

The labourers are getting their wages at notified wage rates, unless so exempted by the Central Government, through the individual savings accounts of the workers in the relevant Banks or Post Offices.

**Use of new power technology**

1618. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for utilizing latest power technology which would reduce adverse impact on environment;

(b) if so, the details of such technology; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) An Advanced Ultra Super Critical Technology R&D Project has been approved by Government at a cost of ₹ 1500 crore involving BHEL, NTPC and Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) for enhanced efficiency of thermal generation. The objective of the scheme is to achieve higher efficiency, reduce carbon-dioxide emissions and reduce coal consumption for coal based power plants. The R&D work for the programme is carried out under the overall supervision of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India for certain pre-project R&D activities.

**Investment in thermal power plants**

1619. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to stop investments in coal based thermal power plants; and

(b) what is the level of efficiency of 47 thermal plants in the country as compared to developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir. India has abundant coal reserves and coal based thermal power generation will continue to remain mainstay for power generation in India.

(b) The weighted average efficiency of 47 thermal plants mentioned in the Report of Centre for Science and Environment for Green Rating of coal based power plants is 33.9 per cent while the average efficiency of thermal power plants of developed countries is about 38-40 per cent.