

that is available. Only after completion of collection of the data, will we process it and then we will taken final decision.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply of the hon. Minister, I do not find any information regarding the State of Tamil Nadu. May I request the hon. Minister whether any oil exploration work has been carried out in Tamil Nadu in the recent years, and if so, what are the details?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we have drilled 240 exploratory wells. Thirty-one development wells have been drilled. Out of that, oil wells are 62 and gas wells are 23. The cumulative production as on 1st April, 1996 is 2.38 MMT of oil and 426.99 MMSCM of gas.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question was asked for two or three times in the Tenth Lok Sabha and during the last session. As has been said by my hon. friend Shri Gaekwad, South Gujarat, North Gujarat and Sourashtra have been identified as oil reserves. Private as well government agencies were engaged for the exploration of these deposits, negotiations were held for twice or thrice for this purpose. I have been hearing this reply repeatedly that negotiations are being held. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the present position of exploration of oil from the oil reserves of Gujarat and tender called for the same. I would also like to know the time by which oil will be extracted from those reserves. This is my specific question.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The exploration activities involve a high risk factor. After processing step by step all data... (Interruptions) My dear friend, it involves a lot of risk factors... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Reply to my question has not come... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No use.

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I have to inform the House and the Government of a serious development with Shir Creek. The Shir Creek, near the Kutch is in Indian territory and potentially, very rich for oil and gas explorations. Recently, Pakistan has issued a notification claiming that it belongs to theirs and therefore they are embarking on a design which they did in 1965 over Chadbet, where the international dispute was there. Is the Government aware that Pakistan had issued a notification claiming this Shir Creek to be their territory, which is potentially very rich for oil exploration? Has the Government taken any step

to countermand the Pakistan designs to forestall these diabolical manoeuvres? This is reported in the Gujarat ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : My submission is about two things. One is about the oil exploration, which is his subject and the other one is about the national interest, which is adversely claimed by Pakistan as the Indian territory. On this ground, what is the approach of the Government? Is the Government aware of this fact or not?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The Director General of Hydrocarbons has recently carried out an aeromagnetic survey in Rann-of-Kutch. After the results of the survey are examined, the potential of the area will be known. Then, we would be able to answer... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Please allow me. The hon. Speaker has allowed me to speak.

The hon. Minister in a Statement has given a list of places where on-land and off-shore explorations are being carried out by the ONGC and the IOL in the last three years. Among those places, there is a mention of Bengal, I believe, it is West Bengal, may I know whether it is a fact that despite oil being found in two wells, Bodra and Itchapur, the ONGC is withdrawing its further action's in West Bengal and has not taken seismic survey which was recommended by many experts?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : As far as West Bengal is concerned, we have made on-land surveys. We have made geological survey of 8806 sq. km. out of which we have made seismic survey, 2D seismic survey of about 8410 GLK (singlefold) ground and 6033 ground line km 6/12 fold and 18,586 standard line km. seismic survey.

As far as contractual survey is concerned we have already surveyed 4758 kilometres of ground-line KPL and 77 ILK link. Regarding 3-D survey, we have already conducted a survey for 185 SSK. Through contract, we have already conducted a survey for 67 square kilometres. In the on-land survey the number of structures hydrocarbon bearing were nil. About offshore, I would like to say that we have already drilled 36 wells. In the last forty years, we have conducted many drillings and surveys and drilling of wells at a cost of more than Rs 600 crore in West Bengal alone... (Interruptions) Actually, there is no commercial hydrocarbon available.

Clearance to Power Projects

*184. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals from the Government

of Karnataka for setting up of power projects in public sector and private sector, separately, cleared by the Union Government so far:

(b) the expenditure incurred on each project;

(c) the number of such proposals pending for clearance in each sector; and

(d) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Public Sector power projects in Karnataka which have received techno-economic clearance from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and are on-going, together with the Expenditure incurred on each project, are as follows:

	Capacity (MW)	Expenditure incurred upto Sept., 96 (Rs. Crores)
1. Kalinadi St. II H.E.P.	270	391.17
2. Dandili H.E.P.	60	1.95
3. Sharavathy Tail Race H.E.P.	240	107.39
4. Brindavan H.E.P.	12	4.64
5. Bhadra H.E.P.	6	2.57
6. Gangavali H.E.P.	210	6.70
7. Raichur TPS (Unit 5&6)	420	7.25

In addition, Sarapadi H.E.P. (90 MW) has also received techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority. This project is awaiting investment sanction. Two private sector power projects namely, Toranagaullu TPS (260 MW) of M/s Jindal Tractebel Power Corporation Ltd. and Mangalore TPS (1000 MW) of M/s. Mangalore Power Company, have also received techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority. These projects are yet to achieve financial closure.

(c) and (d). Proposal for Yelahanka DGPP Extension (46.8 MW) is under examination in the Central Electricity Authority which could be taken up for techno-economic clearance on Karnataka Electricity Board tying up necessary inputs and clearances.

SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when will the power projects cleared for Karnataka become operational? What is the total power requirement of the State of Karnataka? What is the power being generated

now? And what will be the capacity increase after these projects become operational?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : I have already laid a statement on the Table of the House regarding the total number of projects. During the Eighth Plan period, the requirement is 24,168 MW and the availability is 20,220 MW. The shortage is 3961 MW, that is, 16.4 per cent. Out of this, 390 MW will be commissioned; 78 MW are dropped due to constraint of funds but being attended to through private sector route in the Districts of Kolar, Bidar and Jamakandi; and the balance quantity is under execution. The total planned capacity is for 1436 MW out of which 296 MW is commissioned so far.

SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal before the Government to privatise power transmission, and if so, when that proposal is going to be implemented. Has the sanctioning authority been decentralised, if so, what are the powers that have been given to the states in the field of power generation and transmission?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : There is a proposal before the Government for privatisation of the transmission sector. The existing Acts of 1910 and 1948 do not permit privatisation of transmission sector. We have already sent a proposal to the Ministry of Law. They are examining it.

Recently, the hon. Prime Minister had taken many initiatives by delegating more powers to the State. In his announcement of 16th October, he had mentioned delegation of sanctioning powers to the State Governments in case of projects worth Rs.1,000 crore. So the sanctioning powers for 50 MW projects will be given to the State Governments. We are preparing an Action Plan in this regard. In the Conference of Chief Ministers on Power which was held yesterday, we have circulated the Draft Action plan on power. The hon. Chief Ministers have also given some suggestions. After incorporating their suggestions, we will prepare the final Action Plan.

Prime Minister's integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme aims at eradication of poverty by providing self-employment, shelter upgradation and skill upgradation training in the cities having population between 50000 and 100,000 as per 1991 census;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra has approached the Union Government with the request to include certain cities, which fulfil the population criteria, in the Programme;