

dam thermal power station having an installed capacity of 37.5 MW (3 x 12.5 MW). The scheme has been posed for assistance from the Agency of International Development (U.S.A.) The tenders for appointment of consulting engineers have already been received and are under scrutiny. The tenders for the turbogenerator plant and auxiliaries have also been received. Orders will be placed as soon as clearance from the A.I.D. authorities has been received. The foreign exchange involved in this scheme is of the order of Rs. 4 crores. The station is expected to be commissioned by the end of 1964-65.

(iii) Requisition for installation of 2 gas turbine units of 15 MW each.

This scheme was not originally included in the III Plan. Owing to serious power shortage conditions in Andhra, this request is under active consideration of the Government of India. A proposal for the import of four units of 10 to 12 MW capacity gas turbine package type plants (skid-mounted) is presently being considered and if the prices and delivery are found suitable, and the requisite foreign exchange available, it might be possible to allot two sets to Andhra Pradesh. These units could be commissioned in about 9 to 12 months time. The foreign exchange required for each unit would be of the order of Rs. 50 lakhs.

A.R.T. Co's Colliery Workers

2232. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rice proportion in the supply of rations to the A.R.T.

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Co's colliery workers in Marg Berita, Assam is going to be increased;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) in view of eased rice position, whether Assam Government have agreed to this increase; and

(d) whether Government agree to reintroduce the old ratio of 75 per cent rice and 25 per cent *atta*?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) to (d). In view of the present rice supply position in Assam, the State Government have decided not to enhance the quantum of rice ration from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the total ration.

Electricity Rates

2233. { Dr. Ranen Sen:
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Dr. Saradish Roy:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the old provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 it was necessary for a licensee to obtain prior permission of the State Government before he could enhance rates duly approved by Government;

(b) whether the relevant provision [Vide Article 1 of the Sixth Schedule to the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948] had been amended by Central Government in 1956; no opposition from Government of West Bengal;

(c) whether under the amended provision it is no longer necessary for the licensee to obtain permission of State Government before enhancing or reducing the rates; and

(d) the reasons as to why Article 1 of the Sixth Schedule to the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 was amended in 1956?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) to (d). Some State Governments, including the Government of West Bengal, had suggested that a licensee should be required to obtain the State Government's approval before raising the rates of supply, by giving two months' notice. Paragraph I of the Sixth Schedule to the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, was amended in 1956, to require a licensee to give two months' notice to the State Government and the State Electricity Board concerned before enhancing the rates of supply. No stipulation in regard to prior approval was considered necessary. The Act provides that in case the State Government is satisfied that in enhancing the rates, the licensee has contravened the provisions of the Sixth Schedule, it can appoint a Rating Committee to examine his charges. If the Rating Committee recommends a rate lower than that enforced by the licensee, the latter will refund the excess amount charged, to the consumers.

Loans to Fruit Cultivators

2234. Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme under consideration for giving loans to cultivators for fruit development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the scheme is likely to be finalised and implemented?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) A scheme for giving loans to cultivators for development of fruit production was sanctioned by the Government of India in the States and the Union Territories of Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Delhi during the 2nd Five Year Plan period. This scheme is being continued in all the States and Union Territories during the 3rd Plan

(b) A statement giving details of the scheme is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 59].

(c) Does not arise.

Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh

2235. Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target for opening of new post offices in Madhya Pradesh during 1960 and 1961 has not been reached;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the target set for the current year?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):

(a) No. Actually the targets have been exceeded during 1960-61 and 1961-62.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 261.

New Halts and Stations on S.E. Railway

2236. Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many new halts and stations have been added on the South Eastern Railway during the last five years; and

(b) how many more halts and stations are proposed to be opened on the same railway during the next five years?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) 40.

(b). 127.

Railway Station at Kaharakul

2237. Shri Jena: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of establishing a Railway Station at