

for the country are as below :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	VIII Plan	IX Plan
IAEPS	20312.00	18853.65
AOFFP	15419.00	20004.46
NTFP	5648.00	5984.67
ASTRP	736.00	*

* Projects received under the ASTRP for IX Plan are under consideration for sanction in the current year.

(c) to (e) All projects are monitored by the Forest Departments of the State Governments. In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Forests also has projects evaluated by independent agencies and the shortcomings reported in the evaluations are brought to the notice of the State Governments/implementing agencies for appropriate remedial action.

Some of the agencies which are engaged in the evaluation are :-

1. Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay.
2. Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development, New Delhi.
3. National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi.
4. National Centre for Human Settlement and Environment, Bhopal.
5. Indian Institute of Public Opinion, New Delhi, etc.

[English]

Education Cess Tax on Companies

116. SHRI K.S. RAO :
SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to levy education cess/tax on companies hiring graduates from Government funded institutions including IITs and IIMs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) As of now, there is no such proposal to levy education cess on companies hiring graduates from Government institutions funded by the Ministry of

Human Resource Development including Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management.

[Translation]

Purchase of Power from Pakistan

117. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI BHAGWAN QSHANKAR RAWAT :
SHRI M. RAJIAH :
SHRI C.D. GAMIT :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI MADAN PATIL :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI S.S. OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has offered to sell India 2000 MW power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted to go into the details of the proposal;

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which the committee is likely to give its final report on the proposal; and

(e) the details of cost negotiated and infrastructures needed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (e) Pakistan High Commission in a note verbale dated 12 May, 1997 to Ministry of Commerce stated that Government of Pakistan was considering a proposal for export of electricity to India. Government of India conveyed its serious interest to the proposal stating that commercial and technical details could be discussed by experts. The matter came up for discussions at the bilateral talks with Pakistan on Economic and Commercial Cooperation in New Delhi on 10.11.1998 when the Pakistani delegation expressed its willingness to receive a delegation from India for discussion on technical and commercial aspects of the proposal. Subsequently, the Government of Pakistan has sent a formal invitation for the visit of