

other non-conventional energy sources are also under implementation. These include development and demonstration of water pumping wind mills, small hydro technologies, battery powered vehicles, ocean and geothermal energy systems, etc. A country wide project for the installation of family type biogas plants is already in progress. Community/institutional biogas plants are being set up at various locations on experimental basis.

A number of fiscal incentives and promotional measures have also been taken to accelerate the development and utilisation of renewable energy sources in the country.

Poor performance of 210 MW BHEL sets

*342. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the claims made by both the Industry Ministry and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, the performance of 210 MW sets continued to be poor;

(b) whether of the 13 such sets commissioned between 1981-82, and 1982-83 the poor performance of such units has caused the Centre and State Electricity Boards a loss of Rs. 44 crores;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Energy Minister which is installing more and more 210 MW sets is worried over the performance of these units; and

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for the poor performance of these units and what remedial steps Union Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Not exactly, Sir.

(b) It is difficult to quantify the precise loss of revenue, but it is roughly estimated to have been of the order of Rs. 6 crores.

(c) No, Sir. Rather, the performance of the 210 MW sets is steadily improving.

(d) There were initial difficulties on account of deficiencies in the quality of equipment and operation and maintenance. As a result of steps taken to improve the performance through constitution of task forces, visits of roving teams and implementation of time-bound plant renovation programmes, the performance of these sets has steadily improved.

Linking of all State Capitals with New Delhi by Telex

*343. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme was framed by Government to link all the State Capitals by telex with New Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of district headquarters, State-wise, which are linked by telex with New Delhi; and

(c) the details regarding the progress made and how far Government have achieved success in their targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Hindustan Lever Limited

*344. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigations are in progress under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act against Hindustan Lever Limited;

(b) if so, the number and details of such investigations and the progress thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that responsible agencies in the trade and other connected public institutions have offered to assist.