

many have been cleared for implementation. The thrust of the measures being adopted is to accelerate the pace of power development towards ensuring adequacy of power supply.

Termination of Fifth Plan

526. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI S.S. GUPTA :
SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its last meeting has decided to cut short the on-going Fifth Plan and terminate it in March, 1978 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has decided to start the Sixth Plan in April, 1978 as the First Year of the Rolling Plan ; and

(d) if so, the details of the follow-up action in relation thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) to (d). The new planning strategy proposed by the Planning Commission will imply substantial shifts in the inter-sectoral allocation of investments indicated in the Fifth Five Year Plan. It has thus become necessary to prepare a new development plan to achieve the objective of greater employment, based on revised investment priorities. Since it is desirable to initiate such a Plan with the least possible delay, the Commission has proposed that the Fifth Five Year Plan should end with the current financial year and a new medium-term investment plan should begin in April, 1978 for the period 1978 to 1983. The horizon of this Plan will be extended, by estimating the sectoral outlays and projecting the output of major sectors for one additional year at the end of each year of the Plan. This is the concept of the Rolling Plan.

The Commission is at present engaged in preparing the quantitative framework for the 1978-83 Plan. Discussions with State Government and Central Ministries are to commence shortly.

Power Shortage in Eastern Region

527. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether power deficit in the Eastern region is estimated to be to the tune of 6.14 million K. Wt. per day ;

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to improve the situation ;

(c) whether any techno-economic survey has been conducted for hydro-power generation in this area ; and

(d) if so, the result of such survey?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMAGHANDRAN) : (a) During the current month, the anticipated power deficit in the Eastern Region is estimated to be about 4 million units per day .

(b) the assessment for the Eastern Region for 1977-78 is as follows :

Installed capacity	4916 MW
Peak Availability	2800 MW
Peak Load	2967 MW
Deficit	167 MW

This deficit is sought to be met by better maintenance and management of the existing units with a view to obtaining increased output from them. In addition, close monitoring of new projects under execution is done, with a view to commissioning them at the earliest and thus relieving the situation.

(c) A survey of hydro-electric potential covering the Eastern Region was undertaken in 1953. Recently, additional staff had been sanctioned for conducting a re-survey.

(d) According to the original survey the potential of various rivers of the Eastern Region was estimated to be 3.63 million KW at 60% load factor. The re-survey is expected to make a fresh assessment of the potential available.

Industrial Licensing Policy

528. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK ;
SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT ;
SHRI S. THIAGARAJAN :
SHRI S.D. SOMASUNDARAM ;
SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to change the Industrial Licensing policy ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the time by which it will be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI) : (a) and (b) : Within the broad framework of the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956, Government have liberalised the Industrial Licensing Policy with a view to stimulating growth, particularly in industries of importance to the national economy. Such liberalisations include among other things facilities for diversification in the allied sectors of industries, maximum utilisation of installed capacity, automatic growth of capacity in certain selected industries, recognition of enhanced capacities as a result of replacement and modernisation of equipment and de-licensing of industries based on technologies developed by national laboratories.

(c) Does not arise.

Ship Building Yard at Haldia Port

529. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision regarding proposal for setting up a ship building yard at Haldia Port ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor

(c) whether an earlier expert committee strongly recommended the case for Haldia, if so, facts thereabout ;

(d) whether any other expert committee was set up to reconsider the recommendation of the earlier expert committee; if so, names and special qualifications of the experts who constituted this expert committee and the rationale behind their different recommendation;

(e) whether Government have decided, instead, to set up a Ship Repairing Yard at Haldia Ports; and

(f) if so, the expected capacity of the project and the time schedule for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir, No Ship building yard is proposed to be set up at Haldia Port at this stage.

(b) the decision is based on techno-economic consideration.

(c) The earlier Working Group had studied only the suitability of Haldia for the setting up of a Shipyard and given a positive recommendation. It had not made any comparative study in respect to other sites.

(d) A Techno-economic Group was set up by the Government in 1973 for a comparative evaluation of sites suggested by various maritime State Governments. This Group had at its disposal the earlier report on Haldia. The composition of the Working Group was as under :

Brig. O. P. Narula, Development Adviser, Ministry of Shipping & Transport	Chairman
Shri S. Kasthuri, General Manager, Cochin Shipyard Ltd.	Member
Shri R. L. Jain, Deputy Finance Officer, Ministry of Finance	Member
Shri M. G. Kutty, Chief Designer (Constn.) Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	Member
Shri R. P. Chitra, Manager, Development Cell Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	Member-Secretary

From the designations of these officers, it will be seen that all of them were high-level technical experts in various fields of ship-building or Finance.

(e) A proposal to this effect is under active consideration of the Government.

(f) Information on these points could be given only after a final decision has been taken.

Expansion of Production of Salt along the Coastal Belt of Contai in West Bengal

530. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made a proposal for expansion of production of salt along the coastal belt of Contai in West Bengal and whether Government of West Bengal have also agreed to work out the proposal ;

(b) if so, facts about the capacity of enhanced production of salt and nature of scope for utilisation of by products of salt manufacture there;

(c) whether it is proposed to be expanded under Government management or private management;