

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: I have mentioned about this matter in my earlier reply also that by the end of the Sixth Plan we hope to have installed generating capacity in the North Eastern Region to the extent of 1003 MWH. So, after the completion of the Sixth Plan, instead of deficit there will be surplus power in the North Eastern Region.

So far as the Western and Eastern Regions are concerned, the hon. Member is aware of the problems that are arising in the Eastern Region and the advantages of the Western Region. If I repeat them, he will get angry. The main problem in the Eastern Region is the labour problem. Because of that the plant load factor in the Eastern Region is lower than in the Western Region. This is causing shortage.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Earlier his senior Minister has said that one thermal power station would be established near Asansol-Raniganj coalfields pithead. But this has not been included in the list. May I know whether one thermal power station would be established near the Asansol-Raniganj coalfields pithead?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: We plan to establish it and the work has already started on the Farakka super thermal power station which will go on up to 2000 to 3000 MW. It will cover all the demands of the hon. Member.

Financial Assistance to Gujarat for Generation from Tidal Waves

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*399. **SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD.**

SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government or Gujarat Electricity Board has made a proposal for financial assistance towards undertaking the survey and feasibility project about finding energy from tidal waves in the Gulf of Cambay and Kutch; and

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been approved and the amount of assistance sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a). Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat had submitted in early 1977 at an estimated cost of Rs. 82.5 lakhs a proposal for conducting investigations required for collection of data for the mathematical model studies for tidal power stations in the Gulf of Cambay and Gulf of Kutch.

(b) Since the work of tidal power development would involve a number of specialists agencies to carry out investigations and studies which needed coordination a Standing Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CEA was constituted to consider further course of action for coordinating investigations for tidal power development in the country, formulate programme of investigations and studies relating to tidal power development and make recommendations to the Government as might be required. Based on the report of the Committee, Government have recently approved a proposal for taking up investigations and studies in the Gulf of Kutch to establish the feasibility for generating energy from tidal waves, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 2.18 crores. These studies would be carried out by various institutions and the coordination of the project will be done by the Central Electricity Authority. The funds would be made available by the Central Government for this purpose.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware that Dr. Edward Lumsdaine, Director of the Energy, Environment and Resources Centre at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (USA), is at the moment visiting this country lecturing on the subject. Has the Government had any talks with him? Does the Government wish

to undertake such a project in collaboration with the USA Government? Is the Government aware that the Australian Government is also undertaking similar studies to get benefits from this project?

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

Steps to bring more efficiency to the
Bombay Doordarshan

*394. DR VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are only two out-dated VTRS in the Bombay Doordarshan;

(b) whether addition of two new VTRS would reduce load on editing material and generate more revenue to commercials; and

(c) what steps Government have planned to bring more efficiency to the Bombay Doordarshan unit?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir. Out of the 3 VTRS in use at DDK Bombay, only one is old and is being replaced.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Addition of equipment and replacement of those which have serv-

ed their useful life has been planned. All efforts are made to see that the equipment is maintained in optimum working condition and replacement where due is being undertaken. 4 additional recorders for use with O.B. van and the studio are being procured.

Air Service for South and South
East Asia

*400. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA RATH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the establishment of regional broadcasting service by All India Radio in South and South-East Asia;

(b) if so, when this proposal is going to be implemented; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Government are not considering any new proposal for the establishment of a regional broadcasting service of All India Radio in South and South-East Asia. However, programmes are being broadcast in the External Services Division for South and South-East Asia as per details being laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Statement

Foreign language Services to South and South-East Asia

Name of the Service	Daily duration		Timings in IST	Countries to which directed
	Hrs.	Mts.		
1. Baluchi	½		1830—1900	Pakistan
2. Burmese	1½		0615—0645 1645—1745	Burma