

have proposed to instal a thermal generating units of capacity 210 MW, in replacement of old units. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 66 crores.

Entry of Private Sector in Power Generation

243. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the F.I.C.C.I. have recently submitted any specific proposal to Government for the entry of private sector in power generation;

(b) if so, whether Government have indicated to the FICCI that Government had agreed in principle to such proposal; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) (a) to (c) : No specific proposal has been received from the FICCI for the entry of private sector in Power Generation. The FICCI had, however, suggested that the private sector should be encouraged to take up generation of Electricity. The role of the private sector as a utility in the field of power generation is at present governed by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1966 under which generation and distribution of electricity is included in Schedule 'A' of the Resolution which lists industries in which all new units, save where their establishment in the private sector has already been approved, will be set up only by the State. The Resolution does not preclude the expansion of the existing privately owned units or the possibility of the State securing the co-operation of private enterprises in the establishment of new unit when the national interests so require. Specific proposals of private entrepreneurs for setting up Power Generation Plants are considered in their merits keeping in view the spirit of the Industrial Policy Resolution.

Ganga Water Pact with Bangladesh

244. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

SHRI AMAR ROY
PRADHAN:

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga Water Pact with Bangladesh has been found to be not in India's favour; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and whether Government are considering to review it?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): (a) and (b). There are certain provisions in the Agreement which call for re-consideration. The matter will be taken up at the appropriate time.

Plan to intensify Oil Exploration Operations

245. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a plan to intensify oil exploration operations;

(b) whether some foreign assistance is proposed to be sought for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Plans for stepping up of the oil exploration operations have been drawn up from time to time and are under implementation. The question of further intensification of these operations is under constant review by Government.

(b) No decision has been taken so far.

(c) Does not arise.