

under the Durgapur and Bandel Thermal Power Stations, respectively;

(b) the reasons for the demand of power not coming up to expectations in the greater Calcutta area; and

(c) the demands anticipated by the Sachdeva Committee's Report which have not materialised and the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):**

(a) About Rs. 27 crores have so far been spent on the generation works under the Bandel thermal power station and about Rs. 5 crores on transmission and distribution works making a total of Rs. 32 crores. A sum of Rs. 18.91 crores has been spent for plant, machinery and building of the Coke Over Power Plant of Durgapur Projects Ltd. and Rs. 8.9 crores in transmission and distribution works.

(b) and (c). The main reasons for the shortfall in load development in the greater Calcutta area has been the retarded growth of Industries and other consuming units in the area because of severe import restriction and difficult foreign exchange position. The major consumers, whose demands did not increase as anticipated by the Sachdev Committee are (1) ACC Vickers—Durgapur, (2) Mining Machinery Project, Durgapur (3) Benani Metals, Optical Glass, Krebs at Durgapur (4) Fertilizer Plant, Durgapur, (5) Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur, (6) Railway Traction, (7) Deep Tubewell Irrigation, (8) Farakka Barrage and (9) Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.

#### **Durgapur and Bandel Thermal Power Stations**

3428. **Shri Mohammad Elias:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Dr. Ranen Sen:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Durgapur Thermal Power Station and the Bandel Thermal Power Station of the West Bengal Government are lying idle for lack of demand;

(b) if so, the reasons for the State Government obtaining sanction of new power schemes;

(c) the present installed capacity of the two power stations at Durgapur and Bandel and the actual present load on them; and

(d) the reasons for not anticipating the shortfall in their load development?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):**

(a) to (d). The Thermal Power Station of Durgapur Projects Ltd. and the Bandel Thermal Power Station of the West Bengal Government are not lying idle for lack of demand. Both these power stations are making their contributions to the integrated power grid feeding Greater Calcutta area. The present installed capacity of Durgapur Power Station is 210 MW, the saleable capacity being 160 MW. The present load on this power station is 156 MW. The installed capacity of Bandel Power Station at present is 175 MW with saleable capacity of 158 MW. The present load at Bandel is 122 MW. It is not to be expected that a large thermal power station will be fully loaded as soon as it is commissioned. It is considered that with the gradual increase in industrial growth, both the thermal power stations at Bandel and Durgapur will be fully loaded. It is desirable to plan new generating units well in advance so that such units can be commissioned by the time the existing units are fully loaded. Besides, it takes at least 4 to 5 years to put a large thermal power station into commission. The West Bengal Government were, therefore, justified in obtaining sanction for the sixth unit (150 MW) extension of the Durgapur Project and the Santaldih thermal Power Project involving installation of 480 MW. The shortfall in load development is not of a large order and is largely due to retarded growth of industries and other consuming units in the area because of severe import restrictions and difficult foreign exchange position.