

(b) About 300 major and medium irrigation schemes are in various stages of construction. The delay is due to:—

(i) Non-availability of adequate financial allocation to individual projects.

(ii) Proliferation of projects under construction by the States resulting in thin spreading of financial managerial and technical resources.

(iii) Large escalation in costs of projects which were found to occur due to overall large-scale rise in cost of labour, materials equipment, spares, land etc.

(iv) Lack of thorough investigations prior to taking up of the projects resulting implementation including addition of drainage arrangements and flood protection to command areas.

(v) Difficulties in land acquisition.

(vi) Non-availability of scarce materials like cement, steel, explosives, machinery, spares, foreign exchange, etc.

(vii) Difficulties met during construction of the projects such as unfavourable geological conditions, unprecedented and untimely floods etc.

(viii) Delays in sanctioning the constructions, designs and other organisations required for Project implementation.

(c) The estimated escalation in cost of major and medium irrigation projects because of delay in their completion would be around Rs. 5,500 crores.

(d) Some of the strategies being adopted in the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85) to remedy the situation are laying emphasis on completion of

all on-going schemes in a time bound manner by advance planning for construction materials, strengthening of the project organisations, setting up high level decision taking machinery etc.

#### **Appointment of Contractors for Thal Vaishet Fertilizer Unit**

307. SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:  
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:  
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR  
SINGH:  
SHRI NAVIN RAVANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed contractors for the Thal Vaishet Fertilizer Unit;

(b) if so, the manner which the contract for the Thal Vaishet Fertilizer Unit has been awarded by Government;

(c) whether Indian party (ies) was/were contenders(s) for the project; if so, the names thereof;

(d) the time taken by Government to award the contract;

(e) the estimated escalation in the cost of the project because of delay in arriving at a decision indicating the cost originally estimated and the cost likely to be incurred now on the project; and

(f) the period likely to be taken for the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Engineering consultants have been selected for the ammonia and urea plants at Thal Vaishet.

(b) The selection was made after examining the relative merits of the various bids received.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f). While the appointment of consultants for the ammonia for plant of the Thal Vaishet Project was being finalised, there was a change of Government. The present Government, after it took office decided to have a second look at the selection of the consultants. It took some time before a final decision could be taken in the matter. The original estimates of the project prepared by the company in June, 1979 placed the cost of the project at Rs. 511.34 crores. The estimated cost of the project as of January, 1980 was roughly Rs. 681.3 crores. The latest estimates prepared by the company in September, 1980 place the cost of the project at Rs. 732.2 crores. The project is expected to be completed by 1984—85. -

#### **Decline in Power Generation .**

308. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:  
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any analysis with regard to the extent of decline in the power generation during the last one year and the factors responsible for the decline in the performance of the power industry; and

(b) if so, result thereof and the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
(SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a)  
and (b). There has been no decline in power generation during the last one year. Power generation had increased by 2.1 per cent during the year 1979-80 over the preceding year. Similarly, the total energy generation during the first seven months of 1980-81 has been 62635 million units as against 62613 mil-

lion units during the corresponding period last year.

Power generation has increased by 6.6 per cent and 7.3 per cent during September, 1980 and October, 1980 respectively over the generation in the corresponding period last year.

However, with a view to further improve the performance of thermal power stations in the country, a number of measures have been taken. These measures include:

(i) concerted efforts including evolving proper commissioning procedures for early stabilisation of the newly commissioned thermal generating units;

(ii) identification of deficiencies in design, equipments etc. and preparation of Plant Betterment programmes in a time-bound time-frame at a number of thermal power stations;

(iii) organisation of Intensive training programme in operation and maintenance of thermal power plants;

(iv) supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal to thermal power stations;

(v) arranging assistance to the power stations in repairing/recommissioning generating units under prolonged shutdowns;

(vi) introduction of modern maintenance techniques including preventive maintenance practices;

(vii) arranging visit of experts from various disciplines to power stations for suggestions for improving the performance of power stations; and

(viii) reduction of losses in transmission and distribution system.