

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-

mentaries, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that my question was regarding Saoner and Patansaongi blocks to which he has replied ;

[English]

“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,.....”

[Translation]

Therefore, I want to know whether this figure is for seven projects or for Saoner and Patansaongi alone ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It includes all.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I had specifically asked about Saoner and Patansaongi blocks and the hon. Minister has given the figures about all the seven projects. I want to know the quantum of production in Saoner and Patansaongi blocks during 1985-86 ?

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The coal reserve in Patansaongi has been estimated at 36 million tonnes under proved category.

[Translation]

Now the mining of coal out of this 36 million tonnes of proved reserves will depend on the quantum and speed of work that will be put there. I do not have exact figures for Patansaongi right now.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was that there was no progress in Saoner and Patansaongi in spite of the fact that huge reserves of coal are available there. The hon. Minister has put the reserves at 36 million tonnes, but according to the official publication which I have got with me, the reserves are estimated at 90 million tonnes. The people from these two blocks had come to us with the demand that employment should be provided to the local people there and the coal reserves be harnessed. It was because of this that I had put a question

specifically about Saonar and Patansaongi and I should get a reply to this question.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : All right. I am giving the reply. In 1985-86, 0.98 million tonnes and in 1989-90 0.09 million tonnes of coal will be mined in Patansaongi.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Sir, there must be a definite policy of the Government, but it has not been spelt out. There are 500 million tonnes of coal reserves in the district and the Government might have fixed an yearly target to exploit it. How will you manage to exploit it at this speed ? I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the policy of the Government ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already told you about the quantum.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The policy of the Government is to exploit more and more coal ; as much as possible. Too much target would prove futile.

MR. SPEAKER : Speaking of coal, bad association is bringing bad name.

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO : With the huge stock of coal available in the country, what are the reasons for the government to import coal from other countries thereby wasting foreign exchange ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We are importing only coking coal required for steel industry, and because we are short of the good quality of coking coal with less ash content, we import only that much which is essential for our steel industry.

Coal Reserves in Madhukunda area of Purulia District (West Bengal)

*324. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large reserve of coal has been found in Madhukunda area of Purulia District (West Bengal) and Geological Survey of India has also submitted its report thereon ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to start any projects in the area ; and