

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to introduce competitive bidding in power sector for setting up power projects in the country;

(b) whether the competitive bidding would encourage more participation of private sector in the power sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of proposals, both Indian and foreign separately, for participation of private sector in power projects presently under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): (a) Awarding power projects to private promoters is within the competence of the State Governments. State Governments have been advised to consider introducing competitive bidding for awarding power projects to the private promoters.

(b) and (c). The proposal for awarding power plants through competitive bidding to private sector by State Government is more for transparency in the procedure than to make such proposals more attractive.

(d) As on date proposals have been received for setting up of 75 power projects in private sector for a total capacity of 32,662 MW costing approx. Rs. 1,04,152 crores. 35 of these proposals are from foreign investors (including NRI and joint venture proposals) for a capacity addition of 22,432 MW costing approx. Rs. 73,386 crores. 35 out of the 75 proposals are from Indian promoters for a capacity addition of 7019 MW costing approx. Rs. 20,330 crores. Remaining 5 proposals for a capacity addition of 3210 MW are proposed to be awarded through bidding.

East Coast Road

*520. SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has decided to review the East Coast Road linking Madras to Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether environmental issues have been involved in the execution of the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present stage of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e). A *Statement* is attached:

STATEMENT

Constitutionally the Central Government is concerned with the development and upkeep of the National Highways in the country and all other roads are the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. East Coast Road being a State road, Government of Tamil Nadu are primarily concerned with its development. Information as reported by the State Government in this regard is as under:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have given

environmental clearance to Madras-Cuddalore Section of the East Coast Road which is being developed with the Asian Development Bank loan assistance.

(e) The physical progress of the work is 30%.

STs Posts in MTNL

5619. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge backlog in filling up of posts of class III and IV reserved for Scheduled Tribes in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise with reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, there is a backlog of vacancies as stated in answer to para (b).

(b) Details of ST backlog category-wise is as under:—

Category	Number
Group 'C'	550
Group 'D'	683

The backlog exists as ST candidates were not available.

(c) To fill up the backlog of reserved ST vacancies, following steps are being taken:

(i) where candidates are not available within the Unit, other Telecom. Units have been asked for willing candidates.

(ii) Appropriate Staff Selection Commissions & Employment Exchanges have also been approached for ST candidates.

(iii) Where employment exchanges have given "Non-availability Certificate", open advertisements have been issued in News papers for filling up backlog of reserved vacancies for ST candidates.

Tin Plate Production

5620. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of tin plate in the country;

(b) the total annual demand of tin plate;

(c) whether there is a demand-supply gap which is not being covered by the present tin plate production in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply of tin plate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The total