

- (ii) Liberalisation of Export-Import Policy by allowing free access to imported capital goods, value based advanced licensing scheme etc.
- (iii) Rationalisation of fiscal policy especially in the areas of duty structure, corporate taxation etc.
- (iv) Introduction of the Software Technology Park Scheme which seeks to provide infrastructural facilities for small software houses to enter the export market. The scheme also gives the flexibility to set up private STPs which can be done by bigger companies taking advantage of the duty free facilities offered for import of CG etc.
- (v) Introduction of the Electronics Hardware Technology Park Scheme (EHTP) designed to meet the specific requirements of a globally oriented electronics sector. This would provide a flexible policy environment that would greatly enhance the ease of doing business and making professional access to the vast Indian domestic market as an incentive for export production in the country.
- (vi) Encouraging foreign collaboration for investment and technology. This includes automatic approval for foreign direct investment upto 51% foreign equity in high priority industries and automatic permission for foreign technology agreements in such industries with certain ceiling on payments.
- (vii) Encouragements to NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies predominantly owned by NRIs to invest in India. This includes automatic approval upto 100% equity in priority industries.
- (viii) Implementation of a quality infrastructure programme called the Standardization, Testing & Quality Certification (STQC) Programme to promote the quality of Indian electronic goods.
- (ix) Participation in and sponsoring of seminars, exhibitions, business delegation etc. abroad and in India.
- (x) Establishment of a Software Services Support and Education Centre to improve the quality of Indian Software.

#### Allotment of Coal to State Electricity Boards

1782. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :  
SHRI VIJAY HARISHCHANDA PATEL :  
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed by the Central Electricity Authority for allotment of coal to various State Electricity Boards; and

(b) the other functions of the Central Electricity Authority ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The coal linkage to power plants is determined based on the generation target. With the introduction of cash and carry Scheme, the actual supply of coal to a power plant depends on the advance payments made to the concerned collieries and the railways for the supply and transportation of coal.

(b) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) assists the Ministry of Power in all technical, financial and economic matters. The functions entrusted to the CEA and the details to be performed are indicated below :

1. To develop a sound, adequate and uniform national power policy, formulate short-term and perspective plans for power development and coordinate the activities of planning agencies in relation to the control and utilisation of national power resources;
2. To act as arbitrators in matters arising between the State Government or the Board and a licensee or other person as provided in the Act;
3. To collect and record the data concerning generation, distribution and utilisation of power and carry out studies relating to cost, efficiency, losses, benefits and such like matters;
4. To make public from time to time information secured under the Act and to provide for the publication of reports and investigation;
5. To advise any State Government Board, Generating Company or another agency engaged in generation and/or supply of electricity on such matters as will enable such Government Board, Generating Company or agency to operate and maintain the power system under its ownership or control in an improved manner and where necessary in coordination with any other agency owing or having the control of another power system;
6. To promote and assist in the timely completion of schemes sanctioned under Chapter V of the Act;
7. To make arrangement for advancing the skill of persons engaged in the generation and supply of electricity;

8. To carry out or make arrangement for any investigation for the purpose of generating or transmitting electricity;
9. To promote research in matters affecting the generation, transmission and supply of electricity;
10. To advise the Central Government on any matter on which its advice is sought or make recommendations to that Government on any matter if, in the opinion of the Authority the recommendation would help in improving the generation, distribution and utilisation of electricity; and
11. To discharge such other functions as may be entrusted to it or under any other law.
12. Under the provision of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the Government has further added few more functions to the Central Electricity Authority. These are :
  - (i) Co-ordination of research and development in the power generation field;
  - (ii) Evaluation of financial performance of the SEBs constituted under Section 5 and undertaking of studies concerning the economic and commercial aspects of the power industry as well as analysis of the tariff structure in the power industry;
    - Techno-economic appraisal of power projects;
    - Promotion of inter-State and joint sector power projects.

Apart from the above functions provided under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the CEA also undertakes design and engineering of power projects with a view to developing in-house technical know-how and also assists State Electricity Boards, Generating Companies & State Authorities requiring such assistance.

#### Safe Drinking Water

1783.COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether even after spending crores of rupees on construction of overhead tanks, ground level tanks, laying of pipelines and other infrastructure, safe drinking water is still not available to large numbers of villages and bastis;

(b) whether some old water sources have become unviable because of decrease of water/drying of water source;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to augment additional water sources with the help of Central Ground Water Board and Ground Water Board of State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any proposal to bring water to Jaisalmer district from Indira Gandhi Nahar Proyojna is under consideration of the Government is so, details thereof; and

(f) the number of villages are yet to be provided sufficient safe drinking water and likely date by which all the villages and Bastis will be covered state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 53409 number of 'Not Covered' (NC) habitations out of a total number of 13.20 lakh habitations in the country are yet to be provided safe drinking water facilities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Central Ground Water Board has agreed to provide assistance to all the States/UTs for scientific source finding for NC habitations. In the meeting held with the States/UTs on 13.2.1997 the States have been requested to avail of the assistance of OGWI. The States will also use the services of their ground water department for its purpose.

(e) The State Government of Rajasthan has reported that for providing drinking water to 147 and 411 villages of Jaisalmer and Barmer district respectively along with Barmer city too, a lift project named Farmer Lift was prepared costing Rs. 590 crore approximately. The project is, however, being revised due to certain new developments of likely availability of water in Gadra Road Minor and the Narvada Project.

(f) The State-wise details of NC and Partially covered habitations are given in the enclosed Statement. These are likely to be covered with safe drinking water facility by 2000 AD.

#### Statement

Statement showing the number of NC & PC habitations

Sl. No.	State/UT	NC Habitations**	PC Habitations***
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	15757
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	790	1431
3.	Assam	10918	23701