

(b) and (c). The report of the National Development Council (NDC) Committee on Power under Shri Sharad Pawar has been submitted and it is yet to be discussed in the NDC.

(d) and (e). The existing policy allows private firms to distribute electricity upon obtaining a license from the concerned State Government. One of the elements in the comprehensive policy on renewable energy being worked out, is a cess to fund non-conventional energy projects. The full implication of levying such a cess would be studied before a decision is taken on the subject.

#### Mejia Thermal Power Project in W.B.

\*113. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether first unit of Mejia Thermal Power Project in West Bengal has been functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which 2nd and 3rd units of this project are likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). First Unit of 210 MW of Mejia Thermal Power Project being executed by Damodar Valley Corporation was synchronised since March, 1996.

(c) The Second and Third unit of 210 MW each are scheduled to be commissioned by September, 1996 and March, 1997 respectively.

#### Gas Grid in Gujarat

\*114 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government for portion of associated gas from the proposed gas grid in Gujarat to Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to provide associated gas from the proposed gas grid of Gujarat to Rajasthan so that industries in Sirodhi and Jalore could be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI. T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b). The Government of Rajasthan have asked for an allocation of 20 MMSCMD from the HBJ pipeline for power generation, fertiliser and methanol projects, LPG Extraction, petrochemical projects and ceramic industries.

(c) The gas projected to be available along the HBJ pipeline is fully allocated and it is not feasible to consider additional allocation of gas at present.

#### Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

\*115. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether gross irregularities in the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana have been reported in various States particularly in Punjab;

(b) if so, the names of the other States where such irregularities in the implementation of employment schemes in rural areas have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) whether the Government gathered any factual information regarding financial irregularities committed under the employment schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRAN NAIDU)

(a) No, Sir. However, some complaints regarding irregularities in the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) have been received from States/UTs including Punjab in this Ministry.

(b) Complaints have been received from the following States during 1995-96 and 1996-97 :

- (i) Assam
- (ii) Bihar
- (iii) Gujarat
- (iv) Madhya Pradesh
- (v) Maharashtra
- (vi) Orissa
- (vii) Punjab
- (viii) Rajasthan
- (ix) Tamil Nadu
- (x) Uttar Pradesh

(c) The complaints are immediately forwarded to the State Government for taking appropriate remedial action.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Power Generation

\*116. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA .

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the generation capacity of power in hydel, thermal and nuclear areas in the country at the end of March, 1996;

(b) whether electricity is being generated as per its installed capacity;

(c) if not, the average generation of electricity in hydel, thermal and nuclear sectors on the basis of total installed capacity on national level, separately;

(d) whether the cost of production of electricity in the country has increased due to less production as compared to the total installed capacity; and

(e) if so, the approximate increase in the percentage of cost of production in these three sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The installed capacity for power generation in the country as on 31.3.1996 was as follows:

(in MW)

Total Capacity	Hydel Capacity	Thermal Capacity	Nuclear Capacity
83287.96	20976.09	60086.87	2225.00

(b) and (c). The targets for energy generation in billion units (BUs) as well as the Plant Load Factor for thermal & nuclear generation during 1995-96 was as under.

Category	Energy Generation (BU)		PLF(%)	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Thermal	297.0	299.6	62.3	63.0
Nuclear	7.8	8.0	47.2	46.5
Hydel	72.3	72.5		
Total	371.1	380.1		

(d) and (e). The fixed cost per unit of electricity increases with a reduction in the level of generation since this cost is spread over a smaller quantum of generation. However, with the increase in PLF of thermal stations which account for about 79% of total generation, from 55.3% in 1991-92 to 63% in 1995-96, the cost increase on this account has been minimal.

[English]

#### Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

\*117 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is proposed to reduce Government's shareholding in the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to 80%.

(b) the amount of expanded equity in the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation,

(c) whether some equity in the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has since been disposed of by inviting bids from the financial institutions/mutual funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the rates thereof;

(e) whether it is proposed to make a public offering of shares of ONGC in the domestic and international capital market; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) It has been decided in principle to reduce Govt's shareholding in the ONGC to 80% of equity capital

(b) the existing equity capital of ONGC is Rs. 1425.93 crores.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir, The details of ONGC shares disposed of by the Government by inviting bids from financial institutions/mutual funds, etc., are given below.

Bids invited during	No of shares sold	Total amount realised	Weighted average price realised
	(Nos)	(Rs in crores)	(Rs /share)
October, 1994	68,57,000	1051.53	1533.51
	(pre-bonus)		(pre-bonus)
October, 1995	1,92,810	5.15	267.09
	(pre-bonus)		(pre-bonus)

(e) ONGC do not have a proposal at present to make a public offering of shares.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Indo-Oman Pipeline Project

\*118. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the progress made so far in the Indo-Oman submarine pipeline project for which \$5 billion commitment has been made by the Omani Government;

(b) whether a delegation comprising the officials of his Ministry and Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) recently visited Iran to discuss the Iranian offer to export liquefied natural gas (LNG);

(c) if so, the outcome of the discussions held particularly in regard to the alternative of a deep-sea route for the pipeline, skirting the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Pakistan in view of Pakistan's intransigence for over a year, which has resulted in the project having got bogged down;

(d) whether the Indian team also made any study of Iran's offer to export LNG and setting up facilities involving massive costs; and

(e) if so, their findings?