

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The committee has submitted its report to the Ministry on 20.11.1998.

(c) The general policy guidelines on private sector participation in Major Ports permits the private sector participation in Leasing out existing assets of the Port, Construction/creation of additional assets, such as Construction and operation of container terminals, Construction and operation of bulk break bulk, multipurpose and specialised cargo berths, Warehousing, Container Freight Stations, Storage facilities and tank farms, Craning/Handling Equipment, Setting up of captive power plants, Dry docking and ship repair facilities, Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector, Pilotage and Captive facilities for Port based industries.

Government have laid down policy guidelines to attract private sector participation in Development of port facilities in specified areas in all major ports.

The Government have announced a number of fiscal incentives and tax benefits for encouraging the financial institutions, investors and entrepreneurs, for investing in infrastructure development projects in ports.

Power Allocation to Goa

134. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power allocation from National Grid to Goa;

(b) the total power consumed out of the allocated power;

(c) whether this allocation is as per Goa's requirement;

(d) if not the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are considering to increase the power allocation to Goa; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The total power allocated to Goa from Central Sector Power Station is 394 MW.

(b) During the period April-October 1998, Goa has drawn 8566 MU against their entitlement of 980 MU from the allocated share.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Goa has share in Vindhyachal Station-II (100 MW) under construction and are also entitled

for allocation of power from future central sector projects in Western Region i.e. Gandhar Stage-II (650 MW) and Kawas Stage-II (650 MW).

Funds for Highway Development Projects from Oil Cess

135. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the creation of funds for highway development projects from oil cess is under constraints and is likely to be delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the Government to dispose of the toll already collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The 1998 Budget provides for a cess of Re. 1 per litre of petrol, the accruals therefrom are being made available to the National Highway Authority of India for taking up development of National Highways.

(c) The toll collected on public funded projects are kept in separate funds and proceeds are allocated to various states in proportion of their accruals which are utilised for development of National Highways.

Power Projects by Foreign Companies

136. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of companies from Europe and United States have offered to take up some of the mega power projects of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) A number of companies including some from Europe and United States have evinced interest in setting up mega power projects in the country. Government has recently recast the policy on development of mega power projects. According to the revised policy, certain project sites, both in the Public as well as Private Sector have been identified for setting up such mega projects which would cater to the power needs of more than one state. The Standing Independent Group constituted by the Government would initially be the apex body to oversee the implementation of the mega private power projects. The principles of

competitive bidding would be adhered to as far as possible, while obtaining tariff offers for private sector mega projects.

Private Power Projects

137. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several private power projects in the country are likely to face closure with financial institutions rejecting the escrowability clauses and exposure covers of major State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction;

(c) whether in the recent meetings of the Finance and Power Ministries the proposal to restructure the escrow covers has been turned down;

(d) whether the escrow cover provided by the State Governments are to guarantee that the power developers would be paid for the energy sold to the SEBs; and

(e) if so whether the Power Ministry have also proposed that the FIs should consider the disbursal rate instead of the sanction rate?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (e) As one of the alternatives to counter guarantees for private sector power projects, Indian Financial Institutions (IFIs) have evolved a three-tier security package for assistance to independent power producers (IPPs). The package consists of a letter of credit (LC), escrow facility and State Government guarantee for timely payment of IPPs dues by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) for energy consumed by them.

Certain problems have arisen during finalisation of the escrow agreements between the IFIs and the concerned State Electricity Boards/State Governments. Government of India have intervened, wherever necessary, to resolve these differences with a view to finalise acceptable escrow agreements.

White Paper on Environment and Forests

138. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a

proposal to bring out a White Paper on present status of forests and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of White Paper?

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

(b) The White Paper on the present status of Forests and Environment will cover all the aspects of forests and environment.

(c) The White Paper is in the draft stage of preparation.

World Bank Ties with MEB

139. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank is likely to snap ties with Maharashtra Electricity Board with regard to financing the power projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether World Bank has not agreed with the Maharashtra Government's proposal for granting the electricity to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) So far, the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has utilised three World Bank loans, namely 3096-IN, 2544-IN and 3498-IN. As on date, all these three loans have been closed and presently there is no further proposal pending/forwarded for seeking any other World Bank loan. However, the World Bank had cancelled loan No. 3498-IN after 30.6.1998 as Maharashtra State Electricity Board could not meet some of the covenants of the loan agreement.

(c) and (d) The World Bank did not oppose granting of electricity to farmers.

Action Plan for Kandla Port Trust

140. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any latest review of action plan as well as functioning of Kandla Port Trust;

(b) if so, the cases of financial embezzlement, irregularities and corruption on large scale are consistently on the increase in this Port Trust;