

Setting up of an Atomic Power Station in Gujarat

1328. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken in regard to the setting up of an atomic power station in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The final recommendations of the Site Selection Committee in regard to the setting up of an atomic power station in the Western region (which also includes Gujarat State) are under the consideration of the Government.

Reported clashes between Naxalites and Police in Bihar

1329. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether clashes between the Naxalites and the police have been reported from Bihar recently;

(b) if so, whether Government have been able to locate the different spheres where the Naxalites are still operating and spreading the cult of violence, and

(c) the steps taken to curb their activities and the results achieved so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Naxalites have been operating and spreading the cult of violence in parts of Patna, Bhojpur and Madhubani districts of Bihar.

(c) Appropriate measures in the shape of intensified police patrols, raids and searches have been undertaken to locate and effectively deal with these extremist elements. A number of Naxalites have been arrested and large quantities of arms, ammunition, explosive and Naxalite literature have been recovered.

Self-sufficiency in Power Supply

1330. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE. Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is on the verge of achieving self-sufficiency in power supply;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether power supply to the industries in Maharashtra was not sufficient which had affected the production; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There has been a significant improvement in the total power generation in the country. Situation is comfortable in Northern, Eastern and Southern Regions with marginal shortages in Western Region.

(c) and (d). There is energy shortage of less than 5 per cent in Maharashtra. The capacity shortage in relation to demand is larger. The situation is being managed through suitable staggering of loads to the utmost extent possible to minimise impact of shortage on production and essential services.