

about one lakh more wagons in the Fifth Plan period. The total number of wagons that the Railways are holding today is 4,43,998

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA Have you placed orders for one lakh wagons?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI Our requirement would be one lakh wagons, but we have placed orders so far for 17,000

SHRI A P SHARMA A few days back it appeared in the newspapers that 33 per cent of the total number of wagons that the Railways have—the hon Minister has said that it is about 4 lakhs—are under repair. But today he has said that it is about four per cent. May I know which one is correct? Because, the statement that had appeared in the *Statesman* a few days back has not been contradicted. Another thing that I would like to know is what is the programme for fulfilling this target of one lakh more wagons that we may require in the Fifth Plan period.

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI— I am sorry the hon Member who is so much associated with the Railways, does not understand the difference between periodical overhaul and repairs. The percentage of wagons under repairs is 4.4 approximately and the percentage in respect of overdue periodical overhaul is 2.2.

SHRI A P SHAMA Overhaul is an other term for repair. What difference does it make? They are also not in running condition.

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI If a wagon becomes sick, it is sent to the repair shop, it is off the line. If a wagon is to go for periodic overhaul after six years, it may go after seven years but it is on the track itself.

MR. SPEAKER Shri Panna Lal Baidyal—not here

Shri Gajadhar Majhi—also absent

Shri Raghunandan Lal Bhatia—absent

Shri P Gangadeb—also not there

Shri Mohiander Singh Gill—absent.

Shri Deviander Singh Garcha—also absent

Shri S R Damani

Power Generation During Current Year

*455 **SHRI S R DAMANI** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether the position of power generation has shown any improvement during the current years in relation to last year; and

(b) if so what are the reasons for the continuing power cuts in several States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) (a) and (b) There has not been any significant improvement during the current year in power generation, compared to the last year. The power supply position in the country continues to be difficult mainly due to an increase in the demand for power, and delays in commissioning new projects. On account of this restrictions on power supply are continuing in many States.

SHRI S R DAMANI It is very strange. Sir that last year due to shortage of power our production suffered to a great extent in agriculture as well as in industry.

The hon Minister has said that this year the supply position will improve. Now in reply to my question, it has been said that due to the increased demand the shortage is continuing. May I know from the hon Minister whether he has investigated the causes for such shortages and what action has been taken to improve the generating power?

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD The Ministry has discussed with all the Electricity Boards and the officers of the State Governments in great detail the shortfall in power. There are two very

important reasons. One is inadequate maintenance and the second one is delay in the commissioning of certain projects which were supposed to come within the Fourth Five Year Plan period. In consultation with the Central Water & Power Commission the State Electricity Boards have drawn up a procedure for better maintenance of the existing units and also steps have been taken to expedite the commissioning of the new projects and it is hoped that in the coming months the power position will improve.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: The hon. Minister has just said that certain power projects which were to be commissioned have been delayed. May I know as to by what time these projects will be commissioned. I would also like to know how many projects are at present working at less than 60 per cent of its efficiency.

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD: Of the new projects which are supposed to come in the near future, one is the Badarpur power station. Another one is at Bhatinda. One more is at Faridabad I have not got the full list of projects which are supposed to come up this year.

As I just now mentioned, steps are being taken to expedite the commissioning of these projects.

As far as generation is concerned, I do not have the list of projects which are generating at less than 60 per cent of their capacity.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would like to know whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that in UP, because of the drastic power cut, in Kanpur alone, the fertiliser factory is closed and the textile workers are working only for one shift and nearly 54,000 workers are on the streets and even the defence production is going to be affected seriously. This is also happening in Banaras and all other places, in the whole of U.P. I would like to know what positive steps are being taken to avoid this crisis be-

cause ultimately this will result in all-round loss.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): We have been trying to help U.P. by discussing this matter with the neighbouring States and persuading them to supply power to U.P. During the last few months, on an average, something like 2.5 to 3 million of units a day are being supplied to U.P. by the neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana, M. P. and Bihar. Sometimes it goes up to 3.5 etc. Part of the power of Badarpur is going to U.P. We have also given whatever assistance has been asked for by the U.P. Government. At Haridwar when there was a breakdown they had asked for an officer and we sent the Member (Thermal) from here to help them to overcome the difficulties. So, these are the things which are done to help them to overcome the difficulties that have cropped up. We are aware of the problem and we do try to help them as much as we can, as we have done for the last few months.

SHRI P. K. DEO: Is it a fact that many of the remunerative hydel-power schemes have been kept pending consideration of the Government on the plea that these are under consideration because of the Krishna-Godavari Commission or because of the Narmada Commission, etc. Sir, it is heartening to find that the present Minister has taken an initiative in the matter to give clearance to some of the projects and has called a meeting of the CEs of the various States so that a compromise formula could be arrived at. So, in view of the anxiety and in view of the fact that the country is passing through severe power crisis, may I request the Minister to consider the inclusion of the Upper Indravati Project which would result in power generation costing 3 paise per unit? Would he expedite it as early as possible?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I think the hon. Member has made the suggestion to me personally also. I have promised him that we will examine this further.