

(a) whether it is a fact that atomic energy generation plants in the country have been able to generate less power than their installed generation capacity during the past months of 2009-10;

(b) if so, their generation capacity, plant and actual power generation by these projects during the said period;

(c) whether this decline in production can be attributed to low availability of fuel; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for low availability of fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The current generation capacity is 4340 MW and the actual generation in 2009-10 upto February 2010 has been 16810 Million Units giving a capacity factor of about 60%.

(c) Yes, Sir. Decline in nuclear power production can partly be attributed to the low availability of indigenous uranium as fuel.

(d) Out of the capacity of 4340 MW, a capacity of 740 MW uses imported fuel and operates at full capacity. The remaining capacity uses indigenous fuel, of which there is a shortage. Increase of demand of uranium because of new capacity addition and longer time needed for opening of new uranium mines, ore processing mills and mis-match between the requirement and the indigenous production of uranium have caused the shortage. The situation is progressively improving.

Private sector in nuclear power sector

1520. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR :

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to permit private sector in nuclear power sector and decided to provide all necessary resources for the nuclear power programme to increase the present nuclear capacity 4000 mw; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

(a) and (b) The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 allows the Central Government to produce, develop, use and dispose of atomic energy either by itself or through any authority or corporation established by it or a Government Company. As of today Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) &

Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (Bhavini) are two Public Sector Undertaking authorized for this purpose. Private can participate in setting up of nuclear power plants as a junior enquiry partner.

Private sector in India is in a position to participate in setting up nuclear power plants through supply of components, equipment and works contracts.

For the present participation of Indian private sector in nuclear power generation projects will continue to be as per the existing provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

Installation of atomic plants

1521. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to expand atomic energy plants in the country through installation of more power generation capacity;

(b) the fresh steps which are being taken to increase generation of atomic energy in the short term;

(c) the targeted increase in the year 2011;

(d) the funding requirement therefor; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The current nuclear power capacity of 4340 MW will be increased to 7280 MW progressively by the March 2012 by the completion of projects under construction. Additional capacity of 2800 MW has been approved in the year 2009. More projects are also planned to be built during the 13th Plan.

(d) and (e) The projects under construction are at an advanced stage of completion and the requirement of funds for these projects in the next two years (2010-11 and 2011-12) is estimated to be Rs. 3619 crore. This will be met through a combination of internal resources, market borrowings and budgetary support.

Atomic plant in Haryana

†1522. DR. RAM PRAKASH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to build an atomic energy generation plant in Haryana;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi