(d) To set-up the capacity utilisation of thermal plants, State Electricity Boards have been advised.

(1) to flatten the load curves of the individual power systems by offering load promotional incentives to off peak consumers,

(2) Monitor closely the performance of the power stations. Assistance is given by C.E.A. in expediting repairing/recommissioning the units under forced and planned outage by streamlining the repair work

(3) Modernise the maintenance procedures in thermal power stations in order to reduce the duration of planned and forced outages and introduction of preventive maintenance.

(4) Integrated operation of the different power systems so that thermal stations can be operated at high plant load factor

(5) Formation of multi-disciplinary groups to undertake project renovation of the sick units.

(6) BHEL have been urged to improve the quality and reliability of the units manufactured in this country.

(7) A central pool for stocking of spare parts for imported Russian and American thermal units has been set up and expeditious and

liberal release of foreign exchange for import of spares is ensured.

(8) BHEL will ensure availability of spares for equipment manufactured by them.

(9) Arrangements for supply of requisite quality of coal.

(10) Reorganisation of the electricity supply industry.

Theatres built by Film Finance Corporation

2012. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHWA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many theatres in urban and rural areas have been built up by Film Finance Corporation in various parts of the country including Gujarat since April, 1977; and

(b) what is the programme in the matter for the year 1978 and 1979 and the conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Film Finance Corporation has not built any theatres in the country so far nor does it plan to build any theatre on its own. It is, however, planning to finance the construction of lowcost theatre particularly in rural areas. The details of the scheme have not yet been finalised.

Punjabi programme on A.I.R.

2013. SHRI KISHORE LAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime back on every Thursday morning half-an-hour "shabad" programme was broadcast on the All India Radio in Punjabi programme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these devotional songs have been replaced by other Punjabi songs; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?