

dedicating his life for the cause of the country including eradication of communalism and untouchability; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). While no commemorative stamp on rural poor as such has been issued, the Department of Posts, has however, since independence, commemorated a number of illustrious personalities, who dedicated their entire lives for the upliftment of the rural poor, including eradication of communalism and untouchability, like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, E.V. Ramasami, Jayaprakash Narayan, Kamraj, etc. Several themes, which are relevant to the upliftment of the rural poor have also been depicted on Indian postage stamps, like Charkha, Panchayati Raj, Centenary of the Postcard, etc. The theme of the 6th Definitive Series of Indian Postage Stamps was Agriculture and Rural Development.

International Symposium on Automation and Instrumentation for Power Plants

*912. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the International Symposium on Automation and Instrumentation for Power Plants held in Bangalore on 15 December, 1986; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The main recommendations made at the Symposium relate to introduction of computer based techniques in power stations, the need for strengthening transmission systems and reducing T & D losses, strengthening of load despatch facilities, introduction of modern load management techniques,

inter-connected grid operations, improving training facilities, and closer interaction between R&D institutions and State Electricity Boards, etc.

(b) Improvements in the automation and instrumentation of power plants is a continuing process and the recommendations of the Symposium in this regard have been noted.

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Power Generation Capacity in Bihar

*915. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which power generation capacity of various power plants in Bihar has been utilised during 1986-87;

(b) whether this was less or more than the national average;

(c) the steps being taken for maximum utilisation of their capacity;

(d) whether Bihar State Electricity Board will be able to mobilise adequate resources to increase power generation in Bihar; and

(e) the losses suffered by the Bihar State Electricity Board in 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). During 1986-87 the Plant Load Factor of thermal stations in Bihar was 33.3% as compared with the all-India average 53.2%. The capacity utilisation of hydro stations mainly depends on their reservoir levels.

(c) and (d). The measures taken for maximum utilisation of existing thermal capacity include implementation of a renovation and modernisation programme, early stabilisation of newly commissioned units, training of power station personnel, improved supply of coal, spare parts and implementation of modern techniques of

operation and maintenance of plant and equipment. Bihar State Electricity Board is making efforts to mobilise the resources necessary to increase power generation in the State.

(e) The commercial losses of Bihar State Electricity Board during 1986-87 are provisionally estimated at about Rs. 147 crores.

Scheme to develop Coal Resources

*917. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to develop coal resources in the country;

(b) if so, whether any long term scheme has been drawn up;

(c) if so, the cost of the programme as projected; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government to check pilferage of coal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Medium and long term plans have been drawn up for development of coal resources in the country. As per these projections, annual coal production will increase from the present level of 165.79 m.t. to 226 m. tonnes, 325 m. tonnes and 417 m. tonnes by the end of Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan periods respectively. An allocation of Rs. 6700.58 crores (including Rs. 120 crores for R & D) has been made in the approved Seventh Five Year Plan.

(d) Some of the steps taken to check pilferage of coal are:—

- (i) Carrying out surprise checks;
- (ii) Detection through flying squads consisting of Police, watch and ward staff of Coal companies and

Central Industrial Security Force personnel;

(iii) Cancellation of licences of private coal depots within a radius of 8 kms by the district authorities;

(iv) Stricter regulation of supply of domestic coal to consumers;

(v) Departmentalisation of internal transport of coal/coke from pitheads to railway sidings.

Setting up of Power Project at Yelahanka near Bangalore

*918. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have finally cleared the proposal to set up a power project based on natural gas at Yelahanka near Bangalore;

(b) the basis on which decision has been taken about the supply of equipment; and

(c) the expected time of the commencement of the project work?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). Approval in principle has been accorded to Government of Yelahanka's proposal to set up a 120 M.W. gas turbine plant at Yelahanka based on liquid petroleum fuel, subject inter alia to the conditions that the capital cost of the generating sets would be borne by the Karnataka Electricity Board, and if the plant is permitted to be imported, international competitive bidding procedure would be followed based on free foreign exchange.

(c) It is expected that the State Electricity Board will commence work on the project by December, 1987.