

(b) action taken to bring about changes in the systems of management, project construction, material handling and financing in relation to generation of power?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRA-SAD): (a) The following steps have been/are being taken to improve the performance of power plants:—

(1) The project authorities have been advised to keep up a programme of preventive maintenance and ensure availability of adequate supplies of spares in the case of both hydro and thermal power plants. Expert advice from the CW&PC is also made available wherever required.

(2) In regard to the thermal plants the following steps are being taken:—

- (i) Ensuring supply of suitable quality of coal and fuel oil in adequate quantities, and transport therefor.
- (ii) Improvement of fuel quality in the case of power plants using washery by-product fuels (in the eastern region) by restricting such use to three-stage washery middlings.
- (iii) Visits by experts deputed by Govt. of India for assessing and suggesting possibilities of improvement.
- (iv) Provision of training facilities for operation and maintenance personnel.

(3) A spares and services unit is being organised under BHEL for ensuring timely availability of imported as well as indigenous spare parts and facilities for repairs of equipment.

(b) Proposals for restructuring the power supply industry including generation, management, etc., are under consideration.

Upper Krishna project as a National Project

6203. SHRI A. K. KOTRASHETTI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to make Upper Krishna Project as a national project has been received from the Government of Karnataka; and

(b) whether Centre considers it feasible to take up Upper Krishna Project as a national project to speed up the execution of the project in drought-stricken parts of the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRA-SAD): (a) and (b). The Government of Karnataka have been urging for the financing of the Upper Krishna Project by the Centre. The question of financing of major irrigation projects had been considered on several occasions by the National Development Council and it was finally decided that Irrigation Projects would continue to form part of the developmental Plans of the States and that 10 per cent of the total central assistance to the States would be allocated on the basis of the requirements of continuing major irrigation and power projects.

Difference in price of Kerosene oil in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi

6204. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of kerosene oil supplied through the Petrol Pumps are higher in Delhi and lower in Uttar Pradesh as compared with the prices of supplies through the retail dealers;

(b) if so, the reasons for these differentials; and