

(a) whether the Government have mooted a proposal to motivate the Industries to open a Pollution Control Wing attached to their major factories in order to minimise the environmental pollution in the major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Industry thereto;

(d) whether there is a proposal to open an Environmental Wing to monitor various Pollution Control measures at the Central level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) While according environmental clearance to the development projects, the Ministry of Environment & Forests stipulates a number of conditions for safeguarding environment including creation of Environmental cell and providing of monitoring stations. As promotional measures, the Government has also been encouraging the industries to adopt clean technologies, undertake waste minimisation measures and incorporate environmental management system (EMS).

(c) About 15 waste minimisation circles in clusters of small scale industries have so far been established to conserve resources and reduce pollution with the active participation of industries. Besides, more than 25 major companies have so far obtained EMS certification and many other are in the process of adopting EMS.

(d) and (e) Under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the responsibility of monitoring is primarily entrusted to the State Pollution Control Boards. In addition, the existing Pollution Control Division in the Ministry is already monitoring environmental pollution through the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) using a network of ambient air (290) and water quality (480) monitoring stations established throughout the country. CPCB also conducts surveys in the major Indian cities to assess the levels of noise and vehicular pollution.

#### **Conversion of DOT Into India Telecom**

\*173. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Department of Telecom into a company named India Telecom;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,;

(c) whether various Unions of Telecom Employees have been opposing the said proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the decision taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e); the question of restructuring of the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) in regard, mainly, to distancing the policy-making and licensing functions from operational functions is being examined, keeping in view, *inter-alia*, the need to enhance functional efficiency so as to effectively meet the emerging competition. With the setting up also of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) last year, the distancing of the policy-making and licensing functions from those of operations is being regarded as a logical step.

2. It may be recalled that a Committee headed by Dr. Athreya, a noted management expert, was set up some years back to recommend the most appropriate organisational structure for management of telecom services in the country, taking into account the future operational and development requirements. The Committee (which submitted its report in March, 1991) recognised the need for the 'Policy and Regulation' tier to be separated from the Operations' tier in any modified structure but was divided on the form of future organisation for the Department.

3. Subsequently, In 1995, a Committee headed by Shri D.K. Gupta who retired as Member (Services) in the Telecom Commission was constituted to make recommendations in respect of restructuring of DOT Headquarters. In formulating their findings, the Committee met with senior departmental officers and representatives of Employees Association, amongst others, and recommended that DOT may be split into two clearly defined bodies, namely, a body to deal with policy and planning and another to handle the operation and maintenance of telecom services which could be called "India Telecom."

4. The D.K. Gupta Committee also recommended that "India Telecom" should function as a corporate body with Circles/Districts as independent cost and profit centres. Its Report was examined further when the consensus emerged that DOT's operating functions should be separated from licensing and policy functions so as to provide dedicated management inputs to operations and extend a level-playing field to all telecom operators.

5. In recent months, discussions on the subject have been convened with various Union and Staff Associations. While several views and opinions on the proposed restructuring and in regard to the complex issues involved have been expressed, a broad unanimity is seen in respect of the need to rationally reorganise and strengthen the DOT, including the option of following the corporatisation route. These (and related matters) call for detailed study and evaluation which has been duly initiated.

#### **Fast Track Power Projects**

\*174. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide counter guarantee in respect of all the fast track power projects and expedite the approval of such projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c): The Government of India had in 1994 identified 8 projects for extending its counter-guarantee. Out of these, counter-guarantee has already been issued to the Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) (216 MW) of M/s. GVK Industries in Andhra Pradesh and Dabhol CCGT (Phase-I) (740 MW) of M/s. Enion Power Company in Maharashtra. M/s. Specturm Power Generation Ltd. withdrew their request for counter-guarantee for the Godavari CCGT (208 MW) in Andhra Pradesh. In the case of the Ib Valley Thermal Power Project (Unit 3 & 4) of M/s. AES Ib Valley Power Corporation in Orissa, Government of India's counter-guarantee had been accorded to the project. Subsequently, the State Government re-negotiated the project parameters with M/s. AES Ib Valley Power Corporation and they were allocated Units 5 and 6 (now renamed as Unit A & B) of the Ib Valley Thermal Power Project. Fresh techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is necessary for this project on account of the revised project parameters.

The Government have now approved extension of counter-guarantee in the case of the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) of M/s. Hinduja National Power Company Limited (HNPC') in Andhra Pradesh, Bhadravati Thermal Power Project (1092 MW) of M/s. Central India Power Company (CIPCO) in Maharashtra and 250 MW single unit lignite based Neyveli Thermal Power Project of M/s. ST-CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu, through a revised procedure. It has *inter-alia* been decided that counter guarantee will be given

only for the event of termination and will be limited to the outstanding foreign debt only.

[*Translation*]

#### **Foreign Investment In Print Media**

\*175. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the foreign investment in print media in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government will take steps to prevent foreign investment in the print media; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet Decision of 1955 which *inter-alia* prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals and of Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs. The policy has not been changed or rescinded so far.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Trade of Wild Birds**

\*176. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(a) whether a total ban has been in effect on the trapping and trade of Indian exotic/wild birds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the traditional bird trappers are being harassed in the name of Wild Life Conservation Act;