

areas where these connections are required are at present technically Non-feasible. All these applicants will be provided connections by December, 1994.

(d) Not applicable in view of (b) and (c) above.

**HPCL Agreement with SPGL**

3945. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) has recently signed an agreement with a US firm for the supply of Naphtha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the companies involved in the said Joint Venture project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c). The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has signed an agreement with M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Ltd. for the supply of 30000 MTs of naphtha per year to their power station being put up at Kakinada. The project is being set up as a joint venture consisting of Spectrum Technology USA Inc. and Jaya Food Industries of Hyderabad with the National Thermal Power Corporation, Rolls Royce Partners Finance, Westing House Corporation and Commonwealth Development Corporation joining in the equity of the company.

**Tapping of Telephones in Karnataka**

3946. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephones of leading politicians and journalists are being tapped in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details with reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). Sir, under the provisions of Section 5(ii) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Department of Telecom extends technical facilities to any Officer authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government in the matter of tapping of telephones under certain situations.

The Department of Telecom is not authorised to exercise any further checks in the matter. However, the Department is not aware of any such tapping of telephones of leading politicians and journalists.

[*Translation*]

**Maheshwar Hydro Power Project**

3947. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maheshwar Hydro Power Project on river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh has been handed over to private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the context of paucity of resources with Central/State PSUs and SEBs and to bridge the gap between the rapidly growing demand for electricity and supply, a policy to encourage greater investments by private enterprises in the power sector with the objective of mobilising additional resources for capacity addition in power generation and distribution, had been formulated in 1991 and is currently under implementation. In line with the policy, Government of Madhya Pradesh have entrusted execution of Maheshwar HEP (400 MW) to M/s. S. Kumars in November, 1992.

[English]

#### **Exploitation of Ground Water**

3948. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has carried out a massive Rs. 700 crore pump set energisation programme during the current financial year with participation from NABARD and commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to increase energisation in the

potential areas to exploit the ground water resources, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The Annual Plan of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for the year 1994-95, as approved by the Planning Commission, for Rural Electrification works (including electrification of 3341 villages and energisation of 2.12 lakh pumpsets) stands at Rs. 660 crores. Out of the total annual target of 2.12 lakh pumpsets about 1.52 lakh pumpsets are targeted to be energised under Special Project Agriculture (SPA) Programme in participation with NABARD & Commercial Banks.

(c) Pumpset Energisation is a continuing programme of SEBs/State Governments, financed by REC, which is aimed at exploitation of ground water resources to the maximum possible extent. The programme is undertaken with regard to the ground water potential of the area in each State, as certified by the Ground Water Board/Ground Water Department or Minor Irrigation Department of the respective States. State-wise targets for pumpset energisation during the year 1994-95 are given in the attached Statement.

#### **STATEMENT**

##### *Pumpsets to be energised during 1994-95 under REC Programme*

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Name of the State</i> | <i>No. of pumpsets to be energised</i> |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1              | 2                        | 3                                      |
| 1.             | Andhra Pradesh           | 53,000                                 |
| 2.             | Arunachal Pradesh        | 0                                      |