

voltage profile, preparation of system improvement schemes for strengthening the improvement of the systems, installing tamper-proof meter boxes, intensifying surprise raids and launching prosecution against the persons found indulging in theft of energy. Theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence from August 1986 under the provision of Section-39 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. An incentive scheme has also been introduced by the Government of India among the State Electricity Boards/ Electricity Departments constituted by the State Governments. Various measures being taken to improve the generation in the country include Renovation and Modernisation of old units, assistance to Electricity Boards in undertaking plant betterment programme, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal and training of operation & maintenance personnel.

[English]

Foreign Investment in Power Sector

*208. PROF. UMMAREDDY: VENKTESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have the objective of allowing market forces to determine the quantum of investment by foreign power companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any time limit to the continuance of guarantees given by the Government to foreign companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI

N.K.P. SALVE): (a) and (b). The Government has allowed the entry of private sector in power sector as a generating company by making necessary amendments in the Acts. The responsibility of raising finances for a private power project rests with the project developer, therefore, the quantum of investment by foreign power companies will depend on the investors' perception of attractiveness of investment in the Indian Power Sector and their ability to raise finances, both equity and debt to finance power projects.

(c). No guarantees have so far been executed by the Government of India to any foreign private company.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Food Processing Units

*209. SHRI LAL BABU RAI:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals for setting up Food Processing Units in economically and industrially backward areas of the country in 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Food Processing Units set up in the backward regions of the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). Most of the Food Processing Industries are delicensed with the exception