

Delay in Construction of Bias Dam

3099. SHRIMATI NIRLEP KAUR : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether construction of Bias Dam has been considerably delayed due to shortage of funds ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for early completion of the Bias Dam for improvement in the State ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Industries Affected by Power Shortage in Punjab

3100. SHRIMATI NIRLEP KAUR : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been an acute shortage of power supply in Punjab resulting in heavy losses to the industries ;

(b) whether Delhi is buying power from Punjab at cheaper rates and selling it to Uttar Pradesh at higher rates ;

(c) whether the Punjab Government have made any complaint in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Due to inadequate rainfall in the catchment area, the Bhakra reservoir has not filled up to the normal level. There is, therefore, a power shortage in the Northern Region necessitating a cut in the power supply. The present cut in Punjab is about 10%, and will go up even further during the depletion period of the Bhakra reservoir beginning from the middle of December, 1970. In Punjab the

present cut is about 10%. Power supply to the Nangal Fertiliser Factory in Punjab will be reduced from 3 million units per day to 2.3 million units per day. Also additional power from DESU and Satpura systems will be obtained. Further diesel sets will be commissioned. With all these additional sources of power it is expected that the cut in Punjab will be about 25% from the middle of December, 1970. The cuts will be applied uniformly to power supplied to industries except in respect of small and medium industries, defence/export oriented industries and continuous process industries.

(b) to (d). In order to mitigate the power shortage in the Northern Region, DESU is providing substantial relief to the Bhakra System to the extent of about 0.8 million units per day. No supplies of power are at present being effected by DESU to Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Punjab had requested that DESU should not charge higher thermal rates for the power supplied to the Bhakra System in view of the fact that DESU was also receiving some power from the Bhakra System. The rates proposed to be charged by DESU for supply to Bhakra are under examination by the Government of India with a view to fixing an equitable rate for this supply.

Representation made by Nurses of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay

3101. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether she has received any representation on behalf of Nurses of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay ;

(b) if so, the nature of their demands ; and

(c) the action taken to meet the demands ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) An anonymous representation from the nurses of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has been received.