

(b) The Indian and Soviet scientists discussed all the technical aspects relating to the fabrication and launching of the second satellite (Satellite for Earth Observations) as well as the time schedules and the methodology of conducting various tests on the satellite. They also discussed the possibilities of future collaboration in the field of space sciences and agreed to conduct joint experiments on gamma-ray astronomy, using balloons from Hyderabad sometime during 1977-78. The details of the payload and division of responsibilities between the two sides will be finalised in the next meeting to be held in India during October-November 1976.

Manufacture of Crackers

3832. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the estimated cost of crackers manufactured in India and the number of workers engaged in the cracker industry in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHR B. P. MAURYA): According to the census of small industries conducted by the Development Commissioner for Small Scale Industries, the number of workers engaged in the manufacture of fire works is about 9300 and the value of production during 1970, 1971 and 1972 was Rs. 5.13 crores, 5.99 crores and 7.28 crores, respectively.

Expansion of Hydel, Thermal and Nuclear Power Generation Capacity

3833. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the broad outlines of programmes for expansion of power

generation capacity in the next three years for Hydro, Thermal and Nuclear generations;

(b) whether orders have been placed for plant and equipment; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof, with special reference to heavy equipment, their cost and delivery schedules?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c). It is proposed to add an additional generating capacity of 8627 MW consisting of 3307 MW in hydro 4630 MW in thermal and 690 MW in nuclear stations in the next three years viz. 1976-79 of the Fifth Plan. The orders for the main plant and equipment for the above generating capacity have already been placed and the equipments are in various stages of construction/procurement. The cost and delivery schedules for the main plant and equipment vary from item to item and are determined by arrangements between the suppliers and the project authorities.

Rural Electrification Programme

3834. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the broad outlines of programme to be taken up for rural electrification in the next three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): No specific programme has been drawn for rural electrification in the country in the next 3 years. However, in the draft Fifth Plan, a target for electrification of 1,10,208 villages and energisation of 15.78 lakhs irrigation pumpsets/tubewells is indicated for the plan period. During the first two years of the Fifth Plan, about 24,000 villages have been electrified and 3.62 lakhs pumpsets energised.