

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BAROOAH): (a) and (b). Of the four foreign oil companies owing refineries in India, the Assam Oil Company had earlier applied for the expansion of its refinery at Digboi. The Government did not accept this proposal in the extent of the consideration of the overall question of setting up of additional refinery capacity in Assam culminating in the decision to put up a new refinery at Bongaigaon. The other three foreign oil companies i.e., Burmah Shell, Esso and Caltex claimed that they have between them spare capacity of about 3 million tonnes per annum. The question of utilising the additional capacity claimed to be available at these refineries will be considered by the Government at the appropriate time when the demand for products in the economic supply areas of these refineries justifies such utilisation.

Estimated Power Requirements in North Bengal Districts

*596. **SHRI R N BARMAN:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey of the power requirements in North Bengal District; and

(b) if so the main feature thereof and how Government propose to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a): Yes, Sir. The West Bengal State Electricity Board had carried out a quick survey in July/August, 1972 of North Bengal area regarding the power requirements.

(b) The main features of the survey are given in the statement enclosed.

The following steps are proposed to be taken to meet the demands:—

- (i) The State Electricity Board have installed/are installing some second hand diesel sets to meet the immediate shortage. The derated capacity of these is about 3.5 MW.
- (ii) Efforts are being made to get about 10 MW power from Bihar and 3 MW from Assam State Electricity Boards.
- (iii) 2x3.5 MW sets have been permitted for import to reinforce the power supply position in North Bengal.
- (iv) It has been proposed to set up a new thermal power station at Dalkhola with an installed capacity of 2 x 120 MW units to supply power to North Bengal and North Bihar.

Statement

	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Installed capacity (MW)	36.8	49.5	49.5	49.5	51.5	51.5
Peak capacity (MW)	21.5	32.1	35.5	37.7	39.7	40.7
Peak Load—MW	18.9	34.0	46.0	56.0	66.0	77.0
Gross Margin—%	13.7	5.6	22.8	32.7	40.0	47.0
Energy potential—MkWh	47.9	87.6	130.5	144.0	149.8	140.8
Energy requirement—MkWh	44.5	89.6	129.0	161.0	196.0	235.0
Surplus (Deficit)—MkWh	3.4	(2.0)	1.5	(17)	(46.2)	(85.2)