

COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in departmental buildings as well as in private buildings in Rajasthan; and

(b) the telephone exchanges for which Departmental buildings are to be provided in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) (i) The number of Telephone Exchanges functioning in Depttl. Building 67.

(ii) The No. of T.Es functioning in Private Buildings 1048.

(b) The telephone exchanges for which Departmental buildings are to be provided in near future - 38.

[English]

Power Development Fund

1677. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Private Power Development Fund has been proposed/ created by the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of financial assistance likely to be provided to India through this fund; and

(d) the stand taken by the Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) World Bank have offered a technical assistance loan to be

administered through the Power Finance Corpn. for assisting the private power initiatives.

(b) The overall purpose of the Technical Assistance loan and grant from the World Bank is to ensure that the basic objectives of the private power initiative are achieved, i.e. that additional investment capital and management expertise are mobilised and that the potential efficiency gains in power supply are fully realised and passed on to the final consumers. In the short term the project would help to manage the implementation of the private power policy during the present transition period and would also set the stage for the introduction of market mechanisms in the sector as a whole. To that effect, assistance would be provided to GOI and the various central and state entities concerned for (i) the review by private power specialists of the offers currently under consideration to ensure that the projects being negotiated are executed under acceptable and sustainable conditions (ii) the introduction of competitive bidding for the selection of project sponsors; and (iii) the formulation of additional provisions in the policy and regulatory framework to achieve the above mentioned objectives, and promote other forms of private sector participation, in addition to Independent Private Power Projects.

(c) The amount of the loan is US Dollars 20 million.

(d) The loan agreement has already been signed and the SEBs who are negotiating with private promoters have been advised to take assistance from this loan.

New Food Processing Units

1678. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH
YADAV :