

(c) the names of the villages/areas proposed to be covered/have been covered for uninterrupted power supply?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court of India, in its judgement in the case of Shri S.C. Mehta vs. Union of India and others, under Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13381 of 1984, has directed that an additional amount of Rs. 99.54 crores sanctioned by the Planning Commission to be utilised by the State Government for construction of the electricity supply projects to ensure 100% supply of electricity to the Taj Trapezium Zone.

Primarily it is responsibility of the UPSEB to ensure uninterrupted supply of power to villages/areas of Taj Trapezium. UPSEB is executing the scheme as directed by the Supreme Court. UPSEB is also undertaking the construction of the following substations and 400 KV transmission line near Agra:—

- (i) 400 KV Agra-Unnao S/C line
- (ii) 400 KV Agra (Powergrid) - Agra (UPSEB) D/C Line
- (iii) 400 KV Agra - Muradnagar S/C Line
- (iv) 400/220, KV, 3x315 MVA substation at Agra.

The completion of these works would enable an improvement in the power supply position in the Taj Trapezium Area.

Cellular Telephone Subscribers

5664. SHRI VENKATARAMI ANANTA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Cellular telephone subscribers in Metro cities at present, city-wise;

(b) whether the introduction of Cellular telephone resulted in generating an additional revenue to DOT; and

(c) if so, the additional revenue generated by DOT during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As per information provided by the Cellular Operator the number of Cellular subscribers in metro cities, as on 31.5.1998 is 5,47,823. The city-wise break up is given in Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The introduction of Cellular Telephone has generated additional revenues to DOT. Information regarding additional revenue generated by DOT during the last 2 years is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Number of Cellular subscribers as on 31.05.98

Metro Cities	No. of Cellular Subscribers
Delhi	2,12,462
Bombay	2,41,894
Calcutta	50,540
Madras	42,927
	5,47,823

Teak Plantations

5665. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
DR. SAROJA V:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many companies have started teak plantations in the country and getting so many rebates and aid for the protection of environment;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any check/control over them;

(c) whether an expert committee headed by Shri P.B. Gangopadhyay has been appointed to look into the affairs of these companies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the innocent investors so that they may not be cheated by such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir, many companies have started teak plantations in the country, however, no rebate or aid are given to such companies for protection of environment.

(b) to (d) The Ministry had appointed an inter-departmental expert committee headed by Shri P.B. Gangopadhyay to look into affairs of these companies. Government has decided that the schemes for which entities issue instruments such as agro-bonds, plantation bonds etc. would be treated as collective investment schemes and would fall within the regulatory ambit of Security Exchange Board of India.

[Translation]

NTPC in U.P.

5666. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers of Jahanabad area are facing great difficulties in irrigating their land as N.T.P.C. has stopped canal water supply in Divyapur in District Itawa of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the farmers were assured at the time of setting up of N.T.P.C. in Divyapur that in case of non supply of canal water to Jahanabad area, N.T.P.C. will enact tubewells to solve the water problem there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by N.T.P.C. in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) Government had agreed to supply 30 (thirty) cusecs of water to Auraiya Gas based combined cycle power plant (650MW) located in Itawah District of U.P. from Auraiya-Itawah feeder canal of U.P. Government, subject to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) bearing the cost of 20 tubewells to compensate the quantity of water to be supplied to NTPC from the Canal. NTPC deposited Rs. 165.7 lacs towards the total cost of 20 tubewells as demanded by U.P. Nalkoop Nigam Limited and U.P. State Electricity Board (UPSEB). NTPC have informed that the tubewells have since been installed by U.P. Nalkoop Nigam Limited at Fatehpur to replenish 30 (thirty) cusecs of water being drawn by NTPC for its Auraiya power plant in fulfilment of the agreement with the U.P. Government.

NTPC gets water from Mangalpur Distributory of Auraiya-Itawah canal. The water supply from canal is regulated by H.P. Irrigation Department and NTPC do not come into the picture for canal water supply in Divyapur, District Itawah, U.P.

Electrification of Villages in M.P.

5667. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation provide loans on concessional rates under the minimum needs programme especially in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not completing the electrification of villages in the remote areas of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Loans under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) are provided by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) at rates fixed by Government from time to time. The rate of interest for MNP category loans given by REC to SEB, is 12.5% per annum and the period of repayment of loan is 30 years, including moratorium period of 5 years. REC has proposed an outlay of Rs. 20.00 crores for Madhya Pradesh under MNP for the current year 1998-99.

(c) Electrification of the villages in the remote areas of Madhya Pradesh will depend upon the priorities of Madhya Pradesh Government/MPEB, the availability of financial resources, the power supply position, and the infrastructure facilities like transmission and distribution system and other inputs.

[English]

Power Generation from Thermal Power Projects

5668. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) target fixed for the generation of electricity in the Ninth Five year Plan; and

(b) the details of electricity generated so far from the thermal power projects and the electricity being supplied to the gas plants?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The target for generation of electricity during 9th Plan has not been finalised. However, the generation target fixed for the first two years of Ninth Five Year Plan and also actual power