

**Performance of News-readers in the AIR**

\*114 SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether regular evaluation is made to assess the performance of news-readers in the All India Radio;

(b) if so, what is the general result of such evaluation;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the salary of part-time news-readers who are hardly getting Rs. 100/- at present; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of evaluation made from time to time as well as from the listeners' reactions, short-comings noticed are pointed out to the concerned News-readers for improvement.

(c) A. I. R. employs News-readers on casual basis when regular News-readers are on leave, etc. Such casual News-readers are paid a consolidated fee of Rs. 50 per day and their engagement is for 6 days at a time. There is no proposal to increase this fee.

(d) Does not arise.

**Power shortage in the country**

\*115. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is still facing power shortage;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c) There has been considerable improvement in

power availability in recent years. In the first two years of the current Plan, the energy production increased from 105.5 billion units in 1979-80 to 122.9 billion units in 1981-82 representing an average annual growth rate of 8 per cent. In the first six months of this year, i. e. April to September, 1982, the energy production has increased by 7.8 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

As a result of improvement in power generation the power shortage in the country has come down as under:-

Year	per cent shortage
1979-80	16.1
1980-81	12.6
1981-82	10.8
April-Sept. 1982	8.0 approximately

Various steps are being taken to reduce the gap between demand and availability of power. Some of the measures being taken in this regard are:-

(i) *Maximisation of energy production from existing thermal power stations:* The plant load factor of existing power stations has already improved from 44.6 per cent in the year 1980-81 to 46.8 per cent in the year 1981-82. In the first six months of this year, it has further increased to 48.3 per cent.

(ii) *Accelerated addition of new generating capacity:* In the current year, it has been programmed to add about 3500 MW of new generating capacity. A close monitoring is being done at various levels to achieve this target.

(iii) *Transfer of power to deficit areas:* The power systems in the various regions have been interconnected and they are being operated in integration to enable transfer of surplus power available at any time in one State/region to the other States/regions.