

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the employees of the State-owned EPT have proposed to take over this sick company as a cooperative venture to ensure its viability? If so, what is the reaction of the Government?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Employees have made various proposals. But the question of employees' taking over will also involve financing etc. and the viability of the project itself. All these matters, as I have said in my written statement, will be taken into account when a final decision is taken.

Setting up of Coir Industry at Konaseema in East Godavari District (A.P.)

*317. **SHRI A. J. V. B. MAHESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any applications for starting coir industry at Konaseema in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, when Government propose to start the coir industry there ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to start this industry by Government themselves as a large quantity of coconuts is produced in this district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Just like Kerala, this area is also mainly producing coconuts. There is no industry by the Central Government in this area. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal in the Seventh Plan, to set up a coir industry in Konaseema region.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I have already said that there is no proposal. But if the

State Government, or any private organisation, or any cooperative organisation comes forward to start such an industry, we will definitely consider it.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Private members have sent so many representations to the hon. Minister, but no licences are issued. As many applications have already been sent to the Minister, may I know whether he would immediately sanction the licence to put a coir industry in this area ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not know as to which application he is referring to. Applications are examined and if found viable, we will definitely consider the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Vasantji, invite him to your office.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You can come and meet the Minister of Industry.

[Translation]

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to ask you a question.

MR. SPEAKER : Of me? Yes, you may.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : The moment the clock strikes 12, you leave the House for your Chamber, but the hon. Ministers say 'yes' to 'yes' and 'no' to 'no' before 12'0 clock.

MR. SPEAKER : I remain very much here ; I do not go anywhere. I am at your service both here as well as there.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : But in reply to the questions asked thereafter, they say 'no' to even 'yes'.

MR. SPEAKER : In future, you ask only such questions whose answers are all 'yes'.

[English]

Capacity utilisation of Power Plants in Public Sector vis-a-vis Private Sector

*318. **DR. A.K. PATIL :**
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the average capacity utilisation (P.L.F.) of power plants in the public sector as compared to the capacity utilisation in the private sector ;

(b) the steps being taken to improve the performance of State Electricity Boards ; and

(c) whether sub-standard equipments, ill-maintenance and irregularities in the purchase of coal are also responsible for the low performance of public sector power plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) During April-November, 1985, the average plant load factor of thermal stations in the public sector was about 50% as against 55.6% of Private Sector thermal plants.

(b) To improve the efficiency of the Electricity Boards, various measures including introduction of better management practices, training of personnel, improvement in the operational practices, expediting commissioning of on-going projects and reduction of transmission and distribution losses are being implemented. In addition, a programme of renovation and modernisation of thermal stations has been introduced.

(c) Deficiencies in equipments, unsatisfactory maintenance and high ash content of coal have also contributed to PLF of thermal power stations not increasing to the requisite level.

DR. A K. PATEL : The reply to my question Part 'b' is round about. Last night, I had been to Gujarat and I found that there is an acute crisis in the power supplies. The farmers get powers hardly

for 4 hours a day and it is not possible for them to do farming in a better way. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, because in Gujarat, every other day, some power generation set goes out of order resulting in acute crisis. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any special plan is there for Gujarat to improve this position of power supplies ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, presently Gujarat has 300 MW of Hydro-capacity, and 2800 MW of thermal capacity, which comes to 3100 MW. Gujarat also has a share in the Central Sector Projects and is also receiving electricity from Maharashtra. The allocation for the Seventh Plan has been made keeping in view the demand of these States and we hope that by the end of the Seventh Plan, all these shortages will be reduced considerably.

DR. A.K. PATEL : I would like to know about the highest capacity utilisation of public sector and private sector.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : You mean the plant load factor of various thermal stations. This is not a correct impression that all the power stations in the private sector are having better plant load factor than the thermal stations in the public sector. It is true that some thermal power stations in the public sector, especially in four States, the plant load factor is not very good and is much below the national average. But at the same time many power projects in the public sector are doing extremely well and their performance is comparable with any power project in the private sector, as can be seen from the following figures about the percentage of PLF :

| Station | Public Sector | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1984-85 | 1985-86 |
|---------|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | April-November | | | |
| 1. | Vijaywada | 79.1 | 84.2 | 77.4 | 86.6 |
| 2. | Singrauli | 64.2 | 55.7 | 59.3 | 64.8 |
| 3. | Neyveli | 73.0 | 74.2 | 77.2 | 71.1 |
| 4. | Parli | 75.3 | 69.9 | 74.2 | 87.4 |
| 5. | Dhuvaran | 75.0 | 69.0 | 66.2 | 54.0 |

Private Sector

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. | Ahmedabad Elec. Co. (T) | 68.7 | 75.6 | 71.4 | 64.5 |
| 2. | Tata Electric Companies (T) | 75.1 | 75.1 | 65.7 | 51.9 |
| 3. | Calcutta Elec. Supply Corporation (T) | 57.6 | 52.7 | 59.9 | 54.8 |
| | So likewise. | | | | |

My point was that the power projects in the public sector are doing equally well, rather better than the projects in the private sector.

SHRI ANAND GAJAPATHI RAJU : The Minister just mentioned that the load factor in Andhra Pradesh was high. In view of this, would the Minister consider sanctioning some more projects there ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : If any proposals come, they will be examined by the C.E.A., and they will be cleared according to the needs of the State.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : While appreciating the position indicated by the Minister that the plant load factor in public sector projects is higher, I would like to know whether he is aware that the capacity utilization of Talcher power plant is only 42%. It was less before. Now it is 42%. Is this so because of poor maintenance, supply of coal or machinery ? Have the reasons for this been enquired into, and the defects rectified, to improve the position ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : The hon. Member is right. The plant load factor of the Talcher plant of the Orissa State Electricity Board is much below the national average.

PROF N. G. RANGA : Why ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : There are various factors. I have listed the factors responsible for the PLF not coming to the requisite level. At the same time, we are in touch with the State electricity authorities. We are extending them all possible, necessary help so that the PLF can be realized.

MR SPEAKER : Question 319 ; Mr. Yazdani is not here ; Question 320—Mr. Mandal is absent ; question 321—Mr. Mavani is absent ; Question 322 Mr. B V. Desai is not here. Now Question 323—Mr. Banwari Lal Purohit.

Coal reserves at Saoner and Patansaongi Blocks of Nagpur District

***323. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge reserves of coal have been found at Saoner and Patansaongi blocks of Nagpur district in Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, the progress of mining in the said coal belt ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for speedy mining in those areas ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The coal reserve in Saoner block has been assessed at 110 million tonnes under proved category and 141 million tonnes under indicated category. The coal reserve in Patansaongi block has been estimated at 36 million tonnes under proved category.

(b) and (c) At present there are seven approved projects in Kamptee coalfield which includes Saoner and Patansaongi blocks. The expected production from these projects in 1985-86 is 1.84 million tonnes, which is likely to be increased to 2.85 million tonnes by 1989-90. In addition, two more projects have been identified for formulation and proposed to be commissioned in 1989-90 yielding a production of 0.05 m. tonnes.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I ask supple-