

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: The programme was already agreed upon. I am talking about already agreed upon modernisation programme in 1988-89. What about that?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I can say this much that when we went to the Planning Commission, we have allocated funds even to an extent of Rs. 300 crore for IISCO also and not the full amount because we are also trying to do some modernisation of IISCO. But our Ministry is now evaluating a report that has come from the Standing Committee, which has suggested various methods to be involved for modernisation of IISCO. And I will not be able to react to many of them now because most of them have to be sent to the Law Ministry for their opinion. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: It has already been referred to BIFR because you are considering the report of the Standing Committee. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Unless the Law Ministry's opinion is received, I will not be able to say what will be the ultimate outcome. As I have told you, we are evaluating each and every proposal that has come from the Standing Committee.

Power Generation

*510. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared any blueprint for exploitation of large hydro and natural gas

resources for power generation in the North Eastern region;

(b) whether the Government propose to evolve strategies for private sector participation in power generation and distribution in the North East; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Central Electricity Authority has assessed the total hydro-based electricity potential in the North-Eastern Region at 31857 MW at 60% load factor. The allocations of natural gas for various usages is based on the Imputed Economic Values (IEV) of natural gas used subject to preference being given to the fertilizer and power sectors. So far, gas allocations have been agreed to for 14 power projects in the North-Eastern Region.

(b) The private power policy of the Government of India enunciated in 1991, seeking to promote generation and distribution of power with private sector participation, is applicable to all parts of the country, including the North-Eastern Region.

(c) Expressions of interest from private promoters have been received for six projects in the North-Eastern Region, as per details in the *Annexure* hereto attached.

ANNEXURE

Details of Expression of Interests by Private Sector Companies in NE Region.

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ State	Capacity (MW)	Prov. Cost Estimate (Rs. Crs.)	Name of the Company
1.	Kameng HEP/ Arunachal Pradesh	600.00 (Hydel)	1800.00	Intercorp Industries Ltd./ Snowy Mountains Engg. (Australia)
2.	Kharsang GBPP/ Arunachal Pradesh	48.00 (Gas)	168.00	Intercorp Industries Ltd./ Snowy Mountains Engg. (Australia)
3.	Karbi Langpi HEP/ (Lower Barapani) Assam	100.00 (Hydel)	300.00	Bharat Hydro Power Corp./ Subhash Projects & Mktg. Ltd.
4.	Amguri GBPP/ Assam	360.00 (Gas)	1280.00	Northern Engineering Inc., USA/Agra Industries
5.	Adamtilla Open Cycle/ Assam	15.00 (Gas)	52.50	DLF Power Co. Ltd.
6.	Bashkandi Open Cycle/ Assam	22.50 (Gas)	78.75	DLF Power Co. Ltd.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was, whether the Union Government have prepared any blueprint for exploitation of large hydro and natural gas resources for power generation in the North Eastern Region. But, Sir, in the reply of the hon. Minister, nothing in regard to blueprint has been mentioned. I have to say that the Regions prognosticated hydrocarbon resources are estimated to be nearly 4 billion tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas in the on-shore basins: Upper Assam and the Assam-Araçan belt. Its total hydro-electric potential is placed at about

35,000 MW at 60 per cent load factor. A large part of these resources is yet to be exploited optimally due to lack of financial resources and institutional linkages.

May I know from the hon. Minister the measures that the Government have already adopted or propose to be adopted to remove this non-availability of financial resources and institutional linkages?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that we have

a large hydro-electric potential in the North East. As I have already said in the reply, it is about 31,857 MW at 60 per cent load factor (PLF). But we have not been able to harness sufficient percentage of it because of various problems connected with the hydro-electric projects like river water problems, submission problem; and especially in the North East, we have this submersion problem. The biggest project in the North East... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about funds. How will you find funds for this purpose?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Sir, funds is also one of the constraints.

MR. SPEAKER: How will you find funds for this purpose?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: We have to raise funds through the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has to release funds. At the moment, the Planning Commission is not in a position to release funds for such huge hydro-electric electric projects. And we can pose them to private sector in due course. Before that, I am explaining that it is difficult to....

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has put a question, can you find funds and how?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): Sir, this is an extremely important Region for us and we have to harness the entire potential. It is a very large potential of 31,857 MW in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur. There are two questions. One is that a very substantial part of it is perhaps not

feasible because of massive submersion. And 20,000 MW project in Arunachal Pradesh would perhaps involve submersion of entire Arunachal. Therefore, that difficulty is there.

As to the funds, there is an acute shortage of funds. The only way that we can harness, whatever we can, is perhaps through the private sector and this Ministry will endeavour its best to get private sector to find funds for it.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Sir, the reply is not complete and satisfactory.

I would like to know whether the Government propose to involve the private sector in laying and maintenance of transmission lines which, otherwise, are likely to become a limiting factor in the development of private sector especially in remote and inaccessible areas like the North Eastern region?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I think, in reply to the earlier question, I have answered this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have replied. The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Passport Offices

*502. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:
SHRI HARISH NARAYAN
PRABHU ZANTYE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: