

Electric De France (EDF), Paris for collaborative effort in the field of power development, the possibility of securing assistance of French Experts to assist in the planning of the proposed investigations is being explored.

(b) As the R&D in respect of the Ocean Thermal Power Conversion technique is still at a very preliminary stage and no actual installation of even 1 MW OTEC Plant is in operation or has so far been built anywhere in the world, the offer of the US Experts to make preliminary design of a 25 MW OTEC Plant was not considered worth while for taking up at this stage especially as it involved outflow of free foreign exchange.

(c) and (d). While the power planning is with the Central Government, the execution of power projects, their operation and maintenance etc. is mainly with the State Governments and State Electricity Boards. Considering the importance of thermal power stations on the energy scene an operation and monitoring unit has been set up in the Central Electricity Authority to watch and review the performance of thermal power stations and to advise on remedial action required for the proper operation and maintenance of the thermal power stations. In the interest of speedier execution of new thermal projects a monitoring cell has been set up in the Central Electricity Authority. The progress of construction and timely availability of plant and equipment is reviewed periodically in various meetings with the project authorities where various inputs and their availability are critically appraised and remedial action suggested. The Ministry of Energy also reviews the progress of construction and performance of the projects from time to time and renders necessary help to meet the requirements of material and equipment so that slippage is minimised. Several Power Minister's Conferences have also been organised to review the performance of power stations and to monitor the execution of new projects.

### Oil Exploration by foreign multinational Companies

2153. SHRI B. D. SINGH:  
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR  
SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal to have some foreign multinational companies for the oil exploration in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that a separate Directorate to deal with the foreign multinational companies is proposed to be set up;

(c) if so, the decision, if any, taken by Government; and

(d) the reasons for dissociating the ONGC from the oil exploration in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to invite offers from selected foreign oil companies for oil exploration contracts in India in certain areas.

(b) and (c). The setting up of a suitable organisation to monitor and control various activities relating to the exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the country is being considered. But no decision has yet been taken.

(d) No, Sir. ONGC is not being dissociated from the oil exploration work in the country. Instead the ONGC is being given every possible assistance and encouragement to maximise its efforts.

### Cost of Power Generation per Unit

2154. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of generation per unit (MW) of hydro electric thermal, tidal, wind, geo-thermal and atomic energy;