

izers, petro-chemicals etc. to the extent the gas cannot be used immediately for these purposes, it can be diverted for other purposes such as power generation, etc., purely as a fall-back arrangement on a temporary basis till the fertilizers and petro-chemical plants are ready to utilise it fully. According to a study made, some surplus quantity of associated gas may be available for a short interim period in the Maharashtra Region. Accordingly, the scheme for installation of 4 additional power sets of 60 MW each of Uran has been planned to use both gas and LSHS to have operational flexibility. Since the scheme has yet to be techno-economically appraised, MSEB have been advised to follow the normal procedure of import of power generating equipment.

Telephone Operators on Daily Wages in Delhi Telephone Office

224. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:
SHRI SWAMI INDERVESH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of casual workers are employed in the office of General Manager, Delhi Telephones as Telephone Operators on daily wages for the last about 6-7 years.

(b) whether it is also a fact that new appointments as Telephone Operators have been made from the local market on the same lines; and

(c) whether any time has been fixed to make them regular and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Capacity Utilisation of Power Plants

225. SHRI S. A. DORAI SEBASTIAN:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to reach at least 70 per cent capacity utilisation of thermal and hydro power stations, since during 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 the capacity utilisation of both thermal and hydro plants has not gone beyond 48 per cent; and

(b) the steps being taken to meet the growing gap between supply and demand of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) In order to improve the performance of thermal power stations in the country, a number of measures have been taken. These measures include:—

(i) Assistance to State Electricity Boards to prepare and undertake plant betterment programmes.

(ii) Adoption of preventive maintenance techniques.

(iii) Arranging supply of spare parts from indigenous and foreign sources.

(iv) Arranging adequate quality and quantity of coal.

(v) Setting up of task forces for 2000 210 and 110/120 MW units to identify deficiencies and prepare programme for achieving early stabilisation and better performance.

(vi) Training of Engineers and operation and maintenance personnel for thermal power plant.

As a result of measures taken so far, capacity utilisation of thermal power plant in the country has increased considerably. The plant load factor of thermal power stations achieved during the year 1981-82 was 46.8 per cent as against 44.6 per cent during the year 1980-81. Further, the plant load factor realised during the period