

(b) ONGC is laying great stress on the welfare measures for the employees to achieve the targets. Some important steps taken in this regard are financial motivation scheme, free conveyance facilities for attending to field sites, free camp facilities at distant and difficult drilling locations, liberal food compensation or whole-some meal facilities at distant and remote drill site colonies, free medical aid, etc. Further welfare measures are also contemplated.

Losses in Fertilizer Plants

4806. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some fertilizer plants are running in loss;

(b) if so, the names of the fertilizer plants which are incurring such losses;

(c) the reasons of the losses; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the condition of those fertilizer plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The following fertilizer companies under the administrative control of this Ministry incurred losses during 1981-82:—

(i) Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd:

It has plants at Gorkhpur, Uttar Pradesh; Sindri, Bihar; Ramagundam, Andhra Pradesh; Talcher, Orissa.

(ii) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd;

It has plants at Namrup, Assam; Barauni, Bihar; Durgapur, West Bengal.

(iii) Fertilizer and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.:

It has plants at Udyogamandal, Kerala; Cochin, Kerala.

(c) The main reasons for the losses are low capacity utilization on account of power cuts imposed by various State Governments, non-availability of inputs like coal and equipment problems and design constraints.

(d) Power cuts have been removed by most of the State Governments. The supply of feedstock and inputs to the fertilizer plants has been augmented to the required level. Steps are also being taken to increase capacity utilization by removing inbuilt constraints through plant operation improvement programmes, debottlenecking schemes and installation of Captive Power generation facilities, etc.

Discussion with N.T.P.C. Authorities for recruitment through employment exchange

4807. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal State Power Minister and the State Labour Minister discussed with the authorities of National Thermal Power Corporation on 25-6-82 regarding recruitment through employment exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decisions arrived at the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Super Thermal Power Station for Delhi.

4808. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to set up a super thermal power station by NTPC for exclusive supply to Delhi; if so, what will be capacity, phasing, costs for each phase;

(b) will the power station be supplied equipment manufactured by BHEL or imported equipment, if latter what will be the import component of the total equipment cost; and

(c) what other schemes, if any, are there for setting up power stations in any

other state; please give details of location area or grid, capacity and phasing thereof, breakup of cost, phase-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to set up a Super Thermal Power Station by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to meet the power-needs of Delhi. Detailed feasibility studies are yet to be taken-up. The capacity, phasing of costs etc. can be finalised only after feasibility studies are completed.

(c) The details of NTPC's projects under construction are shown in Annexure.

In addition, Government have recently approved State I (1260 MW) of Vidhyachal Super Thermal Power Project in MP and State I (1000 MW) of Rihand Super Thermal Power Project in UP. The first 210 MW unit of Stage I of Vindhya-chal Super Thermal Power Project and the first 500 MW unit of Stage I of Rihand Super Thermal Power Project are expected to be commissioned during 1987-88. The sanctioned costs of these projects are Rs. 911.57 crores and Rs. 1033 crores respectively. These are all regional power stations intended for meeting the power requirements of the different States in their respective regions.

The proposal of NTPC for setting up Stage-I (4x200 MW) of Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station has been accorded techno-economic clearance by CEA. It is awaiting investment decision.

Opening of Telephone Exchanges and P.C.Os. in Rajasthan

* 4809. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the desert and backward districts in Rajasthan to which special attention is being paid in providing

more telephone exchanges and PCOs and opening post office, with details thereof; and

(b) whether Government are considering a proposal to reduce the prescribed ratio of population for opening post offices in desert and Hill areas with small population and if so, by what time a decision in this regard will be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a)

(i) *Telephone Exchanges:*

New small Telephone exchanges are opened on the basis of build up of demand for telephone connections and economy viability of the Scheme under the liberalised policy for opening telephone exchanges in rural areas. Under this Policy area-wise (*viz.* Backward|Tribal|Hilly|desert) distinction is not made. The names of backward districts in Rajasthan and number of telephone exchanges tentatively planned for opening during 1982-83 is given in the attached statement

(ii) *P.C.Os.*

While the Department has no policy specifically for desert districts, these are included by and large under the list of backward districts. Public telephones are provided in backward areas on a liberalised basis. The names of backward districts of Rajasthan and the number of long distance public telephones proposed for opening during 1982-83, subject to availability of stores, are given at Annexure.

(iii) *Post Offices:*

Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Sriganganagar districts, Dungargarh tehsil of Church district and Gogunda tehsil of Udaipur district are classified as backward for purpose of postal development. It is proposed to open 15 post offices in these areas under Annual Plan 1982-83.

(b) No, Sir. The prescribed norms already provide for a more liberal condition of population for opening of post offices in backward|tribal areas as compared to normal rural areas.