

Hydel Power Generation in Tamil Nadu

*278. **SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ** : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor and decreasing trend persisting in hydel power generation in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the effective steps being taken to generate more hydro-electricity to augment the overall power supply in the State; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the performance of the Ennore and Tuticorin power stations in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Hydel generation in Tamil Nadu during 1985-86 and the first quarter of 1986-87 has been less than the programme on account of low reservoir levels.

(b) New hydro capacity totalling 576 MW is targetted to be commissioned in Tamil Nadu during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(c) Renovation and modernisation of Ennore and Tuticorin plants under a Centrally sponsored scheme has been undertaken for improving their performance.

Modernisation Programme for Industries in West Bengal

*279. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSJI** : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had recently stated at the Annual Meeting of Bharat Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta that modernisation programme in West Bengal and Eastern India was not satisfactory and District Industries Centres were not functioning effectively;

(b) if so, the basis and facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps suggested by him in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c). In the inaugural address to the Annual General Meeting of Bharat Chamber of Commerce, a reference was made to the unsatisfactory utilisation by industry in the North-Eastern Region of modernisation facility provided under the scheme of Technical Development Fund administered by the Ministry of Industry. The scheme aimed at assisting the existing industrial units with foreign exchange for import of capital goods, technical know-how etc. for purposes of modernisation and up-gradation of technology has not been utilised by the industry in the eastern region (except West Bengal) during the past few years. The Chamber of Commerce was requested to take up a quick study and come back to Government on the problems faced by the industrialists in this regard.

Telephone services in Port Blair

*280. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA** : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the urgent need for augmenting telephone services in Port Blair; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The telephone exchange at Port Blair has recently been expanded from 900 to 1200 lines.

An earth station is also working at Port Blair. Port Blair will be connected to the National Subscriber Dialling network during this year.

Working of Cochin Oil Refineries Ltd.

*281. **PROF. K. V. THOMAS** : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :