

The Government of India constituted, in 1969, the Power Economy Committee including top experts available in the country and also a few foreign experts. The Committee was to review, amongst other things, the conditions of power supply including reliability, voltage fluctuations/etc., in the country. The report of the Committee is awaited.

(b) The cost of power generation and the overall rates for sale of power are reported to have been brought down progressively over the years in the USA and in Canada. In England, however, the cost of power had been rising since World War II. The upward trend appears to have been arrested since 1968-69 with the installation of much larger and technologically more efficient plants. In India too, the cost of power generation and supply have been progressively rising.

(c) Following are the measures which the Government have introduced to reduce the cost of power :

(i) Introduction of larger sized generating units and EHV transmission lines wherever feasible.

(ii) Development of Grid networks in each State and Region enabling integrated operation of various power systems.

(ii) Better coordination of the available hydro, thermal and nuclear generating plants.

The Power Economy Committee set up by the Government in 1969 with the main objective of reviewing techno-economic aspects of power supply in India has examined the various aspects of the problem and their report is expected shortly.

Indigenous manufacturing units are being geared up to manufacture the larger sizes of generating units that would be required.

Delays in Deliveries of Power Plants vis-a-vis Fourth Plan Targets

107. SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Electrical Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing Industry are fully equipped to supply power transmission, distribution and utilisation equipments etc. for an annual 3 million Kws increased capacity;

(b) the details of shortfall in installed generating capacity in terms of time table for commissioning power generating projects; and

(c) the delays in deliveries of power plants vis-a-vis the Fourth Plan's commissioning targets as well as delivery time committed by the suppliers to buyers and the actual delay in respect of each power generating plant during the last three years ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) An assessment made in 1968 indicated that the indigenous manufacturing capability for power transmission, distribution and utilisation equipment, etc. existed for an annual growth in installed generating capacity of 2.5 million KW. The Fourth Five Year Plan envisages the addition of generating capacity of 9.2 million KW (of which 4.9 million KW is to be supplied by the indigenous manufacturers) representing an average annual growth of 1.8 million KW.

(b) and (c). It has assessed that shortfalls in the commissioning of power stations during the Fourth Plan would be of the order of 1.8 million KW; out of this 0.7 million KW is in respect of projects tied to imported generating plant and equipment and the balance of 1.1 million KW is in respect of projects tied to indigenous gene-

rating plant and equipment. In the former category delays in the commissioning of projects are not due to delays in deliveries of generating plant and equipment. In the latter category, out of 1.1 million KW about 0.76 million KW is in respect of projects where indigenous generating plant and equipment cannot be delivered earlier to enable the commissioning of the projects by the end of the Fourth Plan. The remaining 0.34 million KW is in respect of the following projects where the schedules of deliveries have been extended during the last three years as indicated below :—

Name of the Project	Capacity	Deferment period (Approx.)
Vaitarana Hydro	60 MW	3 months
Koyna Hydro	80 MW	18 months
Baira Siul— I	66 MW	3 months
II	66 MW	3 months
III	66 MW	6 months

Efforts are being made to improve the delivery dates so as to reduce the shortfall to the maximum extent practicable.

Pre-Election Combing Operations in Calcutta and 24-Parganas District of West Bengal

108. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that large-scale combing operations assisted by the Army were carried out in different areas of the city of Calcutta and of the District of 24-Parganas prior to mid-term election in West Bengal in 1971;

(b) whether such combing operations resulted in harassment and arrest of innocent public;

(c) whether such combing operations led to wide-spread panic among the public, and

(d) if so, whether Government have made any assessment about the extent of hampering of the free and fair election in West Bengal and advantage gained by the Congress led by Shri Jaggivan Ram ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS, DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). According to information received from the Government of West Bengal, such combing operations were carried out in different parts of the State. During the operations, illicitly held arms ammunitions and explosives were seized and persons wanted specific cases were arrested. While some inconvenience might have been caused due to the cordoning of the areas, the operations did not result in any harassment of the innocent citizen.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

12.3 hrs.

Resolution Re : Recent Development in East Bengal

MR. SPEAKER : Before we take up the calling attention motion, the Prime Minister will move a Resolution on Bangla Desh. There will be no discussion and it will be adopted.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Sir, the tragedy which has overtaken our valiant neighbours in East Bengal so soon after their rejoining over their electoral victory has united us all in grief for their suffering, concern for the wanton destruc-