

(c) The estimated reserves of granite of Sindhudurg district are 11.00 million cubic metres but the potential for export market for granite from this district is yet to be established.

W. B. LOAN FOR POWER SECTOR

2165. SHRI ANBARASU ERA :

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-
PAYEE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to associate the World Bank in the privatisation of power sector in the country;

(b) if so, the specifics of the proposal;

(c) whether a \$ 20 million commercial loan is proposed to be taken from the World Bank to pay the fee of consultants; and

(d) if so, the names of the consultants and their proposed terms and conditions and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) The overall purpose of the Technical Assistance loan 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 mobilized and that the potential efficiency gains in power supply are fully realized 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, but 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 specialist 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 abovementioned objectives, and promote other forms of private sector

participation, in addition to Independent Private Power Projects.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Consultants remain to be appointed. The terms of their appointment would be as per World Bank's procurement guidelines, and taking into account the requirements of the agencies i.e. SEBs and State Governments utilising their services.

[Translation]

NEW TELECOM. POLICY

2166. SHRI BARE IAL JATAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised the new Telecom policy;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) The National Telecommunication Policy is still under consideration of the Government.

[English]

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGES WITH STD IN DAKSHINA KANNADA

2167. SHRI K. G. SHIVAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the entire district of Dakshina Kannada has electronic telephone exchanges by replacing the old exchanges;

(b) if so, the electronic exchanges out of them having STD and ISD facilities, and

(c) if not, the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir, except 8 electro-mechanical exchanges.

(b) 100 numbers out of total 168 electronic exchanges are provided with STD/ISD facilities.