

crude purchase at concessional rates and on deferred payments basis;

(b) if so, whether India's proposal was discussed at O.P.E.C. meeting held during Sept, 1980;

(c) if so, the outcome of the same; and

(d) to what extent this proposal will be beneficial for India?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Vienna meeting of OPEC could not carry out any conclusive discussions on this question and it was to have been considered further at an OPEC meeting in early October at Quito, Ecuador. This meeting was, subsequently, indefinitely postponed. The Baghdad Summit meeting which was to have taken final decisions in this respect has also been postponed.

(d) It would be premature to estimate the benefits at this stage.

#### **Guidelines to State Electricity Boards to Improve Performance**

320. SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:

SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the instances of the Prime Minister his Ministry has sent detailed guidelines to the State Electricity Boards to improve their performances;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued;

(c) whether his Ministry had pointed out the poor plant load factor resulting in huge losses to the Boards and has instructed the Boards to strictly

work on the guidelines and make an attempt to improve generation and the plant load factor from the present level; and

(d) if so, whether after issuing these instructions any improvements in the working of power boards on above guidelines have been noticed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the important guidelines issued are as follows:

(1) A note on 'Methodology for improving generation and reliability of thermal power stations' which *inter alia* covered various aspects of organisation design, man-power planning/advance O&M recruitment, training, job specification and personnel management etc., was sent to the State Electricity Boards.

(2) Emphasis was laid on the detailed planning which should be started much ahead of breaking the ground on the site and which should be backed up by a proper monitoring and control system. Model net works for thermal projects and other planning and reporting formats were also sent.

(c) It was pointed out to the State Electricity Boards that the availability factor of many thermal power plants is about 55 per cent to 60 per cent which is comparatively low as compared to 80 per cent to 90 per cent achieved by developed countries. It was also mentioned that the overall plant utilisation factor is also lower than 50 per cent, with accompanying unreliability resulting in uncertainty.

(d) The instructions have been issued only recently and will take some time before SEBs are in position to implement the same. In view of this the improvement in performance of the SEBs will be noticed over a period of time.