

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) yes, Sir.

(b) The capacity of the proposed plant is 500 MW. The total cost of the project would be known after the Detailed Project Report for the project is finalised.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The time of commissioning of the project would be known after the project has obtained necessary statutory and non-statutory clearance/inputs and achieved financial closure.

Investment in Oil Sector

1925. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give substantial autonomy for the upstream oil companies and suggested to give the boards of oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Oil India Limited complete autonomy to take investment decisions;

(b) if so, whether the Government has agreed to this proposal;

(c) the details of the same; and

(d) by what time the Government is likely to give its final decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) No decision has been taken by the Government to give complete autonomy to ONGC and OIL to make investment decision.

Generation of Power

1926. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the North Eastern Electricity Power Corporation is not being able to complete the power projects entrusted upon it for execution according to the plan-budget due to paucity of fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the generation capacity and demand of power in the region at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortfall of power in the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The requirements of funds of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) for executing its power projects are being fully met. The Plan allocation of

Budgetary Support and the funds actually released to NEEPCO during the 8th Five Year Plan is indicated below:

years	(Rs. in crores)	
	Allocation of Gross Budgetary Support to NEEPCO	Amount Actually Released.
1992-93	100.00	128.00
1993-94	225.00	287.60
1994-95	381.01	467.51
1995-96	350.12	366.82
1996-97	141.40	171.40
		(proposed)

NEEPCO has commissioned six units (200 MW) of Assam Gas Based Power Project at Kathalguri and one unit (50 MW) of Kopili Hydroelectric Project 1st Stage Extension in Assam in the last two years.

(c) and (d) During the period April, 1996 to January, 1997 as against the requirement of 4033 million units of all North Eastern States, energy availability was 3583 million units representing 11.2% shortage. In order to reduce this gap in the North Eastern Region, measures taken, inter-alia, include maximizing the generation from the existing capacity, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, effective demand management and energy conservation measures and assistance from Eastern Region to North Eastern Region. Sanctioned schemes with a capacity addition of about 1030 MW are presently under implementation in North Eastern Region and the full benefits from these schemes are likely to be available during the 9th Plan period.

Counting of Service Period

1927. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether service rendered by a Central Government employee as an employee in Public Sector Undertaking prior to joining Government service is counted as service for the purpose of calculating pension and other benefits to a Central Government employees;

(b) whether service rendered in Nationalised Bank, which is also a Public Sector Undertaking, is not counted for the purpose of calculating pension and other benefits to such a Central Government employee; and

(c) If so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No Sir.