

Western Region

Gujarat.—Holiday staggering to Industrial consumers. 15 per cent cut on demand during day time for HI consumers.

No power supply to LT industries from 17.10 Hrs. to 21.00 Hrs.

Maharashtra.—2 to 8 per cent power cut on various categories of consumers imposed all over the State since 1-10-1972. Power cut revised upwards from 4 to 25 per cent w.e.f. 1-12-1972.

No cut imposed on demand. Staggering of Holidays and lunch hours is in force from October, 72.

Madhya Pradesh.—No cuts.

Eastern Region

Bihar.—No cuts.

D.V.C.—20 per cent cut from January, 73 to June, 73.

West Bengal.—15 per cent cut on HI consumers w.e.f. January, 1973.

Orissa.—No cuts. (However, during April, 1973 20 per cent cut was imposed).

North-Eastern Region.—Nil]

CANCELLATION OF 29 UP AND 83 UP TRAINS

*27. SHRI TRILOKI SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the reasons for the cancellation of 29 Up and 83 Up trains from Lucknow to New Delhi and Delhi respectively on the 24th March, 1973 which were subsequently restored and which left Lucknow 4/5 hours late with thousands of passengers without tickets?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : Sir, 29 Up Lucknow-New Delhi Mail and 83 Up

Lucknow-Delhi Express had a late start from Lucknow on 24-3-1973 by 215 minutes and 191 minutes respectively owing to efforts made to vacate some of the coaches of the trains unauthorisedly occupied by passengers.

POOR MAINTENANCE OF THERMAL POWER PLANTS

28. SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER :

SHRI G. R. PATIL :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the power crisis in the country is due to the poor maintenance of the thermal power plants;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these plants are running at half of their rated capacity; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Out of 6437 MW of installed capacity in major thermal power stations, plants having an installed capacity of 3957 MW worked at over 50 per cent plant factor during 1972-73, which is considered satisfactory. The remaining thermal plants, mainly in the Eastern and Southern region, aggregating to 2480 MW, worked below 50 per cent plant factor due to various reasons such as, inadequate supply of fuel, inadequate supply of cooling water, forced outages and heavy maintenance due to poor quality of coal and non-availability of proper type of spares.

(c) Better quality of coal to thermal power stations in the Eastern region, has been arranged. Repairs to units which are out of service have been expedited and

proper spares arranged. Expert teams have been set up for visiting the power stations and suggesting improvements in operation and maintenance. Their suggestions and recommendations will be speedily examined and processed. Training facilities for operation and maintenance of thermal power stations are being augmented.

BUS-TRAIN COLLISION AT UNMANNED LEVEL CROSSING IN BULDHANA DISTRICT

*29. **SHRI N. G. GORAY** : Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a bus carrying passengers collided with a running train at an unmanned level crossing eight kilometres from Khamgaon in Buldhana District on the 11th April, 1973 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that representations were earlier made to Government for the manning of this level crossing; and

(c) if so, what action had been and is being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The accident occurred at an unmanned level crossing gate No. JK-2 between Jalamb and Khamgaon stations on 10-4-1973.

(b) and (c) The proposals for manning this level crossing gate were finalised and sent to the Government of Maharashtra in December, 1972 for conveying their approval to the proposal as also their acceptance of the initial cost involved, as per extant rules. The matter is still pending with the State Government.

INTER-STATE POWER PROJECT AT HOGNEKAL ON CAUVERY RIVER

30. **SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN** : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to construct a

power project at Hognekal on the river Cauvery as an inter-State power project; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : There is no proposal under Government's consideration at present to construct a project at Hognekal on the river Cauvery as an inter-State power project.

(b) Does not arise.

RIGGINGS OF PRICES OF ANTI-BIOTICS

1. **SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN** : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a Committee of the U. S. Senate has highlighted rigging of the prices of antibiotics by American firms including that in India;

(b) if so, the precise observations of that Committee in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have since set up a Committee of Members of Parliament and others to go into the rigging of prices of life-saving drugs, particularly by foreign firms; if so, the composition and terms of reference thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extracts of the portion headed "Antibiotics" from the Report of the Committee of the U. S. Senate titled "Study of Administered Prices in the Drug Industry by the Senate Sub-Committee on Anti-trust and Monopoly" is enclosed. (See Appendix LXXXIV, Annexure No. 2).

(c) It has been decided to set up a Committee consisting of Members of Parliament and others to go into the various aspects of the working of the pharmaceutical industry. The composition and terms of reference of the Committee are being finalised.