

The State of Bihar also experienced power shortage on some days during this period resulting in loads having to be shed on those days. Power cuts/restrictions were lifted in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in September/October. The causes of power shortage in the areas mentioned include inadequate installed generating capacity, delay in completion of on-going projects and relatively poor performance of newly commissioned thermal power generating units.

Weeding out of Industrial Licences and Letters of Intents

2107. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have weeded out a large number of letters of intents and industrial licences as a result of monitoring of implementation of approved industrial projects undertaken some time ago;

(b) whether detailed instructions have also been issued to various Ministries for weeding out the letters of intent and industrial licences; and

(c) whether they have submitted their report?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). Yes Sir. The Administrative Ministries are responsible for ensuring implementation of Industrial Licences and Letters of Intent. Instructions have been issued by the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry from time to time and specially in May and September, 1977 to the Administrative Ministries for weeding out of unimplemented Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent. As a result of the follow-up action taken by the Administrative Ministries, the number of Industrial Licences cancelled/revoked rose from 10 in 1974 to 56 in 1975, to 122 in 1976 and to 115 during January—October, 1977. Simi-

larly, the number of Letters of Intent cancelled/lapsed increased from 87 in 1974 to 348 in 1975, to 572 in 1976 and 240 during January—October, 1977. Copies of the letters issued for cancellation of Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent are regularly received in the Department of Industrial Development for information and record.

Badarpur Thermal Power Station

2108. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommissioning of the 100 Mw. Unit No. 2 at the Badarpur Thermal Power Station has been postponed;

(b) whether the unit had to be shut down many times this year; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). Unit No. 2 has been under forced outage since 8th January, 1977. On inspection, the high pressure rotor of the turbine was found damaged. The high pressure rotor has since been repaired by BHEL Hardwar and the turbine is now being reassembled. The date of re-commissioning had to be revised and it is now expected to be re-commissioned by middle of January, 1978.

Conference of States Information and Broadcasting Ministers

2109. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:

DR. HENRY AUSTIN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether States Information and Broadcasting Ministers Con-

ference was held in New Delhi in the month of November, 1977;

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed;

(c) the decisions arrived at; and

(d) whether Government have informed that no more Government advertisement will be given for souvenirs?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Conference of State Ministers of Information was held in New Delhi on the 4th November, 1977.

(b) List of subjects discussed in the Conference is given in the statement at Annexure I. Laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1214/77].

(c) Recommendations made by the Conference are given in the statement at Annexure II. laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1214/77].

(d) Yes, Sir.

Measures to help Sick Units

2110. SHRI HENRY AUSTIN;

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL
NAIDU:

SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State industries Ministers to take immediate measures to help the sick units in their respective States;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have taken a decision to give relief to these sick units;

(c) whether the number of sick industries have again gone up due to

the industrial unrest and attitude of the industrialists;

(d) if so, the total number of sick units at present (upto November 1977) State-wise;

(e) how many sick units have been given relief during the last six months; and

(f) whether any of the sick units have been merged with healthy units; if so their number?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a), (b) and (e). In discussions which were recently held with State Ministers of Industries, the need for establishing a monitoring mechanism to detect sickness at the incipient stage itself was stressed. It was further agreed that in the case of units, which had already been declared sick, the respective State Governments, the respective trade unions and the management concerned should be asked to jointly work out a time-bound scheme for their revival. Financial relief is given to sick units through public financial institutions such as the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India Ltd. The Central Government can give relief to sick units by taking over their management under sections 18A and 18AA of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. From 1-5-1977 onwards the Central Government took over the management of seven units and also extended the take-over period in the case of eight units. It is also possible for the Central Government under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 to freeze the liabilities of the units whose management is taken over for a maximum period of five years to enable them to stage a steady recovery. From 1-5-1977 onwards, the Central Government has issued orders freezing the liabilities of three units. In addition, the validity of the orders freezing the liabilities has been extended in the case of eleven units during the same period.