

LOSS IN PATHRATU THERMAL POWER PROJECT

1598. SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI
CHATURVEDI: SHRI
DEVDAIT KUMAR
KIKABHAI PATEL: SHRI
D. THENGARI:

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the reported news under the heading "a situation that calls for urgent Government enquiry" that appeared in the "Labour World", a monthly English Journal of Delhi in connection with the Pathratu Thermal Power Project (Bihar) in which it is stated that a colossal loss of lakhs of rupees to Government has occurred;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) In the October issue of the 'Labour World' it has been alleged that the delay in the commissioning of Pathratu Thermal Power Station in Bihar was on account of delays in the erection and installation resulting in a huge loss to the Government. The journal has urged that there should be an enquiry into the matter particularly in respect of the performance of the contractors in carrying out the works in accordance with the conditions of the contract. The State Government have constituted a Commission of Enquiry under the Commission of Enquiry Act on 20th October, 1970, to enquire into the causes of losses and shortfalls in the performance of the Bihar State Electricity Board. As this Commission would be in a position to enquire into the various allegations, no separate enquiry is considered necessary for the present.

MISUSE OF AUTHORITY IN PUBLIC SECTOR

1599. SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI
CHATURVEDI: SHRI
DEVDAIT KUMAR
KIKABHAI PATEL: SHRI
D. THENGARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a letter, dated 17th October, 1970, addressed to the President of India, by the 'Convenor' of the 'Forum for Public Grievances' regarding the misuse of authority by some of the top-most officers of the National Projects in the Public Sector in general and of the Bihar State Electricity Board in particular which has led to a serious loss of money and efficiency;

(b) if so, the details of the letter; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) In his letter dated 23th September, 1970, the Convenor, Forum for Public Grievances (Delhi) has made allegations specifically against the conduct of an officer of the Bihar State Electricity Board in connection with the award of contracts for works relating to the installation of power stations at the Bokaro Steel Plant, Badarpur Project of the Government of India and Pathratu Project of the Bihar State Electricity Board. The allegations were referred to the Bihar State Government who have reported that a Commission of Enquiry has been set up by the Government of Bihar on 20th October, 1970 under the Commission of Enquiry Act to enquire into the causes of losses and shortfalls in the performance of the Board and that this Commission will be in a position to enquire into the various allegations against the officer concerned.