

(d) whether any central legislation is also being considered; and

(e) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have formulated plans to interconnect various regional electricity grids of the country in order to form a National Grid. This will help in meeting the power shortage of states deficit in power.

(b) and (c) The power system in the country at present operates under five regional grids and formation of the national grid is based on inter linking of these grids to facilitate transfer of power from one region to another. The concurrence of the State Electricity Boards is taken by POWERGRID before each individual project is taken up for implementation.

(d) and (e) No central legislation is required for connecting the regional grids.

[Translation]

Capacity of Power Projects

397. KUMARI UMABHARATI :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme for increasing the capacity of power projects in view of grave power crisis prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely increase in power generation capacity during the ensuing three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) In accordance with Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power adopted in consultation with State Governments. Government of India has initiated a number of measures for increasing the capacity during the Ninth Plan. These interalia include;

1. Renovation and Modernisation of existing power plants in a time bound manner to bring in improvements in PLF.

2. Accelerated completion of ongoing public sector projects through higher allocation of funds.

3. Taking up of missing inter and intra transmission links to help in improved evacuation of power from surplus region/state to deficit regions.

4. Allocation of liquid fuel for short gestation projects as well as priority to wind power and small hydel projects.

(c) The increase in power generation capacity would depend upon the matching initiatives by the State Governments and close monitoring of the schemes. Targets for increase in capacity during the Ninth Plan are being finalised by the Planning Commission.

Self Employment for Rural Youth

398. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide incentives to the rural youths for setting up of food processing industries based on farmer's yields under self employment programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to put a ban on setting up of such industries by multinational companies and bit industrial groups in the interest of the rural youths; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Under Self employment programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, food processing activity is one of the permitted activities but it is not linked with farmer's yield. The rural youth living below the poverty line are imparted skill upgrading technical/vocational training under Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and assisted under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) by way of providing them with income generating assets through a mix of governmental subsidy and bank loans. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not have any specific scheme for providing incentive to rural youth for setting up of food processing industries based on farmer's yield under self-employment programme. However, for encouraging establishment and expansion of food processing industry, they have

established Food Processing & Training Centres in rural areas which provide hands on experience in operating and managing a small unit. During 8th Plan, 231 such centres have been extended assistance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

High Power Radio Station in A.P.

399. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high power radio station is being installed in Mahaboobnagar, Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme is expected to be completed by the end of 9th Five Year Plan.

Misappropriation of Funds

400. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about misappropriation of funds in the construction of Staff quarters of Sub-divisional office, Telephone Biharsharif, Nalanda (Bihar);

(b) is so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Subsidies to Orissa Under I.R.D.P.

401. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loans and subsidies under Integrated Rural Development Programme are provided to

families living below poverty line in rural and tribal areas, for acquiring income generating assets in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of tribals and other families living below poverty line given such loans and subsidies during each of the last three years in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) assistance is given in the form of subsidy by the Government and loans by the Banks to families living below the poverty line (BPL) for acquiring income generating assets. All the blocks and Districts of Orissa are covered under the programme. The target group of beneficiaries consists of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, small and marginal farmers, rural artisans, and educated unemployed trained rural youth, below the poverty line. The pattern of subsidy is 25% for small farmers, 33-1/3% for marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans and 50% for SC/ST beneficiaries, physically handicapped persons, and educated unemployed trained rural youth from BPL families. The ceiling on subsidy is Rs. 4000 in normal areas, Rs. 5000 in DPAP/DDP areas and Rs. 6000 for SC/ST families, and physically handicapped persons and Rs. 7500/- for educated unemployed trained rural youth.

(c) The number of tribals and other families living below poverty line given such loans and subsidies during each of the last three years in Orissa is as below :-

(families in Nos.)

Year	S.T. families	Other families
1994-95	41591	98246
1995-96	35843	84826
1996-97	24474	66775

Drinking Water to Gujarat and Orissa

402. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages provided with safe drinking water facilities in the State of Gujarat and Orissa, till date, district-wise; and