

tion. The hydro-electric capacity is capable of full utilisation, but can generate power only to the extent of water availability. The thermal capacity of 957 MW has been derated to about 880 MW. The generation has not been as stable as would be desirable. The generation from the thermal units is below the installed capacity because of the poor and variable quality of coal and the inadequacy of the maintenance over a period of time, as a result of which several of the coal mills, I.D. fans, and ash handling systems etc. have become unreliable. Outages in these auxiliary equipments lead to variations in the generation. A programme of rehabilitating and renovating the worn out plant and machinery has been taken up since last year, and is expected to be substantially completed by the end of this year. Efforts are being made to provide coal of the quality for which the boilers have been designed and to improve the standards of maintenance and operation.

Coal mines and steel plants, along with railway traction, have been given the highest priority in the scheme devised for allocation of DVC power. Due to low generation in the Eastern Region and in the DVC, it has not been possible to meet the unrestricted demands of these sectors, but generally the allocated quantities of power are being supplied to the coal mines and the steel plants. Occasionally, when the DVC generation is low, these two users are also subject to cuts.

Unrealistic Policy for Newsprint Shortage

*260. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chairman of Indian Paper Manufacturers Association has blamed Government's unrealistic

policy for newsprint shortages in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). The Chairman, Indian Paper Manufacturers' Association in his address to the Annual General meeting of the Association held on the 31st May, 1974 made certain suggestions for the development of newsprint industry in the country. Some of these suggestions were the need for a more realistic pricing policy and the establishment of min-newsprint plants for the manufacture of newsprint with an unconventional furnish on low speed machines. These matters are already under consideration of Government.

Effect of Power cut on Industries in Karnataka

*261 SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power cut in Karnataka has hit the vital industries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to resume power to the vital industries there?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). Karnataka, which is dependent solely on hydro-electric power, has been experiencing a shortage of energy after the South West Monsoon Season in 1973 on account of inadequacy of water in the reservoirs. High Tension Industries including a number of high priority industries such as aluminium, steel, machine tools, heavy earth moving equipment, air-craft, automobile ancillaries, telephones, electronic equipment,