

Working of Power Stations

1175. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several power stations in the country are working below their rated capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons for the low utilisation of the installed capacity; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure full utilisation of the installed capacity of the existing power stations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) and (b) The performance of power stations in the country and the utilisation of the capacity installed therein has generally been satisfactory except in a few cases where the utilisation of the installed capacity has been low due to the following reasons:—

- (i) Non-availability of fuel e.g. coal, lignite, etc. in sufficient quantity.
- (ii) Use of inferior grade coal and two stage washery by-product fuels in the power stations in the Eastern Region.
- (iii) Failure of rains and consequent non-filling up of hydro reservoirs which has adversely affected the generation at hydro power stations.
- (iv) Difficulties in operation and forced outages encountered by Atomic Station at Tarapur.

(c) The following steps are being taken to increase the power generation at the existing stations:—

- (i) Stepping up the supply of coal lignite/residual fuel oil to the thermal power stations to enable them to step-up generation:

(ii) Arranging supply of good quality coal to the thermal power stations in the Eastern Region.

(iii) Expediting repair/maintenance work of the units under outage.

(iv) Expediting supply of spares etc. for units which are shut down for want of such parts; and

(v) Two Expert Groups have been set up by Government, one for hydro power stations and the other for thermal power stations to inspect and report on the operation and maintenance as prevailing at present and make recommendations for improving their performance further.

Demand for Power in Fifth Plan

1176. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:
DR. GOVIND DAS RICH-
ARIYA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the likely demand for power in the Fifth Plan period,

(b) what is the tentative target fixed for power generation in the Fifth Plan period, and

(c) what are the new power generation schemes proposed to be included in the Fifth Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) The likely maximum demand for Power in the Fifth Plan is estimated at 28 million kW.

(b) The tentative target for power generation as assessed by Ministry of Irrigation and Power is for an installed generating capacity of 42 million kW by 1978-79.

(c) A statement listing the new power generation schemes—Hydro, thermal and nuclear proposed for inclusion in the Fifth Plan is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3749/72].

Increase in Price of Fertilizers

1177. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has suggested price increase for fertilizers;

(b) if so, on what ground the price increase has been suggested;

(c) whether the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture are opposed to any increase in the price of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, how do Government propose to solve these difficulties in regard to fertilizers prices?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE):

(a) to (d) There have been representations from some of the manufacturers that the prices of the main nitrogenous fertilizers, namely, urea, ammonium sulphate and calcium ammonium nitrate, as now fixed, do not provide an adequate return due to rising cost of inputs and other factors. Government is giving close thought to the measures that may have to be taken in this connection, taking into account all relevant factors.

Changes in Railway Freight Structure

1178. SHRI BHOLA MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to further rationalise the Railway freight structure; and

(b) if so, what are the changes proposed to be made in the structure?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Effect of Power Shortage on Train Service on Electrified Sections

1179. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI: SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current power shortage in the country has affected the electrified sections of the Railways;

(b) if so, in which regions and to what extent; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure adequate supply of power to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) Yes;

(b) There was general slowing in movement of wagons in the electrified sections in the Eastern region on number of days due to less availability of power;

(c) The concerned Railway Administrations are in constant touch with the local State supply authorities at all levels to maintain continuity of supply. The highest priority has already been accorded to the Railway traction loads over other less essential consumers. Stand by supply for signalling, extension of feeds from adjacent sub-stations during emergency are also being arranged. All these steps have helped in ensuring that power shortage is not allowed to affect train services to any appreciable extent. Where interruptions to supply are unavoidable, they are effected to a minimum.

Setting up of Fertilizer Projects in India by Soviet Union

1180. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state: