Setting up of Thermal Power Plants at Bankura and Murshidabad

2529. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that according to the Electricity Enquiry Commission constituted by Calcutta High Court, West Bengal will be facing a chaotic power situation by the turn of this decade unless 1,700 MW new capacity is commissioned; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to sanction 630 MW thermal power plants in Bankura and Murshidabad in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The report of the Electricity Commission constituted by Calcutta High Court has not been received in the Ministry. West Bengal State has at present a total installed capacity of 1730.54 MW. Projects totalling a capacity of 1878 MW are presently under construction. In addition, West Bengal would be getting shares from the Farakka Super Thermal Power Station, Chukha Hydel Project and Koel Karo hydro electric project. It is anticipated that if the sanctioned projects are executed in time and the thermal power stations in West Bengal perform as per norms the power demands in West Bengal by 1984-85 would be met.

(b) A scheme for installation of 630 MW (3 x 210 MW) Super Thermal Power Station at Farakka in Murshidabad district (Stage-I) has been approved for execution in the Central Sector. The allocation to West Bengal from this station will be 205 MW.

The DVC had submitted a Project Report for the setting up of a 3 x 210 MW Thermal Power Station at Mejhia (Stage I) in Bankura District of West Bengal. The Central Electricity Authority, which examined the Report, has not established the techno-economic feasibility of the scheme in view of the inadequate rail linkage facilities and non-availability of the coal of the grade suited for the thermal station.

Super Thermal Power Station at Badarpur

2530. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the super thermal power station at Badarpur has suffered losses as a result of poor designing of the same; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) what steps are being taken to carry out modifications in the four units of the Badarpur super thermal power station to increase its efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The performance of Badarpur thermal power station has not been very satisfactory primarily due to some deficiencies in plant and equipment, non-supply of coal of the designed parameters and general problems of non-technical nature. The performance of Badarpur thermal power station has however improved considerably and the plant load factor of the power station is one of the highest at 63 per cent in October 1981 against the all India average of about 45 per cent. In October 1979 the PLF of the Badarpur Power Station was only 33 per cent. Project renovation and plant betterment programmes for carrying out modifications and improvements to rectify the deficiencies in the plant are also being taken to further improve its performance.