

gear etc. manufactured by a number of other companies are also procured by the project authorities for the power stations. For satisfactory operation of the power plants, all the equipment have to perform satisfactorily in the designed manner. Malfunctioning of any part of the equipment can partly or wholly affect the performance of the power plant. As per reports received from the various State Electricity Boards, some of the auxiliaries like burner titling mechanism, primary air and induced draft fans, dust seal guards of coal mills etc. in the case of boilers, turbo-visory ' equipment, emergency stop valve, automatic Voltage Regulators, steam ejectors etc. in the case of turbogenerators etc. have not been functioning very satisfactorily.

(b) It is not generally possible to quantify the loss incurred as a result of malfunctioning of some of the components of the generating equipments or other auxiliary systems of a power plant. Detailed discussions have been held by the concerned State Electricity Boards with BHEL and other suppliers regarding the problems being faced by the State Electricity Boards. CEA have also brought these defects to the notice of quality assurance wing of BHEL who have initiated remedial measures based on the feed back given by Central Electricity Authority.

Issue A Ration Cards to Small Newspapers

*277. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA
HEDGE: SURENDRA
MOHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to issue ration cards to small news papers to collect their newsprint quota;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons thereof?

TUB MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE); (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The allocation of newsprint quota varies not only from year to year but also is revised within the licensing year. The variation is not in a fixed proportion. It is related to the changing level of consumption. Hence, the Ration Card system may not be quite feasible. Another relevant factor is that at present the distribution point i.e. the number of depots of States Trading Corporation for issue of newsprint, is limited. However, Government is fully aware of the need to make the lifting of newsprint easier for the newspapers, especially small and medium newspapers, and a number of steps including cloning of more distribution points is being studied.

Corruption in the Eastern Coalfields Limited

*278. SHRI SADASHIV BAGATI-KAR:
Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the 'Patriot' of the 26th July, 1980 highlighting the corruption and malpractices prevailing in the entire Eastern Coalfields Limited; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to remedy the situation?

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

(b) Steps have been taken to strengthen the vigilance organisation in Eastern Coalfields Limited and a Chief Vigilance Officer has been