

Sir, I will be able to reply to this particular question of the hon. Member only after verifying whether there is any connectivity between Nepal and Kolkata Port. I will not be able to reply to it at this point of time.

श्री सभापति: माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी, यह मामला बहुत गंभीर है, मैं चाहूंगा कि इस विषय पर आप सदन को या सदन में पार्टी के, ग्रुप्स के नेताओं को विश्वास में लें।

श्री के० नटवर सिंह: सर, इसका पालन किया जाएगा।

Atomic power plants in the country

* 24. SHRI T.T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of atomic energy produced in the country and its percentage on the total generation of electricity;

(b) the target production of atomic energy during the Tenth Five Year plan period;

(c) whether the Government have any fresh proposals of atomic power plants in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) During the year 2003-04, the electricity generated from nuclear power was 17,861 Million Units (MUs). This is about 3.2% of the electricity generated by the utilities in the country. The generation for the period April-October 2004 has been 9,386 MUs.

(b) The target production of electricity from nuclear power stations for the 10th Plan is 82,495 MUs.

(c) and (d) In addition to the existing 14 nuclear power reactors of total capacity of 2770 MWe in operation, nine nuclear power reactors with total capacity of 4460 MWe are under construction. On completion of these projects progressively, the present installed nuclear power capacity will reach 6780 MWe (including 50 MWe by upgradation of MAPS-1 by December 2005) by 2008 and 7280 MWe by the year 2011-2012. Setting up of additional nuclear power plants in the tenth plan period and beyond is also planned. However, no detailed proposal in this regard is presently under consideration of Government.

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any formula has been devised to provide a percentage of power generated to the State in which a particular plant is located. If so, what is that formula?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, the power produced by the Nuclear Power Corporation is in the National Grid and part of this power is given to the State Government; most of it in fact to the State in which the power plant is located: and the other part to the National Grid.

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Sir, nuclear power plants are still considered to have potential of endangering human lives, in case of any serious error. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the standard of safety measures adopted in the nuclear power plants, particularly at the Koodankulam Atomic Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, in construction and design of nuclear power plants, the principle adopted is, 'safety first, production later' And, overriding attention to safety encompasses the entire gamut of activities associated with a nuclear power plant, i.e., setting of the plant, design, construction, commissioning and operation. On all these activities, major effort is devoted to ensure safety of operating personnel, public as well as the environment. We have a detailed procedure right from the selection of the plant to construction, design and ultimately the plant is only operated after the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board authorises a plant, licenses that plant's operation. Every person which operates the plant is also licensed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, which is an independent body.

DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Sir, through you, may I know from the hon. Minister whether we are having an accelerated strategy towards the utilisation of thorium; and if so, what are the speed up plans for the advanced pressurised heavy water reactor?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, the Nuclear Energy Programme in India is planned in three phases. The first phase is our current stage of pressurised heavy water reactors, 12 of which are in operation; the earlier two are light water reactors at Tarapore. We are now going to Phase-II, which consists of fast breeder reactor. The hon. Prime Minister laid the foundation and poured the concrete for the Kalpakkam Fast Breeder

Reactor of 500 megawatt electrical capacity in Kalpakkam, recently. So, fast breeder reactors will become Phase-II of our programme. In Phase-III of the Programme, we will go to the thorium which is available in the country in abundance. This is a very carefully planned and carefully phased three-stage programme. The production of certain nuclear waste is to be used in the later stages of the programme. Therefore, I assure the House that we will go to the thorium stage at the appropriate time when the first two phases are over.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: धन्यवाद सभापति जी। सभापति जी, प्रश्न के भाग - "ख" में जवाब देते हुए लिखित उत्तर में मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि दसवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के लिए परमाणु बिजली उत्पादन का लक्ष्य 82495 मिलियन यूनिट रखा गया है। सभापति जी, दसवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना को प्रारम्भ हुए ढाई वर्ष हो गए हैं और अब हम बिल्कुल आधे में खड़े हैं। तो मैं उनसे जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या कोई मिड टर्म एप्रेजल इसका हुआ है कि यह 82495 का लक्ष्य हम पूरा कर पाएंगे क्योंकि उन्होंने जो डेढ़ वर्ष के आंकड़े यहां रखे हैं वे कुल मिलाकर 27 हजार यूनिट के बनते हैं। इसमें 2002-2003 का आंकड़ा नहीं है जो और जुड़ेगा। तो जो 82 हजार के लक्ष्य से काफी कम है, तो क्या कोई ऐसा मिड टर्म एप्रेजल हुआ है और अगर हम पीछे चल रहे हैं तो उसको कवरअप करने के लिए क्या कोई कार्य योजना बनाई है?

श्री पृथ्वीराज चव्हाण: सभापति महोदय, हमने जो आंकड़े टारगेट में रखे हैं और अब तक जो हमारा सालाना टारगेट है, हम उससे आगे चल रहे हैं। हमारे पास 104 प्रतिशत के आंकड़े हैं। मुझे विश्वास है कि हमने जो 82495 मेगावाट बिजली के प्रोडक्शन का टारगेट रखा है, हम उससे ज्यादा प्रोडक्शन कर पायेंगे, क्योंकि अब तक हम आगे चल रहे हैं।

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, it is a matter of grave concern that in an energy deficient country like ours, nuclear power, according to the reply given by the hon. Minister, accounts for only 3.2% of the power generated. Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the various phases. But all that is clear from the reply is that we are far, far short of our own target. Will the hon. Minister kindly take the House into confidence and tell us as to what the real bottlenecks are? Is it the international regulatory regime? It is necessary for us to know that. Otherwise, we will not be able to take meaningful initiatives.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, as you know, we have a very carefully planned three-phase programme. Let me tell the hon. House that by the end of the Eleventh Plan, we plan to reach a capacity of

10,000 MW and by the year 2020, we plan to reach a capacity of 20,000 MW. Nuclear power generation is a very expensive proposition and we have a plan for nine nuclear reactors which are currently under construction, which will add 4,460 MW of electricity. Some of them are of an advanced nature which we are doing for the first time. I assure the Members that we will definitely reach the target of 20,000 MW by the year 2020 MW and we are on target.

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour in Tamil Nadu

*25. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale practice of bonded labour in the Redhill area of Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether his Ministry has received the National Commission for Women's report on public hearings on the subejct; and

(c) the follow up action taken to secure the release and the rehabilitation of the victims and the punishment of those guilty of these criminal activities?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) A representation from Sarpam Irular Thozhilalar Sangam, Thiruvallur alleging such complaints was received in August, 2004 for the first time and subsequently in September, 2004.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu, 372 labourers were released from bondage from the district of Thiruvallur including Tiruttani and Ponneri of Redhill area from 1997 till 30th September, 2004 including 113 labourers in the current year. In this district, out of 55 cases in which prosecution was launched, conviction was secured in 20 cases. The State Government has also been supervising the functioning of all the ricemills in Redhill area by enforcing Factories Act etc. to ensure