

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of 1997-98, has been reviewed by the Government, NTPC has met the major performance targets for 1997-98 in respect of gross generation, net profit to capital employed, gross margin, project implementation and utilisation of ash.

(c) The action plan for performance by NTPC incorporated in the MOU for the year 1998-99, *inter-alia*, includes the following:

Parameters	Target
Gross Generation—MUs	99000
Availability Factors(%)	84
Heat Rate coal based stations (Kcal/Kwh)	2480
Gross Marginal (Rs. crs.)	4460.01
Net Profit to Capital Employed (%)	6.85

(d) and (e): NTPC is continuously making profit since the start of commercial operations of its stations. They have been forced to back down its units in the Eastern Region for lack of demand and inadequate availability of gas for their plants in the Western Region. These factors has resulted in book losses for Anta, Auraiya & Kawas gas turbine stations during the Year 1995-96, and for Singrauli STPS, Korba STPS & Kawas STPS during the year 1996-97. For the Year 1997-98 the book losses were reported at Farakka STPS. However, as per NTPC these book losses would be wiped out once their claim for deemed generation are accepted.

(f) and (i): No, Sir. The news report in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 29th June, 1998 was reported out of context. Boiler tube failure in power plants in an accepted phenomenon the world over. The percentage loss of availability due to tube failure in NTPC stations is comparable to international utilities of USA and UK, and has come down to 1.89% in 1997-98 from 2.064% in 1996-97, which is considered as one of the best performances in the country. The tube failure rate expressed in terms of number of failures per thousand running hours of NTPC stations for the last three years is as under:

Year	Tube failure rate per thousand running hours
1995-96	0.351
1996-97	0.338
1997-98	0.294

(g) and (h): Do not arise.

UNESCO Conference on Cultural Policies

4716. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the UNESCO Inter-Governmental Conference on Cultural Policies for development which concluded at Stockholm on April 2, 1998;

(b) if so, the main participants in the conference;

(c) the subjects discussed in the conference; and

(d) the proposals put forward by the Indian Government in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) India participated in the UNESCO Inter-Governmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development held at Stockholm from 30th March, 1998 to 2nd April, 1998. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. L.M. Singhvi and also included Dr. R.V. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, Secretary to the Govt. of India in the Department of Culture.

(c) The Conference treated the main subject before it in terms of a number of sub-themes namely A Commitment to Pluralism, Cultural Policy and Research, Cultural Rights, Mobilising Resources, Culture, Children and Young People, International Cooperation in Cultural Policy, Cultural Creativity, the Media in Cultural Policy, Cultural Heritage and Culture and new Media Technologies.

(d) India Chaired the Session on the theme Cultural Heritage. It was also one of the twelve countries elected to the Drafting Committee, which finalised the Action Plan. India was able to include as an objective in the Action Plan prevention of illicit trade in antiquities on a world-wide basis and to prevent in particular the acquisition of unprovenanced objects by Museums and private collectors.

[Translation]

Financial Crisis at Kandla Port

4717. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kandla Port is passing through financial crisis at present as a result of which import and export of the country is being affected adversely;