

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;