

Government has seen the Press Report. Indian Oil Corporation has recently purchased Agarwood from two parties. The State Government authorities pointed to IOC that certain royalty and sales-tax charges were payable on this item. As soon as this was done, all necessary dues amounting to Rs. 12,290/- on this purchase were paid to the State Government authorities.

National power grid

4821. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments have not responded favourably to Government's suggestion regarding the generation and distribution of electricity under one national power grid;

(b) whether it is a fact that the chances of the National Power Grid becoming a fact is very nebulous under the circumstances; and

(c) how Government propose to evolve the National Power Grid by 1955 or earlier ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN) : (a) and (c). Some of the State Governments have already agreed to the suggestion that Central Government may execute, own and operate EHV Transmission Lines and the associated Sub-stations,

(b) Does not arise.

Vacancies in national thermal power corporation

4822. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacancies existing at different levels of officer's categories in NTPC at present;

(b) how many posts are reserved and vacant out of (a) above for Scheduled Tribe candidates at different levels:

(c) what steps have been taken by the National Thermal Power Corporation for

filling up these vacancies for Scheduled Tribes;

(d) is it a fact that there are some selected Scheduled Tribe candidates who are waiting posting; and

(e) if so, since how long and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN) : (a) There are 450 vacancies existing as on 30.6.82 at different levels of officers-categories in NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation).

(b) 149 posts are reserved for candidates of Scheduled Tribes.

(c) Exclusive advertisements have been issued by NTPC on all India basis for candidates of scheduled tribes; special broadcasts have been arranged through All India Radio. Copies of advertisements are sent to various Associations of Scheduled Tribes for wide publicity. The candidates belonging to scheduled tribes are evaluated in written-tests and interviews relaxed standards. Relaxation is allowed in age, qualifications and experience also. Candidates called for written test are being paid travelling expenses and they are totally exempted from application fee.

(d) and (e). No selected candidate of scheduled tribe is awaiting posting. One candidate, who applied for the post of Deputy Manager (Contracts), and was not found suitable for the same, was placed on the panel in the area of ancillary development in April, 1981 for which only he was found suitable. Since there is no post vacant in the area of ancillary development, no offer has been made to him.

Meter purchased by Baira siul Project

4823. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) number of electric meters purchased by Baira Siul Project, the type and cost of meters;