

(b) if so, the date on which the proposal was submitted to the Union Government;

(c) the reasons for not according environmental clearance to the project; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

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

(b) to (d) The proposal for environmental clearance for the Worli Bandra Sea Link Project was originally referred to Ministry of Environment & Forests in June, 1993. However, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the entire Western Island Freeway of which Worli Bandra Link forms a part, was submitted in September, 1997. Additional information sought has been submitted recently by the project proponents and is under examination.

Bidding by the Private Sector for Power Distribution Projects

2326. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for a two step bidding process has been recommended by the one man committee for inviting bids in the private sector for power distribution projects;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the recommendations of the committee; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken to implemented the same?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM) (a) Yes, Sir, the one-member Coelho Committee has recommended a two-step competitive bidding process for selection of private licensees. The first step in the process would be a pre-qualification stage, and second step would be a detailed proposal evaluation stage.

(b) and (c) Distribution of electricity is the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government has considered the Coelho Committee recommendations and circulated the report to all State Governments advising them to consider the recommendations as per their needs and requirements.

Uniform Interest Rates on Inter-Corporate Investments

2327. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose uniform interest rates on the inter-corporate investments in their subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has been consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, so far as interest on inter-corporate loans is concerned, it has been provided in Clause (2) of Section 372A of the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 19 of 1998) promulgated on 31-10-1998 that no loan to any body corporate shall be made at the rate of interest lower than the prevailing bank rate of interest.

(c) and (d) The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 has been issued after the same was drafted in consultation with the Law Ministry and on the basis of Cabinet decision.

New Liquid Fuel Policy

2328. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to announce new liquid fuel policy for the power sector;

(b) if so, the procedure likely to be adopted for acquiring the liquid fuel for power projects;

(c) whether Government propose to remove the hurdles in adopting the said policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM) : (a) to (d) In order to meet the energy shortage in the short run, the Government had allocated liquid fuel for about 12,000 MW on projects to the various States. As per the revised liquid fuel policy announced in July, 1998, the existing ceiling of 12,000 MW would apply only to naphtha and States would be free to contract for new power projects based on Furnance Oil and non traditional fuels like condensate and orimulsion. The necessary guidelines regarding these modifications in the policy have been communicated to the concerned State Governments.

“Clearance to Water Supply and Sewerage Project”

2329. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

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

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government had submitted any proposal seeking environmental clearance to the Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project, Stage-II;