

(b) and (c). No case of denial of benefits to ex-servicemen due and admissible under the Government order has come to the notice of the Government.

(d) and (e). Ex-servicemen re-employed in civil posts are not allowed Dearness Relief on pension but they are allowed Dearness Allowance on re-employment pay. The policy of Government not to allow Dearness Relief on pension after re-employment has been upheld by the Courts of Law.

### **Equity Holding by BHEL**

2564. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., has decided to take up equity holding in those power projects which are being set up at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BHEL has any plan of entering into power generation field on its own; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). BHEL has been considering taking up of partial Equity Holding in some of the independent Power projects.

(c) and (d). Entering into Power Generating Field with suitable partnership

would be one of the areas for diversification being considered by BHEL.

### **Capacity Utilization of Bharat Electronics Limited**

2565. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to utilise the expertise of Bharat Electronics Limited in the Service Sector of Telecommunication, particularly for erection and maintenance of the network being provided at the Gram Panchayat level;

(b) whether the potential available with BEL, Kotdwara, is likely to be used for this purpose in the Hill Areas, near its location; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has been manufacturing and supplying various telecommunication equipment to the Department of Telecommunications (DOT).

The company has set up a separate unit at Kotdwara especially for manufacturing switching and transmission equipment. The existing capacities and the orders in hand from DOT are as under:

Equipment	Existing Capacity	Orders in hand
Switching Equipment	1,50,000 lines per annum of exchanges upto 10,000 capacity	NIL
Multiplexure		
2 Mb	1500 Terminals	NIL
8 Mb	1200 Terminals	116 Nos.
34 Mb	600 Terminals	NIL

With a view to offering its services for providing transmission and switching equipment for villages, BEL Kotdwara had, in the year 1990, developed a small exchange of 32 lines capacity with 8 trunk lines specifically suited for villages. It is yet to receive any orders from DOT for this equipment.

BEL Kotdwara is also in a position to assist DOT in the improvement of telecommunication service in hill areas.

DOT has been requested to avail of the facilities of BEL by placing adequate orders commensurate with its installed capacities.

### **Ocean Thermal Energy**

2566. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any success has been achieved in generation of power by developing and harnessing thermal energy from the Indian ocean;

(b) the number of such projects set up so far, State-wise;

(c) the number of such projects likely to be set up during the Eighth Plan;

(d) whether the Government have assessed the quality and production cost of power from this source; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c). An MoU has been signed between Tamil Nadu Electricity Board/Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency and an American Company M/s Sea Solar Power Inc. (SSP) for installation of an OTEC Plant of 100 MW capacity off the coast of Tamil Nadu by M/s. SSP on "Build-Own-Operate" basis.

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

*[Translation]*

### **Funds to Bihar for UWS Scheme**

2567. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: