

(c) The matter is under consideration in consultation with Maharashtra Government.

Power cut in West Bengal

*410. SHRI PRASENJIT BURMAN:
SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:
SHRI KALYAN ROY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 577 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th March, 1976 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that continuous load-shedding and power cuts are seriously disrupting industrial production and civic life in Calcutta and other places of West Bengal during the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the details of the power cuts and how long they are likely to continue;

(c) whether the installed capacity of the various thermal power stations is being fully utilised;

(d) if not, what is the extent of utilisation from January 1976 to July 1977 of installed capacity in various thermal power stations and what are the names of those power stations;

(e) what are the reasons of non-utilisation of the installed capacity in each of the thermal power stations; and

(f) whether any steps have been taken in the last 6 months to fully utilise their installed capacity; if so, what are the details thereof and the results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement

Power cut in West Bengal

(a) Government have received reports from Calcutta Electric supply Corporation of Load shedding of varying degrees in Calcutta. In West Bengal, while generally there is no shortage in terms of energy, there is shortage of peaking capacity. In order to meet this shortage and ensure rational distribution of power, the State Government has enforced certain restrictions on maximum demands keeping in view the relative priorities of various consumers so that the more important sectors of the economy are not adversely affected except to the minimum.

(b) Current restriction in force is given in Annexure

Efforts are being made to increase the power availability in the system. Peaking shortage is expected to continue for some more time. Situation is expected to improve by the end of year when the two 120 MW units at Chandrapura (DVC), the '65 MW' unit at Subarnarekha and the 110 MW unit at Patratu in Bihar stabilise.

(c) The installed capacities of various thermal power stations in West Bengal are not being utilised fully.

(d) The Plant Load Factor (Utilisation) and Maximum generation peak (MW) of various power stations is as follows:—

Station	Installed capacity	Max. peak generation (MW)				Plant load factor			
		76-77	April, 77	May, 77	June, 77	76-77	April, 77	May, 77	June, 77
Bandel	320	320	239	209	235	56	47	47	50%
Santalalidih	240	220	205	220	185	29	52	57	50%
D.P.L.	280	243	173	160	160	45	45	38	39%
C.E.S.C.	328	283	255	231	249	56	53	51	53%
Guripur	28	16	11	14	15	22	20	19	25%

(e) There are a number of factors which result in non-utilisation of the installed capacity in the thermal power stations. They include:

(i) Load pattern. The night demand is of the order of 40 per cent of evening peak only.

(ii) High rate of forced outages of some of the thermal generating units particularly at Santaldih, D.P.L. etc.

(iii) Long time taken in attending to breakdown jobs and maintenance for removing partial outages.

(iv) Weak transmission links between D.V.C./West Bengal State Electricity Board Systems and Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.

(v) No substantial hydro power backing in the State to operate during peak hours. Due to the load pattern prevailing in West Bengal (where the high demand is of the order of 30—40 per cent of the evening peak), the energy generating capacity of the power stations is not fully utilised. The peak generation to lean generation ratio in the West Bengal State Electricity Board power system is comparatively high. As a result of this, at times generating units have to be kept on cold standby to avoid their uneconomic and unsafe operation at night.

(f) Following steps are being taken to improve the power supply position in the state:

- (i) Maximising generation from existing thermal stations by way of arranging adequate spares, arranging adequate quantity of coal of suitable quality, training of C&M personnel, integrated operation of power systems, rostering and staggering of loads, modernising the maintenance procedure and close monitoring of operation and maintenance;

No significant improvement in the utilisation of the installed capacity has been possible during the last six months as a result of labour problems and characteristics of load demand and lack of adequate co-ordination between the various agencies. Efforts are being made to optimize the generation from the existing stations to the extent possible and to overcome the bottle-necks referred to.

Annexure

Restriction in force as per West Bengal electrical Energy (Maintenance of Supply) Order 1977, of Govt. of West Bengal, vide notification No. 5588-Power dated 29th June, 1977.

1. 15 per cent cut in the M.D. of all H.T. Industrial Consumers, excepting Jute Mills and Cotton Textile Mills.
2. One weekly staggered off-day for all H.T. Industrial Consumers, excepting Cotton Textile Mills.
3. Jute Mills are not permitted to work between 18.00 hrs. and 22.00 hrs. on any day.
4. Mini Steel Plants are allowed to operate on all seven days in a week but only between 9.00 P.M. and 9 A.M.
5. All medium and low voltage industrial consumers (excepting Printing Presses and Atta Chakis) are not permitted to draw power between 5 P.M. and 10 P.M. on any day.
6. Shops and Establishments (excepting establishments dealing in medicines, groceries, tobacco, pan, liquid refreshment) are not permitted to use electricity between 8.30 P.M. and 10.30 P.M. on Saturdays and Sundays and between 7.30 P.M. and 10.30 P.M. on other days.
7. Commercial establishments, banks and domestic consumers

are not permitted to operate air-conditioning units or room coolers between 9.30 A.M. and 11.00 A.M. and 5.00 P.M. and 10.00 P.M.

8. Minor irrigation pumps are not to be operated between 5.00 P.M. and 10.00 P.M.

9. Neon, mercury lamps and other high powered electrical illuminations are not to be used upto 9.00 P.M.

Border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka

*411. SHRI GULABRAO PATIL:
SHRI KRISHNARAO
NARAYAN DHULAP:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has recently approached the Central Government for an early solution of the border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what is the Central Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exploitation of Small Scale Industries by big units

*412. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-
PATRO:
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
RAHA:
DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any communication from the Pigments and Chemical Products, Calcutta, to the effect that small scale industries are being harassed and exploited by the big units;

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

(c) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to take legislative measures to check big manufacturers from cutting into the market of small units; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The President of the Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India, Calcutta and Shri M. R. Garg of M/s. Chemicals (P) Ltd., Calcutta have brought to the notice of the Government the difficulties being faced by the small scale units in respect of payment of bills on account of moratorium on past liabilities given to large scale sick industries, which are taken over by the Government under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act.

(c) and (d) No legislative measure in this regard is under Government's consideration. However, the Government has reserved certain items for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector and this would help in checking the big manufacturers from cutting into the market of small industries. If specific instances of hardships caused to the small scale units on account of moratorium given to large scale sick industries are brought to Government's notice, Government will consider possible action.

बिजली अथवा बैटरीचालित मोटरकारों के संबंध में किया गया अनुसंधान

*413. डा० लोकेश चन्द्र : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बैटरीचालित मोटरकारों के विकास के सम्बन्ध में अनुसंधान कार्य में क्या प्रगति की गई है; और

(ख) क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में किसी अन्य देश का सहयोग प्राप्त करने का विचार रखती है ?