

THERMAL POWER STATION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

*737. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are considering the possibility of putting up a Thermal Power Station at the site of coal deposits within the State of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE in THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Yes; Sir.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: May I know whether the transmission system of such a power station will be connected with the Punjab State Electric Supply system?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We are trying to establish a thermal unit in Jammu and Kashmir. At present some power is being supplied from the Bhakra Nanga] system of the Punjab to this area.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: My question is whether this power station will be connected with the transmission system of Punjab or not.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I have already said, power is already being supplied from Punjab to Jammu and Kashmir. All this will go into one grid.

OVERTIME DUES OF THE WORKERSEMPLOYED AT IGATPURI AND ANMADSTATIONS

*738 SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers employed at Igatpuri and Manmad Stations on the Central Railway filed their applications before the concerned authorities for getting their overtime dues under Section 20 (2) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (Act XI of 1948);

(b) whether it is a fact that the authorities gave their decision in favour of the workers; and

(c) whether the Railway has paid their overtime dues, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Applications have been filed before the Authority under the Minimum Wages Act by certain workers at Igatpuri but no such application has been filed by workers at Manmad.

(b) Yes.

(c) One of the applicants was paid as decreed by the Authority at Igatpuri.

The decision of the said Authority in other cases has been set aside by the Bombay High Court on appeal by the Railway Administration. The High Court has remanded the case back to the Authority for re-examination.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: May I know when Labour Welfare Officers are appointed by the Government to look after the welfare of these labourers, why these Labour Welfare Officers did not represent the case of these labourers in time and why the Railway Authorities should compel the labourers to go to the court of law? What were these Labour Welfare Officers doing?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: For one thing, the Labour Welfare Officers are not controlled by the Railway Ministry.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Who are the appointing authority? These Labour Welfare Officers are appointed by the Government, that is to say, by the Railway Ministry. And if they are appointed to look after the welfare of the labourers, why were not the labourers paid their dues in time and why were they compelled to go to the court of law?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The reply, I understand, was that they were not under the Railway Ministry.