

Reorganization of Country's Power Supply System

221. SHRI T. S. NEGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reorganise country's power supply system (*vide Indian Express* dated 2nd September. 82);

(b) whether minimum returns are proposed to be prescribed in keeping with the IMF directives; and

(c) whether Government propose to apply uniform electricity rates throughout the country both for domestic and industrial purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM HAJAN): (a) At the Power Ministers' Conference held on August 27, 1982, discussions were held with the States, *inter alia* regarding the need to strengthen the organisational set up of the power supply industry at the regional level through creation of statutory Regional Electricity Authorities, Central ownership and operation on major transmission lines, introduction of statutory provisions to enable the Centre to prescribe minimum rates of financial return and to fix inter-State tariffs and for laying down modalities for filling the top management positions in the State Electricity Boards. While the concept of establishing the National Grid was welcomed, a few States expressed their reservation in regard to some of the proposals. The dialogue between the Centre and the States will continue.

(b) There is no directive from IMF prescribing minimum returns to be earned by the State Electricity Boards.

(c) There is no such proposals under consideration.

Commemorative Stamps to Honour Freedom Fighters

222. PROF. NARAJN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group set up by the P & T Department to consider the release of a series of commemorative stamps in honour of a number of Freedom Fighters so as to highlight the Freedom Struggle has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made in the report and the action taken by Government on these;

(c) the names of the Freedom Fighters who have been selected for this honour, alongwith the States to which they belonged; and

(d) if not, the likely date by which a decision in this regard would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The recommendations of the working group are being examined. Details could be furnished only after a final decision is taken in this regard by the Philatelic Advisory Committee and by the P & T Department.

Absorption of Bombay High Gas Uran Gas Turbine Project

223. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that additional four gas turbines under Uran Gas Turbine Extension Project in Maharashtra can easily absorb gas and LSHS that will be produced by the Bombay High; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to place immediate repeat orders on M/s. Kraft Work Union (KWU) of the West Germany who are already mobilised in the Uran site, particularly because the site organisation of KWU is scheduled to be wound up in October, 1982?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). The present policy of the Government is that, as far as practicable, gas should be utilised as feedstock for the production of ferti-