

**Foreign Assistance for Non-
Conventional Energy
Sources**

310. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made for foreign financial assistance with the World Bank and bilateral agencies for exploiting the potential in small hydel, wind energy and solar photovoltaic;

(b) be number of bio-gas plants set up and the assessment regarding saving of wood per year generating energy and fertiliser per year; and

(c) the number of improved chulhas installed and to what extent it saved wood annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISANA KUMAR): (a) As a result of efforts made by the Government to mobilise resources from the World Bank and other bilateral agencies, it has been possible to received commitment to the tune of Us \$ 145 million for exploiting the potential in small hydro, wind energy and solar photovoltaics for the Renewable Resources Development project. The World Bank (International development agencies), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of Switzerland are participating in financing this project. In addition, Danish Govt. (DANIDA) assistance for the projects is also under consideration.

Through the assistance likely to be received under the above project, it is envisaged to add an aggregated capacity each of 100 MW through small hydro projects, 85 MW through wind farms and 2.5 MW through solar Potovoltaic systems.

In addition, Government of Netherlands have already given grant-in-aid amounting to 17 million Guilders towards financing of the technologies including small hydro, wind energy etc. The Dutch Government has also made an additional commitment of 23 million Guilders for exploiting NRSE technologies.

(b) 15.75 lakh biogas plants have been install through out the country upto 31.3.1992, since inception of the National Project on Biogas Development. It is estimate that these biogas plants are producing biogas equivalent to 49.1 lakh tonnes of fuel wood annually. Besides, 236.2 lakh tonnes of manure is also estimated to be produced by these plants per year.

(c) Under the National Programme on Improved Culha, 133.51 nos. of improved culhas have been installed in the country upto 31.3.1992, since inception of the programme. These improved chulhas are capable of saving 93.45 lakh tonnes of wood/wood equivalent per year.

[Translations]

**Development of Small and Medium
Towns of Madhya Pradesh**

311. SHRI SHIVAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposed to develop the small and medium towns in madhya Pradesh during 1992-93;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon in each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RSOOURCES (SHRI P. K.

THUNGON): (a) to (c) Project proposals for Central assistance under the Scheme for integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) are formulated by the State Governments and UT Administrations every year in accordance with the guidelines in force and submitted to the Central Government for approval. For the current financial year, no proposal under the IDSMT Scheme has been received so far from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Central assistance released under the IDSMT Scheme to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years is given below.

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Rs. in Lakhs</i>
1989-90	182.230
1990-91	185.000
1991-92	75.00

Details of year-wise expenditure including State Component under the IDSMT Scheme are not maintained by the Central Government.

[English]

**Complaint Against M.T.N.L. in
M.R.T.P.C.**

312. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether carton complaints have been lodged with the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission against the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited for overcharging the telephone users for the calls made by them;

(b) if some the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW; JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):
(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The MRTP Commission has received a complaint from the Centre for Telecommunications Management and Studies Hyderabad regarding the trade practices being followed by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL). The main allegations of the complaint are as under:

(i) The subscribers are kept ignorant of the fact that their telephone bills include capital contributions for which their consent has not been obtained;

(ii) The telephone and other charges are periodically raised almost once every two years without consulting anybody;

(iii) MTNL has started charging local calls on the basis of time (one unit for 5 minutes) just like long distance calls on the plea that long local calls are congesting the network;

(iv) MTNL keeps security deposits, OYT Deposits, STD deposits without giving any interest from the time a connection is given till it is surrendered. The period is 'Perpetuity' almost;

(v) The telephone directory is required to be published at 12 monthly intervals but it is generally delayed from 6 to 18 months. The delay results in additional expenses for the subscribers since they have to pay for wrong calls or the directory assistance; and

(vi) Sometimes the telephones go out of order. No reasonable time is stipulated for their restoration.

The MRTP Commission has received another complaint from Consumer Protection Council, Tamilnadu, alleging that since