

their notice the adverse status of family planning and reproductive and child health indicators in these States. The support of the Chief Ministers has been sought for the family welfare and literacy programmes, including monitoring and review.

PM's Visit to USA

212. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :
SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had met US President during his visit to USA in September, 1997;

(b) if so, the specific bilateral and other issues discussed with him;

(c) the details of agreements signed with US during his visit;

(d) the stand taken by the US President on Kashmir issue and supply of arms to Pakistan;

(e) the specific areas in which US has agreed to help India; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further strengthen the ties with USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) This was the first meeting between the two leaders intended to give direction and impetus to Indo-US relations. It was not intended to sign specific agreements. During the meeting the two leaders discussed many issues of bilateral interest. The President emphasised the importance he attaches to the deeper relationship with India and spoke about his forthcoming visit to India. In addition to bilateral issues particularly, the growing economic and commercial links between India and the US, and Indo-US matters in the context of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the two leaders also exchanged views regarding regional and international issues. PM outlined the recent initiatives taken by India to build friendly and cooperative relationship with all countries of the region. The President expressed appreciation of the now orientation in India's policy towards its neighbours. During the course of discussion, PM underscored the need for countries of this region to

settle issues amongst themselves through direct dialogue. The US side expressed that it was supportive of the talks between Pakistan and India and did not seek to get involved in these discussions.

(f) Growing cooperation in the economic and commercial areas was a focus area for discussions. Both sides agreed to give further impetus to this process. Interaction between the two countries has intensified since PM's meeting with President Clinton in New York. A number of high level visits have taken place and others have been scheduled. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Thomas Pickering came to Delhi in October. The US Secretary of state is visiting Delhi on 18 & 19 November, 1997. The US Commerce Secretary and the Secretary Health and Human services are also scheduled to visit before the end of this year.

NTPC/SEBs

213. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any power station has been taken over by National Thermal Power Corporation from State Electricity Boards due to non-payment of its dues;

(b) whether most of the State Electricity Boards are unable to pay their outstanding dues to NTPC;

(c) the details of outstanding dues against each State Electricity Board till date; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for realising this outstanding amount so far?

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. Feroze Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Project of Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. and Talcher Thermal Power Station of Orissa State Electricity Board have been taken over by National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) against adjustment of Rs. 919 crores and 356 crores due from the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Orissa respectively.

(b) and (c) The details of outstanding due to NTPC against each State Electricity Boards as on 31st October, 1997 are given in the Statement attached.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for realising the outstanding dues include recovery of outstanding dues from the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) by 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.

STATEMENT

NTPC's Outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards and other beneficiaries as on 31.10.1997

(Rs. In Lakhs)

State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Organisations	Outstanding dues	Surcharge billed	Total Outstanding
1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh SEB	92935	32943	125878
Rajasthan SEB	1337	5761	7098
Delhi Vidyut Board	85058	30412	115470
Punjab SEB	2017	0	2017
Haryana SEB	2741	24224	26965
Himachal Pradesh SEB	1622	1186	2808
Jammu Kashmir	13117	25233	38350
UT Chandigarh	231	0	231
POWERGRID (NR&NCR)	317	0	317
Madhya Pradesh SEB	16554	25216	41770
Maharashtra EB	12494	10721	23215
Gujarat EB	10949	9124	20073
Goa	395	84	479
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	- 2	0	- 2
Daman & Diu	257	92	349
POWERGRID (WR)	191	60	251
Andhra Pradesh SEB	16477	6522	22999
Karnataka EB	5503	3795	9298
Tamil Nadu EB	2510	5347	7857
Kerala SEB	2110	2682	4792
Goa	228	67	295
Pondicherry	- 71	2	- 69

1	2	3	4
West Bengal SEB	30108	10863	40971
Bihar SEB	66670	35063	101733
GRIDCO (Orissa)	18979	2357	21336
DVC	16498	11580	28078
Sikkim	499	154	653
Assam	41	0	41
Total	399765	243488	643253

Abbreviations :

SEBs : State Electricity Boards

GRIDCO : Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd.

Ban on Gutka

214. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether gutka industry has a turnover of nearly 1500 crore per annum;

(b) whether this item has been standardised under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955;

(c) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to impose a ban on consumption and production of gutka;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in responding to the request of the State Governments; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Pan Masala and Gutka industry are reported to be growing from an estimated Rs. 200 crores in 1992 to Rs. 1000 crores in 1997.

(b) Gutka is a combination of Pan Masala with chewing tobacco. Standards of Pan Masala have been prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955. PFA Rules also provide that every package of Pan Masala as well as chewing tobacco shall bear the warning statement stating about the injurious effect of chewing of Pan Masala/tobacco.

(c) States like Maharashtra and Goa have proposed to impose a ban on consumption and production of Gutka.

(d) and (e) The entire issue has been examined by an Expert Committee under the Director General of Health Services. These recommendations of the Expert Committee are now required to be considered by the Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS), a statutory advisory Committee

set up under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 in its meeting which is likely to be held by the end of November, 1997.

Power Grid Corporation

215. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India proposed to help the power sector of China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Chinese delegation visited India recently and discussed the matter with Indian Government;

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

(e) the details and names of countries where the Power Grid Corporation of India is helping their power sector and number of such proposals in its hand at present?

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) A technical team from powergrid attended the CIGRE conference held in China in August 1997 and also discussed with the Chinese Authorities about the progress made by China in recent years in power Sector. However, no concrete proposal materialised.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Chinese delegation visited India from 14.10.1997 to 18.10 1997. During this period they visited some of the installations of NTPC, POWERGRID and CPRI, Bangalore, They had also discussions with POWERGRID Officers to explore the possibility of exchanging the expertise in the power sector. No specific proposal has yet been received from the government of China.