

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). The National Task Force (NTF) was constituted by the Government in February, 1995. It has been entrusted the responsibility of implementing recommendations relating to Bulk Power and Transmission Tariffs and also to provide a forum for periodic consultations with various agencies connected with the implementation of these recommendations. The NTF is headed by Chairman, CEA and includes, inter alia, the Chairmen of the Regional Electricity Boards.

(c) and (d). The National Task Force has, inter-alia, made the following recommendations :

- (i) Availability based generation tariff will be adopted in respect of all thermal stations including future Independent Power Producers.
- (ii) While fixing the 'merit order' operation of the generating plants in a region, due weightage will be given to the transmission losses and other grid conditions. The operation of the 'merit order' system, to be introduced on a regional basis, will be entrusted to the Regional Electricity Boards under the aegis of the Central Electricity Authority.
- (iii) In respect of central thermal power stations, the fixed charges will be apportioned on the basis of 'entitlement'.

(e) and (f). The Central Electricity Authority will formulate the parameters for determining the plant availability factor for thermal power stations and this would be reviewed after every two years. The dates for switch over to the new tariff regime, based on Plant Availability Factor as determined by CEA, would be notified by the Government of India.

#### Rural Electrification

\*191. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rural electricity rules need change" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 24, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of villages yet to be electrified in the country; and

(d) the time by which all the villages in the country are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The news item draws attention mainly to the need for a review of the

existing definition of village electrification as also the rates of interest charged by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) from its borrowers viz the SEB's.

(b) Government is in the process of reviewing the existing definition of Village Electrification. The views of all the State Governments in this regard has also been sought for.

With regard to the interest rates charged by REC, as a public financial institution, it borrows funds from the capital market in addition to the loans it receives from the Government. REC in turn charges differential rates of interest taking into account the viability of the schemes and other relevant factors. It operates at a margin of only 0.5% above the Rate of Interest at which it receives the Minimum Needs Programme loan from the Government.

(c) As per available information, as on 31st March, 1996, 80,021 villages remain to be electrified in the country.

(d) Rural Electrification is a continuous programme. Physical and financial targets for the programme are fixed annually by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Governments/State Electricity Boards, after taking into account the availability of funds and other inputs.

[Translation]

#### Non-Conventional Energy Sources for Irrigation

\*192. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start power generation from non-conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in the near future to make the solar energy, wind energy and other equipments, used in installation of non-conventional energy sources of energy, easily available at cheaper rates; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent on this project and the time by which the same is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). The Government is giving priority to power generation from non-conventional energy sources such as wind, small hydro, biomass and solar energy. The Ministry has been implementing a wide range of programmes for this purpose, as a result of which more than 1000 MW of power generation capacity from non-conventional energy sources, has been installed in the country.

The Government provides fiscal and financial incentive under a wide range of programmes implemented by the Ministry for the promotion of non-conventional energy, such as the Integrated Rural

Energy Programme (IREP), the Urjagram programme, the setting up of Biogas Plants, Improved Chulhas, Biomass Gasification and Briquetting Plants, Solar Thermal Water Heating, both domestic and industrial, Solar Photovoltaic Energy-based rural home-lighting, lanterns, water pumps for irrigation and village level power plants, grid connected power from wind energy small hydro, bagasse-based co-generation and solar photovoltaic energy and electrical power from urban and industrial wastes. The fiscal incentives provided for this purpose include 100% depreciation in the first year of the installation of the project, exemption from excise duty and sales tax and concessional customs duty on the import of materials, components and equipment used in non-conventional energy projects. In addition, the Government provides financial incentives such as interest-subsidy and capital subsidy from the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, soft loans from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) a public sector company of the Ministry. As a result of these financial and fiscal incentives provided by the Government, a large manufacturing base for the production of equipments used for non-conventional projects, has been set up in the country. The manufacturers are encouraged to set up distribution and maintenance network throughout the country. The Ministry also provides financial support for the opening of show-rooms for the sale of non-conventional energy products and devices. In addition, the Ministry provides financial support for R and D projects aimed at improving the performance and reducing the cost of existing non-conventional energy related systems, equipment, devices and developing at making available at cheaper rates the various equipments used in non-conventional energy projects.

The various programmes and schemes of the Ministry are continuing. A plan outlay of Rs. 942 crores (including Rs. 85 crores for the Integrated Rural Energy Programme which was transferred from the Planning Commission to the Ministry in April, 1994) was approved for the MNES under the 8th Five Year Plan, against which a sum of Rs. 792 crores has been spent in the first four years of the plan (till 31.3.96) and a plan outlay of Rs. 334 crores has been approved for the financial year 1996-97.

[English]

#### Displaced Kashmiri Pandits

\*193. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount paid to each Kashmiri migrant as ex-gratia relief as well as loan so far, separately;

(b) the number of displaced Kashmiri Pandit families in camps in Jammu and Kashmir and out of the State together with the approximate total number of families

which have been displaced from Kashmir due to militancy and disturbed peace;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to facilitate the return of displaced Kashmiris to their homes; and

(d) the approximate number of families that have returned to the valley so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Various State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations provide cash relief at different rates applicable in their State/UT to the needy migrants who are residing in their State/UT. The migrants staying in camps are also provided with ration and other facilities like accommodation, sanitation, medical care, etc. These States/UTs also provide educational and medical facilities to the migrants living there. The Government of J and K also provides ex-gratia relief to the migrants for damaged immovable properties left behind in the valley at the rate of 50% of the assessed value subject to the maximum of Rs. 1 lakh. The Government of J and K have also provided loans under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojna and State Self-Employment Scheme to some migrants. It is not possible to calculate or give the amount paid to each migrant separately due to nature of relief, applicability of different rates in different States, etc.

(b) About 4700 migrant families are living in camps in Jammu, Delhi and Chandigarh. 48,131 Kashmiri families have registered themselves as migrants with various States/UTs.

(c) The Government have made concerted efforts for improving security situation which have resulted in successful holding of Lok Sabha and State Assembly Elections and installation of a popular Government. These efforts are being continued alongwith other confidence building measures for preparing the migrants mentally for return to their native places. The State Government is formulating a detailed action plan for this purpose.

(d) As per information made available by the State Government, 13 migrant families (21 persons) have returned to their native places in the Kashmir Valley.

#### Demand for Petroleum Products

\*194. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has decided to prepare a plan to build up projects with cost of Rs. 3380 crores;

(b) if so, whether various ongoing projects including investment in joint ventures are likely to be geared up to meet the demand of petroleum products;