

(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 liquified 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?