

gave previously at Rs. 900 per thousand cubic metre ?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : The existing price of gas is Rs. 1,400 per thousand cubic metre for a long number of years. The rate of Rs. 900 was much before that. So, all these industries had come up when the price of gas was Rs. 1,400 per thousand cubic metre.

As per the report of the Kelkar Committee, which has gone into the issue of gas prices, the Government is considering to revise the price of gas. But we have proposed a price which is much lower than the global norms or economic price which will be economical for the oil producing countries companies and which is less than what was recommended by the Kelkar Committee.

We have not finally taken a view in this matter. It is pending for a decision with the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 573.

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU : How much time will it take, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : Now we have gone to the other question.

Upper Kolab Power Project

*573. **SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI :** Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the installed capacity of Upper Kolab Power Project in Orissa is under utilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken

for optimum utilization of its installed capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAD) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The present installed capacity of Upper Kolab Power Project of the Orissa State Electricity Board is 240 MW (3 × 80 MW). Unit-I is under forced outage since March, 1990 owing to operational problems of excessive vibration. The capacity presently available for generation is 160 MW.

(c) Based on investigation done by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. in association with other experts and project authorities, it has been decided to make certain design modification of the tailpool. These modifications are expected to take about 8 months. Rectification of the generating equipment of Unit-I and its re-erection would also be completed by then. It is expected that all three machines would be available for operation thereafter.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the statement laid on the Table of the House, the Hon. Minister has stated that one of the units of the Upper Kolab Power Project is closed since March, 1990 and it will take another eight months to commission this unit.

May I know from the Hon. Minister when was this fact brought to the notice of the Central Government ?

Secondly, what are the specific reasons that this much time will be

consumed when we are badly in need of power for everything in our developmental process?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this matter came before the Government of India, immediately a committee inclusive of the Central Electricity Authority was constituted to rectify the mistake. It was found out that there was a design mistake. It was referred for modification. This unit will be corrected within eight months.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: My specific question is that the time consumed has been very long. In March, 1991, it was brought to the notice of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: It was a design defect.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: If it is a design defect, may I ask the Hon. Minister, who has supplied the design? Is it not Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.—a company of the Government of India? If it is so, is it not possible on the part of the Bharat Heavy Electricals to combine itself with the loss and to replace the machinery within the shortest possible time?

If so, may I ask what is the loss which the State has suffered during this closure. Will he specifically assure this House that by this time, they are going to replace the design and this unit will start functioning?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Sir, the State has not suffered energy loss. It has suffered only in the matter of demand of that area. Now, this defect took place because of excessive vibration and the Central Electricity Authority, the BHEL and the Central Water Commission together found

out the defect. They are going to rectify it in the next eight months. When this defect will be rectified, it will come into operation.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: What is the normal installed capacity generation of the Upper Kolaba Power Project and what is the capacity after the defect has occurred since March, 1990? How are you going to meet the power shortage arising out of this defect?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 240 MW is the installed capacity of the Kolaba Power Project. And 30 per cent is the energy shortage in the entire Eastern Region and in Orissa. To meet this energy shortage, Government has set up several projects which have come into existence. Talcher is one of the projects which is under construction and 3000 MW power generation will take place after its completion. Thus, the problem of power shortage will be solved after this project will be completed.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has told in his reply that due to two defects Unit-I is not working since March 1990. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there were only two defects only, that is, in the tailpool and the generating equipment, or not. If there was a defect in the generating equipment, was the defect there in Unit-I only or everywhere in the project where that equipment was used? If so, why was this sort of equipment constructed and why no action has been taken to rectify it earlier?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: There are three units of the project and each unit has the capacity of 80 MW. There

is no defect in two units. The tailpool dam defect took place and the BHEL and the CEA investigated into the matter and have found that the defect is there. They are trying to rectify the mistake.

Funding of Sub-stations by Rural Electrification Corporation

*574. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme for the funding of 132 KV sub-stations by the Rural Electrification Corporation;

(b) if so, the guidelines thereof and the details of such sub-stations sanctioned so far, State-wise;

(c) whether any such proposal of the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board has been pending; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and when it is likely to be sanctioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAO) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d) 132 KV sub-stations are funded by both REC and PFC. A decision was taken in March, 1990, that 132 KV sub-stations serving predominantly rural loads, would be funded by REC and the rest by PFC.

The details of such sub-stations sanctioned since March, 1990 by the

REC, state-wise, is given below :—

1. Andhra Pradesh	1
2. Rajasthan	2
3. Orissa	4
4. Uttar Pradesh	4

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Apart from the sub-station of Andhra Pradesh indicated above, another 132 KV sub-station proposed by Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board for being set up at Madikonda in Warangal District has been approved for inclusion by the REC under the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund Credit of Japan.

(Translation)

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked from the hon. Minister as to what are the guidelines for sanctioning sub-stations but he has not replied to it. He has sanctioned eleven sub-stations. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the guidelines laid down for sanctioning sub-stations ?

SHRI KALP NATH RAO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Power had taken a decision in 1990 that 132 KV sub-stations serving rural loads would be funded by the Rural Electrification Corporation and the rest serving urban loads would be funded by Power Finance Corporation. Guidelines laid down in this regard are that when State Electricity Boards make recommendations, the Central Government take suitable decision on them.

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has mentioned in his