

Power Supplied to Gujarat and Maharashtra from Tarapur Atomic Power Plant

1101. SHRI M. K. MOHTA Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Government have recently asked the Gujarat and Maharashtra Governments to pay 50 per cent more for power supplied from Tarapur Atomic Power Station to these States, and

(b) if so, what is the State Government's reaction thereto and the reasons for enhancing the power rates?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

The power from the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) is supplied to the Maharashtra and Gujarat State Electricity Boards. Payment for this is made by the Electricity Boards concerned and not by the State Governments. The two-part tariff for the TAPS power has been revised with effect from April 1, 1973 with the concurrence of the Central Electricity Authority under Section 22 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. As a result thereof, there has been an increase of the order of about 10 per cent in the unit energy rate over that worked out under the two-part tariff applicable during the period from January 1, 1970 to March 31, 1973. This is mainly due to increase in the annual recurring expenditure on account of increase in the cost of enriched uranium and in the customs duty. It may be mentioned here that for the period from January 1, 1970 to March 31, 1973 an *ad-hoc* settlement was arrived at with the Electricity Boards due to certain difficulties involved in recovering charges on the basis of the two part tariff. Under this settlement, the Electricity Boards were required to make payment at concessional rates during this period. Even if the revised rate for the current year is compared with these concessional rates, the

increase works out to about 30 per cent only.

The additional burden due to the revised tariff on the finances of the Electricity Boards will not be more than marginal as power from TAPS constitutes barely 10 per cent of the grid capacity. The Department of Atomic Energy is not aware of the additional burden, if any, on the finances of the State Governments as the latter are not directly involved. Notwithstanding the notification issued by the Central Electricity Authority conveying their approval to the revised tariff effective from April 1, 1973, the Electricity Boards have still not started making payments on the basis of this tariff. It is understood that they have taken up the matter with the Central Electricity Authority for a revision of their notification. The reaction of the State Governments is not known.

Unemployment in West Bengal

1102. SHRI KALYAN ROY Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Ananda Bazar Patrika' of January 18, 1974 regarding massive unemployment in West Bengal,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof

(c) whether Government propose to undertake some special measures to tackle unemployment problem in Eastern India mainly in West Bengal, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Precise statistics relating to unemployment in West Bengal are not available. However, one of the regular sources of information in this regard is the number of job seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges in the State, which