

power. Inter-State lines and establishment of load despatching stations should be completed expeditiously.

(9) To ensure that lack of finances does not stand in the way of expeditious implementation of power projects, the Centre should consider financing projects where a State Government is unable to find necessary funds from its own plan allocation. Alternatively, suitable financing institutions like the REC should be set up or borrowings from commercial banks or public financial institutions permitted.

(10) The requirements of steel and cement for irrigation and power projects should be given high priority.

**Rural Electrification**

The State Government should accelerate the pace of electrification of Harijan basis so that the maximum number of bastis are electrified during the Silver Jubilee Year before the 14th August, 1973.

**Setting up of a Committee to plan out power generation programme of states which have exhausted resources in generation of Hydel Power**

1292. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Committee to plan out power generation programme of the States, which had exhausted their resources in generation of hydel power; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration.

**Demand from Foreign Oil Companies for implementation of Shantilal Shah Committee formula regarding crude oil prices**

1293. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign Oil Companies, Burmah Shell and Caltex, urged Government to enforce the Shantilal Shah Committee formula strictly in regard to the increase in the price of crude oil; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of recognising higher crude oil prices for fixing product prices is under consideration.

**Setting up of a Thermal Power Plant at Ropar, Punjab**

1294. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government's proposal to set up a thermal power plant at Ropar has been turned down by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the rejection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):

(a) and (b). The project report for this scheme was received by the Central Water and Power Commission towards the end of May 1971 and the details thereof were discussed with the project authorities in November, 1971 when certain clarifications were called for. These are awaited from the Punjab State Electricity Board.