

gone up this year upto 48.7 lakhs, from 39 lakhs to 48.7 lakhs. Since we are having extra production, we are encouraging exports. Last year, the export was worth Rs. 70 crores. But according to the hon. Member, the rates are very high. That is why, we allowed the import of these items to road transport corporations and some other organisations under OGL in order to control the domestic prices. We are not going to impose any restrictions. We are lifting all production controls on tyre industry. They can manufacture any number of tyres. Actually only two houses i.e. Modis and Goenkas, are controlling 50 to 60 per cent of the domestic production of tyres. That is why, we gave letters of intent to nearly 13 to 14 new companies. When the production in these companies starts, the prices of tyres will come down. In the meanwhile, we have allowed imports under OGL.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Tyre is not a luxury item but it is a consumer items which is needed by buses and taxis used by the average people of this country. I am dealing with some of these big houses as a union. These big companies—Modis, Goenkas, MRF—are controlling about 75 per cent of the production of tyres in the country. I know that they are manipulating prices by keeping one of the factories closed on one pretext or the other. This is discussed in this House many times. What the hon. Minister has said is not correct because the input cost has not gone up that much as the cost of tyres. It is the duty of the Government to give details to this House. We do not want theoretical answers that this has gone up or that has gone up. Government had appointed one Pradhan Committee to fix prices and give suggestions to the Government. One of the important suggestions given to the Government is that like DTC and Delhi Administration they must have their own tyre factories in their units because their demand is fantastic. 7 or 8 suggestions have been given by this Committee to the Government. Have those suggestions been accepted by the Government? If so, are they going to act accordingly or not?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The prices of nylon tyre cord, carbon black and rubber have gone up both internationally as well as domestically. If you want the prices of these items, I will place a statement on the Table of the House.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: What about Committee's report?

Meeting of State Electricity Boards in Delhi

*372. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Electricity Boards held a meeting in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, whether the problem of power shortage in the country was considered at the meeting and any suggestions for improving the power position and devising steps to economise the consumption of energy were made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) to (c). a statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The National Council of Power Utilities, a Society of State Electricity Boards, had organised a Seminar on the 22nd December, 1988, at New Delhi, on the Power Development in the Eight Plan—Strategies, Issues and Options.

(b) and (c). Some of the important suggestions relating to improvement of power position and management of demand, made in the Seminar were:—

(1) Reversal of the preset trend of according higher priority to thermal power development at the cost of hydel power.

- (b) Need for strong inter-regional transmission lines and effective load management measures for optimal utilisation of available generation.
- (3) Need for effective load management measures for optimum utilisation of available generation.
- (4) Provision of adequate load despatching and communication facilities.
- (5) Provision of adequate funds for cost effective schemes like renovation and modernisation of thermal units, uprating of hydel units and transmission and distribution loss reduction.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, National Council of Power Utilities, a society of State Electricity Boards, had organised a seminar on the 22nd December, 1988. Our Cabinet Minister, Shri Sathe and the Minister of State participated in that. The seminar was organised to decide the policy to be adopted, mobilisation of resources and how the targets fixed for the Eighth Five Year Plan can be achieved. I would like to know the suggestions made at the seminar and the reactions of the Government thereto.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: It was decided in the seminar organised by the National Council of Power Utilities on 22nd December, 1988 in New Delhi that the 40-60 ratio of Hydro-Thermal mix should be achieved, hydro-electric production should be given preference, regional transmission centre should be strengthened and efforts should be made to reduce the transmission and distribution losses. It was also suggested that rural electrification should be given priority. Besides this, it was also decided that Establishment of Computerised Load Centre should be run in efficient and effective manner. A suggestion to this effect that

the Central Government should provide adequate funds to Electricity Boards for modernisation and renovation of the plants was also made.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the reactions of the Government on the recommendations received. I will ask my second supplementary after I get reply to this question.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: The hon. Member has asked ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: What all the Minister has said forms part of the written answer, Sir....(*Interruptions*) Mr. Kalpnath Rai, Please learn to give answers.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Please listen to me..(*Interruptions*) He has asked the question as to what were the suggestions. Did he ask this question or not? When he has asked a question, it is my duty to reply to that question(*Interruptions*)....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kalpnath Rai, you are supposed to answer to him only.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Sir, the Government is actively considering the suggestion and we will try to implement it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as I understand a target of 38,000 MW electricity production has been fixed for the Eighth Five Year Plan but the resources available with us are not sufficient. Despite the best efforts made by the Central Government, there is no sign of improvement in the conditions of the Electricity Boards. We will require about Rs. 1 lakh crores to achieve the target of 38,000 MW electricity production in the country. Keeping all these things in view, May I know from the hon. Minister as to how is he going to mobilise the required resources to achieve this ambitious target during the

eighth five year plan?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: It is correct that we have fixed a target of production of 38,000 MW electricity during the eighth five year plan. We had a target of 4.5 thousand MW of the hydro-power generations during seventh five year plans which we have been able to achieve. The present target of hydro-electric power generation is 9500 MW. We shall try to make plans to meet the expenditure from our internal resources to achieve this target. We have made bi-lateral agreements with certain countries and we are going to have some more bi-lateral agreements for which negotiations are on. Thereafter, contracts will be given on turn-key basis and thus we will thrive to achieve our target. We had a target of 22,000 MW electric power generations during seventh five year plans which we have been able to achieve and we will make all efforts to achieve a target of 38,000 MW electric generation fixed for the eighth five year plan.

SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister gave a cursory reply to the supplementary question asked by Shri Panika regarding the reaction of the Government on the recommendations made at Seminar organised by the National Council. Now, apart from the recommendations made at the Seminar I would like to know the reaction of the Government on the implementation of Rural Electrification Programme. We found the progress of the programme very slow and its over all condition very pitiable. The poles have been erected in the villages but there are no electric wires, no connections. The Government had a plan to provide at least one bulb, free of charge, in Harijan settlements of the villages. A provision to this effect was made in last year's budget but I understand that the Government has taken no steps in this direction so far. May I know whether the Government proposes to take action to provide electricity in the Harijan settlement of the villages during this year.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Mr. Speaker, so far as

the rural electrification work is concerned, it falls in the purview of the State Government but we have provided sufficient funds to the State Governments through R.E.C. You can not find a single State Government who has not been given adequate funds. What actually happened is that some of the states did not utilise fully the money provided to them through R.E.C. This is the factual position. Therefore, there had been no delay on the part of the Central Government. One more thing regarding 'Kutir Jyoti'. I would like to inform the Hon. Member in this regard that the money is given by the Central Government on the basis of one bulb one cottage in Harijan and tribal settlements.

[English]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Sir, the transmission loss in India is much more compared to other developing countries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the percentage of transmission loss in India as compared to the developing countries. May I know further from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that from the coal available in Singrauli, Andhra Pradesh, only 6% has been given to Andhra Pradesh? Further, recently, in one of the meetings with the hon. Prime Minister, it was stated that the State Electricity Board of Andhra Pradesh would give Rs. 50 crores to N.T.P.C. I would like to know whether it is also a fact and want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I need a special notice for this. I will supply all the information that you want.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: What about my first part of question, that is, transmission loss?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The transmission losses in the country are about 21% when compared to other countries where they are approximately 8% to 10%.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, I am very happy to know that some of the recommen-

dations of this Seminar are very useful and after their implementation, it will help the States which are facing acute power shortage. Sir, Kerala is one State which is facing acute power shortage. But we are sorry to note that 60% of the hydel power generation capacity of Kerala State has not been utilised where a number of hydel projects are pending for sanction, especially the Silent Valley and a few other projects which are not sanctioned for ecological reasons. There has been a news item recently that some of the exclusive species of the Silent Valley have been burnt because of the wild fire caused in the forest. So the ecological factor and other requirements are also not there. If the scheme for the Silent Valley is approved, it will go a long way in saving Kerala from acute power shortage. The thermal plant power production is costly and in a State where the density of population is very high, in Kerala, it will create environmental problem also. The only possibility is to help the State by sanctioning hydel power project. May I know from the hon. Minister that on the basis of the recommendations, the project proposals submitted by the Kerala Government will be considered favourably.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As far as Kerala is concerned, it is true that hydel energy is very important and that has been their main source of energy. But I think the House will also appreciate that we will have to take care of the environmental impact particularly of the forests like the Silent Valley because, otherwise, you can have a tremendous environmental damage. So, all these angles will have to be considered while accepting the projects in Kerala, for that matter in any part of the country. Our effort is to see that there is a proper balance, that we have hydel projects, smaller run of the river projects without adversely affecting the environment and also making power available. That is why we have granted two thermal plants for Kerala and they will be coming up. We will take all precautions to see that adequate power supply is made available by all sources of power including nuclear power.

New Car Manufacturing Projects

*373. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMBHAI PATEL:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications submitted to Union Government for manufacturing new cars;

(b) the decision taken by Government thereon;

(c) the details of new car manufacturing projects sanctioned during 1988-89; and

(d) if no project has been sanctioned, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Since 1985, Government have received 21 applications for industrial licence/foreign collaboration for manufacture of new cars.

(b) No final decision has been taken on these proposals.

(c) Maruti Udyog Ltd. has been permitted to take up a project for the manufacture of a 3-box car with 1000 cc engine. The project envisages an investment of Rs. 97.90 crores and production of 30,000 cars per annum.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMBHAI PATEL: Hon. Minister has stated