

of the SAARC Charter so that politically contentious issues could be discussed in the SAARC forum. In his statement at the inaugural session, the Prime Minister of Nepal had stated that SAARC should also create opportunities to discuss bilateral and political issues. No other SAARC Heads of State or Government in their statements at the Eighth SAARC Summit called for a review of the SAARC Charter or proposed that politically contentious issues should be discussed in the SAARC forum.

At the time when the SAARC charter was drawn up and endorsed by Heads of State or Government of SAARC Countries, these issues had been considered and a conscious decision was taken that bilateral as well as politically contentious issues should be excluded from the SAARC forum. The SAARC Charter explicitly states that "bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from the deliberations". The SAARC Charter also states that "decisions at all levels shall be taken on the basis of unanimity".

[Translation]

#### Maintenance of Thermal Power Plants

7669. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

Year	Thermal Power Generated in MU	As per Srinivasan Committee Report			P.M. (%)	Actual F.O. (%)	Total	Diff. (%)	Loss (MU)
		P.M. (%)	F.O. (%)	Total					
1993-94	247757	12.0	7.0	19.0	8.8	13.2	22.0	3.0	7432
1994-95	262868	12.0	7.0	19.0	8.1	14.7	22.8	3.8	9989

(c) In order to improve the performance of old thermal power stations a massive Renovation and Modernisation programme was launched in 1984. The latest sanctioned cost of the schemes covered under the programme is Rs. 1190.05 crores comprising of Rs. 426.52 crores under Central Loan Assistance (CLA) and Rs. 763.53 crores under State Plan/own resources.

(d) Various measures being taken for optimum utilisation of the installed capacity in the country include Renovation & Modernisation of old units, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal, vigorous implementation of preventive maintenance schedules and training of operation and maintenance personnel.

[English]

#### Development of Godavari and Buckingham Canal

7670. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding the feasibility of goods transport in the Godavari Canal from

(a) whether there is considerable loss of electricity annually due to lack of proper maintenance of various thermal power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of loss suffered during the last two years due to improper maintenance;

(c) the funds required by the Government to ensure proper maintenance of the thermal power stations; and

(d) the corrective steps being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the recommendations contained in the Report of the Srinivasan Committee on the Modernisation of Maintenance Procedures in Large Thermal Power Stations, the planned maintenance and the forced outage rate should not exceed 12% and 6-8% respectively. The actual planned maintenance and forced outage rate during the last two years as compared to the recommendation of the above Committee and estimated loss due to difference of the two are given below:-

Kakinada to Vijayawada and Buckingham Canal from Vijayawada to Madras;

(b) if so, the findings in this regard including the name of the investigating agency; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for the development of inland water transport and also goods transportation in the above two canals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The techno-economic feasibility study for development of inland water transport on the entire canal system connecting Kakinada and Madras, which includes Kakinada, Eluru, Commamaru and the Buckingham Canal has been conducted by the Inland Waterways Authority of India through their consultants namely, RITES. The field study had already been completed and the consultant has submitted the draft report.

A decision on the development of this canal system would depend on the findings of the study.