

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Atomic power plants

*121. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Atomic Power Plants proposed to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the steps taken to prevent any mishap like that which occurred in Chernobyl?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Eighth Five Year Plan period and outlays are yet to be finalised. Apart from units already in operation, the second unit at Narora and 2×220 MWe units at Kakrapar will be commissioned and the units 3 & 4 at Rajasthan (2×220 MWe) and Kaiga 1 & 2 (2×220 MWe) will reach an advanced stage of construction during the Plan period. It is proposed to start construction of 4×220 MWe units at Kaiga (Kaiga 3 to 6), 2×500 MWe units at Tarapur (TAPP 3 & 4), 2×500 MWe units at Rajasthan (RAPP 5 & 6) and 2×1000MWe units at Kudankulam during the Plan period subject to

project financial sanction and availability of funds. A clear position will emerge regarding new units after the finalisation of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) Accident of the type that occurred at Chernobyl, was specific to the RBMK type reactors and due to special circumstances under which it was operated at that time. This cannot happen to our reactors under well regulated operating conditions. In the light of Chernobyl accident, detailed reviews carried out by the Department of Atomic Energy, have established the adequacy of the safety of Indian Nuclear Power Reactors. As a matter of abundant caution, emergency preparedness plans at operating stations have been strengthened.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Sir, the statement which is laid on the Table of the House narrates a few projects already under construction and a few projects which are to be undertaken with the clarification that the finalisation of the Eighth Five Year Plan may alter the position of the proposed units. I would like to know from the Minister about the present and the proposed plants and also the plants which are already under way. What is the result up-till now with regard to the cost and the actual output-total generation—of smaller units with a capacity of 200 Megawatts, bigger units with a capacity of 500 Megawatts and still bigger units of a larger capacity? I would also like to know whether or not it would be more expedient to get more and better power from bigger units, smaller units or medium units. I feel that Bihar and other areas have yet been neglected in this regard. Whatever may be the compulsions, why is Bihar neglected? If it is not so, is it proposed to include Bihar also in the category of States for locating nuclear power plants. We have been hearing now and then that a part of the Uranium had been passed on to our neighbours. Will Bihar also be included in that category?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I would like to say one thing. In our present schemes and plans, Bihar is not included. But this does not preclude it from being considered at some other stage, as we go along.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: What is the cause for exclusion?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We have some known reasons for exclusion at present. Commercial production had started in 1969 and at the stage of the Eighth Five Year Plan, we can break them into three categories. First category consists of projects which are already functioning. Second category projects are on-going schemes which are to be completed and as far as new projects are concerned, we have one or two plants which are under negotiation. For example, we have two plants (units) under negotiation with the Soviet Union in Tamil Nadu.

The hon. Member spoke about the capacity that is now available. For various plants, we have various installed capacities. I must say that not all of them are really working at maximum capacity. Some of them are running below capacity due to certain problems which have been faced in running them. In one or two places, the problem is breakdown of some of the equipments. For instance, we have got Tarapur plant which has got 64 per cent utilisation where the installed capacity is 160 MW per unit. Whereas we have got plants like the one unit in Kota in Rajasthan which has got only 15 per cent utilisation due to various problems which have been faced. Therefore, we do not really have a uniform capacity utilisation at the moment. We are trying to augment some of these plants in the Eighth Five Year Plan depending, of course, on the resources which will be made available to us when the Plan will be finalised.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: What about the cost-output ratio? My main question is about the cost-

output ratio in small, medium and bigger plants.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you referring to atomic plants?

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Yes, of course.

MR. SPEAKER: There is only one kind of plant...

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Even in the statement, 220 megawatt and 500 megawatt plants are mentioned.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, the costs for 220 megawatt and 500 megawatt plants are comparable. Investment naturally goes up with size and it is not as if a bigger plant is automatically cheaper. It is not so.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Now my second supplement is.....

MR. SPEAKER: You did ask two questions!

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: No Sir. It is not so. She omitted to answer a part of my first question and I repeated it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: That is right Sir. He repeated a part of his question.

MR. SPEAKER: You will be able to get more information when you talk to her in the chamber. Please sit down.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister of State has done very well in attempting to answer the first question. I am sure she will do equally well now. I have just three clarifications to seek. (a) What is the current status of our declared aim of 10,000 megawatts by 2000 AD? Are we behind or are we going to attain it? Have you given it up? If you have given it up, why? (b) What is the status of

RAPP 3 and 4 and RAPP 5 to 8? Are they on schedule? If they are not on schedule, why not? (c) There are reports of pollution...

MR. SPEAKER: Your question covers so much of area.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The original question also covers pollution. There are reports of pollution on account of discharge of water from the heavy-water plant at RAPP into Bhainsroad Panchayat Samithi which happens to be in my present.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow that last question.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The date of financial sanction for RAPP 3 and 4 was November 1986 and the original time schedules are May 1995 and November, 1995.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Are you on schedule?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: As I said earlier, it depends on the financial resources which are made available at different stages, to actually carry forth the programme which has been worked out. The Eighth Plan has not yet been finalised and negotiations are on. We hope that the Planning Commission will make available what is required for us to be on schedule, as far as these plants are concerned. At the moment, we are hoping to keep to the schedule of May 1995 and November 1995 for RAPP 3 and 4 respectively. With regard to RAPP 5 to 8, we are not quite sure at the moment because it depends on our resource position. I do not think we will be able to rush through unless resources are available as we go along.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: How will you achieve 10,000 Megawatts by 2000 AD? You started by saying that you would achieve 10,000 megawatts.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I did not say that. It depends on the resources which are available in the Eighth Plan. I cannot say what it will be, given the resource crunch at the moment.

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR: The hon. Minister has just now informed the House that the first reactor of the RAPP has given 15 per cent capacity. Is it in regard to the first reactor which was brought to India from Canada? That was an experimental stage. What about the second reactor which came to Rajasthan? It was originally envisaged that two power plants of 235 M.W. capacity each will be installed during the 7th Plan period. And four plants having a capacity of 500 M.W. each will be installed in 8th and 9th Plan period. So, I would like to know as to what is the schedule of all these plants which were sanctioned and originally thought that they will be commissioned in time.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, as far as the Kota plant is concerned, it is true that the first phase of it was with Canadian assistance. But after the 1974 test, they literally abandoned the project and we had to work it out on our own. We have been able to manage it, but as we went along there was some operating problem and, therefore, we have not been able to—as I said—achieve maximum utilisation at the first Kota plant.

About the other, answer is the same: resources permitting, we will be able to do.

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR: I am asking about the Reactor I.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The other is working all right. There is no problem with the other. Regarding the first one we did have problem. We have been able to proceed well the next phases which are on schedule.

With regard to RAPP-II, we have achieved 69 per cent utilisation as against 15% of RAPP-I.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, Tarapur is in my North-Bombay constituency. TAPP-I and TAPP-II units were constructed some 25 years ago and TAPP-III and TAPP-IV are under consideration. Problem with these two plants is that the villagers there have a grievance and they say that the land which was acquired 25 years ago, no settlement has yet been reached with regard to that. So, there is a lot of discontentment in giving the land. Will the Minister assure us that in view of this discontentment, the land problems will be settled in a time bound programme of 4 or 5 months so that the land could be made available for III and IV Plant in a convenient way.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I don't think these details I can answer straightaway. You have to give me notice but we will look into anything that is pending.

SHRI RAM NAIK: But the III and IV Plants will require land.

MR. SPEAKER: About the land acquisition, the hon. Minister is not having information. She will look into it. "Look into it" means an assurance.

SHRI K. V. THOMAS: Sir, the power production in Kerala depends upon the hydro-electric projects. So, when there is monsoon failure the power position of Kerala gets affected. So, I would request the Government of India to start an atomic power plant in Kerala. I would like to know whether it will be considered in the 8th Five year Plan or not.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: There was a visit by the Committee to Cannanore in Kerala and we had inspected the site which the Kerala Government had suggested. It is being looked at but I cannot say really that anything has been finalised or anything has been done.

[*Translation*].

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

would like to know whether Government have fixed some priorities in the matter of setting up Atomic Power Plants; if so, the details thereof and whether Bihar figures in those.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: That question has already been answered.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I have answered this before, but I may also tell the hon. Member that Bihar is part of Eastern Electricity region with large reserves of coal and where coal is available it is generally not taken as a priority area.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Are the Atomic Power Plants which are being erected or will be erected in the coming years the same type which were erected at Chernobyl where the mishap occurred? What steps are being taken to prevent such type of a mishap in future?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I would assure the hon. Member that no plant of the type that was installed at Chernobyl is being planned.

Industrial Development of Western Maharashtra

*122. **SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL:** Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made during the Seventh Five Year Plan for industrial development of the backward region of Western Maharashtra, particularly Solapur District, and its utilisation upto March, 1991;

(b) whether the allocation has been fully utilised and the developmental targets achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the targets within the shortest possible time?