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[Translation]

Investment by Canada in Power Sector

225. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have requested to the Government of Canada to make investment in the power sector keeping in view the acute shortage of power in the country;

(b) if so, the conditions and other details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Canada Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of Canada on 8.1.1997 for a grant of Canadian \$ 13.8 million over a period of three years for Energy. Infrastructure Services Project of Kerala. The purpose of the Project is to (i) assist Kerala with the organisational restructuring and policy reforms required in the power sector. (ii) examine the need for a suitable independent regulatory mechanism to promote and regulate the electric power industry. (iii) evolve norms. procedures, and the related documentation to associate the private sector in the development of various facets of the power industry. (iv) promote regional cooperation between SEBs in the southern region and (v) investigate the possibility of applying the project concept (restructuring and policy reforms) to other SEBs.

Moreover, under the policy for private sector participation in the power sector. Canadian Companies are eligible to invest in Power Projects.

[English]

## Full Time Programmes in Martandom Low Power Transmitter

226. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide full time programmes in the Martandom Low Power Transmitter for which there are pressing demands and representations from the people of that area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROAD-CASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) While the Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Marthandam was commissioned on 9.12.95 pending staff sanction and is presently being run by deployment of staff, on tour. from elsewhere in Doordarshan network, thereby providing only part transmission, full time transmission from the LPT would depend upon availability of staff sanction for operation and maintenance of the project.

## **Restriction of Business Activities**

227. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has restricted the business activities of Siemens, Birla Ericsson, RPG, Sterlite and Vikas Hybrid;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received from any of these companies in this regard; and