

Intelligence work has been intensified and the persons suspected to be involved in the commission of such crimes are being detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.

Action is also under way to form resistance groups to tackle such crime on the Railways in the area.

(iii) Strict instructions have been issued to RPF staff, on duty in yards or station platforms for guarding railway property, to rush to the scene of such crime and render all possible help to victims.

(iv) Concerned at the growing incidence of crimes in trains and railway premises, particularly in the States of UP., Bihar and West Bengal, the Minister of Railways addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of these States in November 72 and requested them to provide armed guards on important passenger trains particularly in badly affected areas. The Minister of Railways also held a high level meeting with the Home Ministers and high officials of some States on 21-3-73 in this connection so that greater security could be provided to the travelling public.

Import Bill of Crude Oil in Fifth Plan

198. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the imports bill on crude oil during the Fifth Five Plan period will be of the order of Rs. 1,000 crores; and

(b) if so, what proportion of the total export earnings of India are expected to be spent on crude oil import during the Fifth Plan compared to the proportions during Fourth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) It is not possible at this stage to indicate precisely the import bill on crude oil during the Fifth Five Year Plan or make a comparison of the import figures between the Fourth Plan and the Fifth Plan periods in view of the uncertainty of crude oil prices. However, the Planning Commission are undertaking a detailed study in this regard and the final anticipated figures are expected to be incorporated in the final Plan documents.

Sites for the Location of Large Thermal Power Stations

199. SHRI GOLAP BARBORA:
SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:.

SHRI KALYAN ROY:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powered Committee has selected six sites for the location of large thermal power stations;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) by when these thermal power stations will start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Committee set up by the Government of India for selection of sites for large thermal power stations in coal bearing areas in different regions has visited various sites and is expected to submit their report shortly.

Financial Set-back to State Electricity Boards

200. SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial position of the State Electricity Boards has suffered a set-back during the current plan period;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the measures proposed by Government to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) While some of the State Electricity Boards have shown better financial results during the current Plan, the others have shown a lower rate of return. However, total operating revenues in respect of all the Boards have increased during the current Plan period.

(b) The reasons for low rates of return are intensification of rural electrification; increase in operation and maintenance expenses; rise in cost of fuel; low hydro generation due to drought conditions; and non revision of tariff.

(c) Some of the steps that are being taken by the State Electricity Boards to improve their financial position are: up-word revision in tariff; improvement in billing systems and in inventory control; reduction in energy losses by strengthening transmission and distribution networks and installing shunt capacitors; and increasing the efficiency of the power plants.

201. [Transferred to the 5th March, 1974.]