

helped in bilateral cooperation in water resources, development on the basis of mutual benefit to both countries. Steps are to be initiated towards the preparation of detailed project reports for Karnali and Pancheshwar. Agreements between the two countries on various questions are yet to be finalised. No perspective plan has been drawn up on the generation of hydro electricity, flood control etc.

Acute power shortage in the Country

1243. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:
SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA;
SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD
NANDA:
SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented power shortage in the country for the last two months;

(b) the extent to which industrial units in the country have been affected by this power shortage and what is the extent of loss suffered by them as a result thereof;

(c) what are the main causes thereof;

(d) what are the States and Union Territories which have been worst affected by this power shortage;

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to improve the power situation; and

(f) what is the extent to which the power shortage has been improved by now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. The shortage of power during December, 1980 was about 11.1 per cent only as against 23 per cent power shortage during Decemebre, 1979. In January 1981, the power shortage was about 14 per cent as against power shortage of about 21 per cent during January, 1980. The total energy generation in the country has also increased by

about 16 per cent and 9 per cent during December, 1980 and January 1981 respectively as compared to the generation in the corresponding period last year.

(b) Although power shortage is one of the contributing factors for loss in production it is not possible to quantify the loss on account of power shortage alone.

(c) Main reasons for power shortage in the country are: (i) inadequacy of installed generating capacity; (ii) comparatively unsatisfactory performance of some of the thermal power stations; and (iii) failure of monsoon in some parts of the country during 1980.

(d) Generally, the industries located in the Bihar, West Bengal and Rajasthan are affected adversely due to power shortage while the impact of power shortage on industries located in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Karnataka; Punjab Haryana and U.P. is only marginal.

(e) A number of short-term and long term measures have been taken and are being taken to improve the power availability in the system. These measures include:

- (i) better management of load demand by staggering of holidays, shifting of loads from day time to night time etc.;
- (ii) accelerated addition of new generating capacity in the system. It is envisaged to add about 20,000 MW of additional generating capacity during the period 1980-85. Detailed monitoring of the construction schedules of all the on-going projects is being under taken to ensure expeditious completion of the projects;
- (iii) number of steps have been taken to improve the operation and maintenance of existing thermal power plants with a view to maximising generation from the existing

installed capacity. These steps include:—

- (a) assistance to the State Electricity Boards to undertake plant betterment programmes and better preventive maintenance schedule;
- (b) identification of deficiency in design of equipments and taking up programme of their rectification and replacement;
- (c) arranging timely supply of spare parts from indigenous and foreign suppliers
- (d) supply of adequate quality of coal of right quality. Defaulting collieries are being identified and the representatives of power stations posted there for joint sampling. Coal companies have been required to intensify hand picking of stones, shales and other extraneous materials so as to improve the quality. Coal companies have also been advised to instal portable/permanent crushers at mines and undertake appropriate coal beneficiation programmes.

- (iv) undertaking training programmes for engineers and technical personnel entrusted with the operation and maintenance of power stations.

(f) The power shortage during January, 1981 has already come down to 14 per cent as compared to power shortage to the extent of 21 per cent during January, 1980.

Visit of British Mining Mission to India

1244. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a British Mining Mission visited India recently;

(b) whether any agreement to develop coal mines in the country with latest British technology has been signed; and

(c) if so, what are the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Coal India propose to develop one mine near Asansol and another mine in East Bokaro Coalfield with British Assistance. M/s. British Mining Consultants are to prepare feasibility reports in respect of these two mines for which data collection is in progress.

Oil deposits in Ankleshwar oil fields area

1245. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new oil deposits have been found in Ankleshwar oil fields area by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Drilling Unit;

(b) if so, what is the exact location and what is the likely quantum of crude oil and associate gas or natural gas in this oil well; and

(c) by when Government propose to utilise this gas and oil and for which purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) No new oil deposits have been found in Ankleshwar oil fields area by ONGC. However, gas has recently been struck at Dahej Structure about 25 Kms. West of Broach Town.

(c) It is too early to say anything in the matter at this stage, since the potential of the find has still to be established.

Gas generation from lignite in Kutch area

1246. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gas will be generated from lignite in Kutch area of Gujarat;