

(a) whether it is a fact that the pipeline job for Mathura Refinery is proposed to be given to Engineers (India) Ltd. who will act as a sub-agent of Betchel Corporation of America for this job; and

(b) if so, the reason for which this pipeline job is not being given to the pipeline division of Indian Oil Corporation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) No, Sir. The primary responsibility for the implementation of laying Pipelines from Salaya to Mathura is of India Oil Corporation (Refineries & Pipeline Division). They would be assisted in this work by Engineers India Limited and Oil India Limited.

(b) Does not arise.

POWER PROJECTS IN FOURTH PLAN

878. SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the cost estimates of a number of irrigation and power projects included in the Fourth Plan; and

(b) if so, the extent of the increase and the steps taken by Government to economise in the execution of these projects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):

(a) and (b) The total cost of 59 Major Irrigation Schemes, spinning into the Fourth Plan and still under construction is assessed now as about Rs. 2700 crores. As compared with the cost at the time of sanction, the percentage increase is about 112%. [The cost of 50 continuing thermal and hydro power schemes is now assessed as about Rs. 1500 crores. As compared with the cost at the time of sanction, the percentage increase is about 60%.

The State Governments have been advised to set up control boards for all important projects so as to keep a close watch on the construction of the projects. The State Governments have also been

advised to set up cost control cells for getting information on the running costs and take remedial measures wherever costs go up. The need for more detailed investigations before framing projects estimates has also been emphasised. Admixtures like puzzalon are used to reduce cement. Works are constructed in masonry wherever practicable in order to reduce higher costs of concrete. A Committee of Experts was constituted to look into the question of rising costs and they have just completed a report on their study.

STRIKE BY THE EMPLOYEES OF HARYANA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

879. SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: SHRI
SUNDAR MANI PATEL: SHRI
DAHABHAI V. PATEL: SHRI
LOKANATH MISRA :

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

(a) whether the All India Federation of Electricity Employees has notified to Government that if the demands of Haryana State Electricity Board Employees are not conceded soon, the employees of other Electricity Boards in Northern Region would also go on an indefinite strike; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to avert the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):

(a) and (b) The employees of the Haryana State Electricity Board were on strike from 3rd April, 1973, to press for implementation of various demands. The All India Federation of Electricity Employees informed the Minister for Irrigation and Power that the demands of the Haryana State Electricity Board Employees had the support of the Federation and urged that the Union Minister may intervene in the matter for arriving at a settlement. The Haryana State Electricity Board is an autonomous body constituted under the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and is under the administrative