

Second thoughts on power plants in joint and Private Sector

1332. SHRI MADHAVROA SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have of late been having second thoughts on its policy of rejecting proposals for setting up of power plants in the joint sector and private sector ;

(b) if so, the decision since taken in the matter ; and

(c) how far the short supply of power to the industry is proposed to be made good by way of setting up of power plants in the joint sector/private sector?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) to (c) There has been no change in the policy of the Government in regard to private sector participation in the power generation industry. This policy is regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution 1956. Under this Resolution, the generation and distribution of electricity falls under Schedule A which includes the category of industries, the future development of which will be the exclusive responsibility of the State. The Resolution, however, does not precluded the expansion of the existing privately owned units or the possibility of the State securing the cooperation of private enterprises in the establishment of new units when the national interests so require. Decisions are taken by Government on concrete proposals received from the private sector on a case to case basis on merits.

To maximise generation of power, various measures including intensive monitoring of the construction and operation of Projects, timely supply of equipment and spares, provision of appropriate technical guidance and advice by the CEA, training for improving the managerial and technical skills of personnel employed in the power sector, improving the quality and availability of inputs like coal,

better maintenance and renovation/modernisation of existing units to increase their plant load factor, have been taken to meet the demands to the maximum extent possible of the various sectors.

Construction of Refinery at Karnal

1333. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land for the construction of the Refinery in Karnal has been acquired ;

(b) if so, how much land is being acquired and in which village or Revenue Estate of the district ;

(c) by what time the construction work is likely to start, time likely to be taken for completion of the project and also the approximate cost likely to be incurred thereon ; and

(d) whether some preference or consideration will be given in the matter of recruitment to those whose land will be acquired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Government of Haryana has issued a notification under Sec. 4 of the Land Acquisition Act for acquisition of land in Panipat Tehsil of Karnal District. The approximate requirement of land for the Karnal Refinery is 1650 Acres excluding the township area of 300 Acres.

(c) Construction work is expected to start after investment decisions are taken by the Government. The schedule for completion of the project is by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period.

The approximate cost to be incurred as per the latest project cost estimate is Rs. 1182.70 Crores including the pipeline.