

(c) the total amount to be required to complete the job and the time by which the said HPT is likely to start functioning; and

(d) the total amount likely to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) An HPT in replacement of existing LPT at Hospet is envisaged to be set up during Ninth Plan. An amount of Rs. 8-10 crores is likely to be required for implementation of a project of this nature. It would take about 3 to 4 years to implement the scheme after it is sanctioned subject to availability of the adequate resources, infrastructural facilities and relative priorities.

#### Widening of NH-41 and NH-6

1769. SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to fourlance the National Highway-41 and National Highway-6; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Depending on the volume of traffic and availability of resources, for selected reaches of National Highways 6 and 41 project preparation is being taken up.

#### Environment Clearance to Power Projects

1770. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the details of modalities worked out in delegating power to the State Governments to accord the environmental clearance to power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : The Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued a notification on 10.4.97 delegating powers to the State Governments to accord environmental clearance to following categories of thermal power projects:

1. Co-generation Captive Plants :

- (i) Co-generation Plants      All Co-generation Plants irrespective of the installed capacities.

(ii) Captive Power Plants :      Upto 250 MW (both coal and gas/naphtha based)

2. Coal based plants upto 500 MW using fluidized bed technology subject to sensitive areas restrictions.

3. Coal based Power Plants upto 250 MW using conventional technologies.

4. Gas/Naphtha based plants upto 500 MW.

The State Governments will follow the same procedure as being followed by the Central Government. Public Hearing will also be conducted as per the procedures detailed in the notification.

#### SEBs dues to NTPC

1771. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Electricity Boards collectively owe to National Thermal Power Corporation over Rs. 7000 crore;

(b) if so, the names of the prime defaulter States; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to recover these dues?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The collective outstanding dues payable by SEBs to NTPC stand at Rs. 7221.62 crores as on 30.4.1998 which include surcharge of Rs. 2451.07 crores.

(b) The names of prime defaulter States in making payment to NTPC are :

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Delhi
3. Jammu & Kashmir
4. West Bengal
5. Bihar, and
6. Orissa.

(c) The action taken by the Government for realising the outstanding dues include appropriation from the Plan assistance to the respective States and making the future supply of power against advance payment or opening of irrevocable Letters of Credit by SEBs.