

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.

Government in the matter of such investigations; and

(d) if so, to what use, if any, such assistance has been put to?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The investigations by the MRTP Commission in the following cases against M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited, are in progress:

(1) A complaint received from M/s. Cheap General Store, Rewari on 21-5-1982 alleging that M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited have been indulging in the restrictive trade practices of tie-up sales by forcing the consumers to purchase the slow moving product of Life-buoy soap with the fast moving product of Lux soap.

(2) A complaint dated 21-5-1982 was received from M/s. Raichandsa Gulabchandsa Jain, Khandwa, M.P. alleging tie-up sales by compelling retail dealers to purchase detergent goods with bathing soaps.

(3) Under a letter dated 13-11-1982 addressed to the Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Inderjit Gupta, M.P. alleged that M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited are indulging in full line forcing, tie-up sales and uniformity of prices.

(4) The Commission has also instituted an investigation on the basis of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2674 answered on 19-10-1982 regarding a News-item: "Spurious packets of Nirma Washing Powder" published in the magazine 'India Today' (September 1-15, 1982).

(c) and (d). No Sir except that Shri Inderjit Gupta, M.P. in his letter dated 13-11-1982 addressed to the Law Minister, has *inter-alia*, stated that in case the Commission finds that its investigations are blocked for one reason or the other, they may get in touch with him. The Commission is aware of this offer.

Agreement with Shell International for Bombay High

*345. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have signed a switch deal with the Shell International for one million tonnes of Bombay High crude;

(b) if so, the details of the terms thereof; and

(c) how do they compare with the terms of contracts made for exporting Bombay High crude in 1982?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c). The Indian Oil Corporation has entered into a term contract with Shell International Trading Company, London, for exchange of about 1 million tonnes of Bombay High crude oil with Arab Light crude oil during the period March 1983 to February 1984. The terms of this contract compare favourably with the terms obtained under the term contract entered into in 1982 for the exchange of 1 million tonnes of Bombay High crude oil with Arabian crude oil.

Contingency Plan of Oil India Ltd. for Development of Mahanadi Basin

*346. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Ltd. has prepared a Rs. 1,000-crore contingency plan to develop the Mahanadi basin offshore for development of petroleum;

(b) if so, the details of the contingency plan; and

(c) whether Government have supported this?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c). Oil India Limited has formulated a prespective plan to explore for hydrocarbons in different areas allocate to them including