

[Translation]

Damodar Valley Corporation

5755. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been undertaken for rationalising the manpower and economic policy in the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of officers deployed for review along with category thereof;

(d) the time by which review is likely to be completed;

(e) whether such reviews have also been done earlier also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (f) A review has been undertaken for rationalisation of manpower in Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). As regards the economic policy, DVC follows the policies as framed by the Government from time to time. To assess the optimal manpower requirement and to bring about improvements of the following Committees were formed:

- (i) Committee constituted with the Internal Officers of Accounts & Finance Deptt. to review the manpower strength of Accounts and Finance Department.
- (ii) Committee constituted with the internal officers of DVC to review and rationalise the manpower requirement in DVC Thermal Power Stations.
- (iii) Committee constituted by Military College of Engineering, Hyderabad.
- (iv) Committee constituted by Director (HRD) for further review of the manpower Department/ project-wise.

On the basis of the recommendations made, manpower requirements in DVC were reviewed in the year 1996-97 after due discussion and deliberation at all levels.

This review committee constituted with the internal officers of DVC consisted of six officers of the level of DECE/SE.

Review of manpower is a continuous process. The first phase which is an assessment for rationalisation of manpower has been completed. Further review to bring improvement in the Man:MW ratio compared to National Standard/Norms, is being carried out. This would be a continuous process and as such no time frame could be indicated by which time, the exercise would be completed.

[English]

Technician Education Project

5756. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the World Bank aided Technician Education Project aimed at enhancing women participation in polytechnics;

(b) the name of the States/Union Territories covered under the first phase of the project;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch a project for technical education of women students in Meghalaya; and

(d) if so, whether this is likely to be included in the on-going phase of the Technician Education Project?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The World Bank Assisted Technician Education Project for strengthening polytechnic education in the country is being implemented in 19 States/UTs. The project aims at improving the capacity, quality and efficiency of the technician education system in the country. Under Phase-I of this project, states of Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhy Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are covered. Against the total project provision of about Rs. 1956 crores, Rs. 1461 crores have already been utilized as on 30.6.98. The percentage of enrolment of women students in polytechnics in the 19 States/UTs covered under the project has improved from 11% at the beginning of the project to 28.3%, exceeding the national target of 15% set before the commencement of project.

(c) MHRD has invited proposals from the North-Eastern region including Meghalaya for the upgradation

of Technician Education including Technician Education for women students. The proposal from Government of Meghalaya has not been received in MHRD so far.

(d) No, Sir.

Common Minimum Action Plan for the Power Sector

5757. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up a common minimum action plan for the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said action plan was drawn up at the Chief Ministers conference at New Delhi on December 3, 1996; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Power had organised two conferences of Chief Ministers' on 16.10.1996 and 3.12.1996. Based on the consensus reached therein, a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (COMNPP) for the power sector was drawn up.

The CMNPP provides for establishment of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) by the Union Government at National level and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) in States for rationalisation of tariff, encourage private sector participation in distribution, allow maximum possible autonomy to SEBs, bring improvements in the management practices and physical parameters of the SEBs encourage co-generation/captive power plants, initiate advance action and high priority for hydro projects, allocation of liquid fuels, development of mega power projects at pitheads, giving due emphasis for investment in North Eastern region and setting up of washeries by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries or by private sector.

The CMNPP has been circulated to all State Governments/UTs for its implementation in a time bound manner.

The Government have recently enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 for the establishment

of Central Electricity Commission in the Centre and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Some of the State Governments like Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Karnataka and Goa have initiated steps for setting up SERCs in their respective states. Guidelines have been issued for encouraging captive/co-generation plants. Consultations are being held with states regarding a new hydel policy is being finalized giving higher priority to hydel projects. The liquid fuel policy has been drawn up for encouraging investment in the North Eastern Region. The issue of reform of the distribution sector has been examined in detail and suggestions made to the state Governments in this regard.

EPTRI to Commission study of Chemical Units

5758. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environment Protection and Training Research Institute (EPTRI) is commissioning a study involving a review of off-site contingency plan of the chemical industries in Visakhapatnam to prevent accidents;

(b) if so, whether a two-day training programme on prevention, control and management of chemical accidents was organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

(c) if so, whether the study is being done on the instructions from the State Chief Minister;

(d) if so, whether any complete report in this regard has been submitted to the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A two-day training programme on Prevention and Management of Chemical Accidents was organised by the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry on April, 28-29, 1997 at New Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.