

power for long hours. The power supply to some localities was affected due to breakdowns of HT supply, transformers, snapping of the conductors, fault in the cables, overloading of the system etc. Keeping in view the extent of DESU's network, such dislocations in the power supply are unavoidable, particularly during the summer season due to the excess load. DESU, however, makes every possible effort to keep the extent of dislocation in the power supply to the minimum possible by carrying out extensive preventive maintenance and quick deployment of the breakdown gangs for restoration of the supply in the event of a breakdown in the supply of power to any locality.

Import of Electric Locomotives

7. SHRIDEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds given by the Asian Development Bank for the import of three phase electric locomotives in 1987 have remained unutilised and in the meantime the companies concerned have substantially raised the prices;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in importing these electric locomotives;

(c) the amount of the commitment charges, if any paid to the ADB for the non-utilisation of the loan so far; and

(d) the final decision, if any, taken by Government with regard to import of these locomotives?

THE MINISTERS OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). No, Sir, Though the loan was signed in December, 1987, the funds were programmed to be actually withdrawn from November, 1990 to January, '93. Additional time is likely to be

taken in the withdrawal of funds for 3 phase Electric Locomotives because of following reasons.

- (i) As these are state-of-the art locomotives, the evaluation and selection takes time.
- (ii) The necessity was considered by an Expert Group of Planning Commission when the evaluation of tenders were in advance stage of consideration.
- (iii) The validity of offers expired on 31.3.1990.
- (iv) ADB has suggested revised bids to be obtained.
- (v) the variation in price would be known when revised bids are received and evaluated.

(c) Upto December, 1989, commitment charges, on un-withdrawn amount of loan, amounting to about US \$ 7,67,050 have been adjusted against loan account.

(d) The issue is in close co-ordination with ADB with a view to finalising the procurement of locomotives early.

Private Sector Participation in Power Generation

***8. SHRI VARMANRAO MAHADIK:**
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed participation of private sector companies in power generation;

(b) if so, the details of the companies