

Electricity Consumption in Punjab

2107. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual rate of increase of electric consumption in Punjab;

(b) is this increase much more as compared to the national figures;

(c) if so, what steps have the Union Government been taking to meet the increased demand; and

(d) does his Ministry think of keeping Punjab in special consideration category in approving the schemes of Punjab Government to enhance the production of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The increase in the electricity consumption in Punjab during 1976-77 was 15.2 per cent against an all India figure of 11.2 per cent and it was 9 per cent in 1977-78 as against an all India figure of 1.8 per cent.

(c) and (d) A number of new thermal and hydel generating stations are being installed in Punjab to meet the increasing power demand in the State, in addition to getting assistance from Central generation projects.

Proposal to give Concessions in T.V. and Radio Licences

2108. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to give concession for licence fee in respect of Radio sets to those who are having T.V. sets as it is being given in the case of Transistors and Radio and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Border Roads Development Board

2109. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the General Reserve Engineer Force under the Border Roads Development Board has presented to Government recently their demands and grievances;

(b) if so, what are the main grounds of their grievances and what steps does Government propose to take to redress them; and

(c) under what Regulations or Rules or Act is their employment and conditions determined?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (c). Some grievances of members of the Force are in Government's knowledge.

These relate to various terms and conditions of service and are under consideration.

The terms and conditions of service of members of the Force are generally speaking, as laid down in the Border Roads Regulations, and are the same as applicable to non-industrial civilians in Defence Services. For purposes of discipline, they are governed by the provisions of Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965, as well as certain specific provisions of the Army Act, 1950 and the Rules made thereunder.

Foreign Loan for Nagarjunasagar Project

2110. SHRI G. S. REDDI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loan from a foreign country for the Nagarjunasagar project has been obtained recently;