

Power Position at the end of Sixth Plan

298. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Energy Ministry have assured the Planning Commission that in spite of downward revision in the power generation targets, power shortages will come down from 10 per cent at present to about 5 per cent at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Ministry had fixed a plant-load factor target of 51 per cent by the Sixth Plan;

(c) if so, whether in the current year it was expected to go upto 49 per cent;

(d) whether up till now, not much progress has been made; and

(e) if so, the main reasons for this and what steps have been taken by Government to achieve the target as fixed by the Ministry for the current year as well as at the end of the Sixth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The energy generation during 1981-82 registered an increase of 10.2 per cent as compared to previous year. This has brought down the power shortage in the country from 16.11 per cent in 1979-80 to 10.9 per cent during 1981-82. It is anticipated that shortage in the country will come down to 8.9 per cent during 1982-83. Every effort is being made to reduce the shortage in the country at the end of VIth Five Year Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is likely to go up.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. There is marked improvement in the performance of thermal plants. The Plant Load Factor of thermal power plants achieved during 1981-82 was 46.8 per cent as against 44.6 per cent during 1980-81. The Plant Load Factor realised during April-September, 1982 was around 49 per cent as against 44.7 per cent during the corresponding period last year.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Measures for Better Telephone Service

299. SHRI B. V. DESAI:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Posts and Telegraphs Department has taken several measures for better performance of the telephones in the Capital and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the main changes introduced by the Department to reduce the complaints regarding defective instruments and faulty connections;

(c) to what extent these measures have helped and reduce the complaints from the subscribers; and

(d) what other measures are considered to make the telephone system 100 per cent foolproof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The following measures are being taken to reduce the complaints regarding defective instruments and faulty connections:—

(i) An improved telephone instruments coded '677' is being inducted in the network;

(ii) The telephone installation at the subscribers' premises is being inspected periodically and defective instruments replaced;

(iii) Aluminium wires in the fittings at subscribers premises are being replaced by copper wires;

(iv) Overhead wires are being replaced by insulated drop wires to reduce their fault liability.