

project must come from sources other than Indian Public financial Institutions.

- * Upto hundred per cent (100%) foreign equity participation can be permitted for projects set by foreign private investors.
- * The rates for depreciation in respect of assets have been liberalised.
- * The customs duty for import of power equipment has been reduced to 20% and this rate has also been extended to machinery required for modernisation and renovation of power plants.
- * A five year tax holiday has been allowed.
- * The excise duty on a large number of capital goods and instruments in the power sector has been reduced.
- * The excise duty on a large number of capital goods and instruments in the power sector has been reduced.
- * Upto 16% return on the foreign equity included in the tariff can be provided in the respective foreign currency.
- * Fixed costs can be recovered at 68.5% PLF for thermal and at 90% availability for Hydro plants. Attractive incentives are prescribed for performance beyond this PLF.
- * Tariff can be fixed in deviation of norms stipulated in the March, 1992 tariff notification provided that the per unit tariff does not exceed the per unit tariff worked out on the basis of the norms.

(f) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) along with Spectrum Technologies, USA and Jaya Food Industries, Hyderabad have jointly promoted Spectrum Power Generation Limited for setting up 208 MW COGT Power project at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

(g) Government of India is closely monitoring progress of all the private power projects including joint venture power projects proposed by public sector undertakings with private companies with a view to remove bottlenecks, if any, in early execution of the projects.

Pooyamkutty Hydrel Project

110. SHRI MULLAPPALY RAMACHANDRAN :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Pooyamkutty Hydrel Power Project proposed by the State Government of Kerala is pending for clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). The Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric Power Project in Kerala (2x120 MW) was accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority in 1984 at an estimated cost of Rs.250 crores. The project was accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission in August, 1986 subject to the State Government's obtaining the forest clearance. Environmental clearance to the Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric Power Project in Kerala was accorded by the Government of India in June, 1985. The forest clearance for the project has been rejected. The State Government has represented for a re-examination of the decision under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to Ministry of Environment and Forests. The proposal has been discussed with the State Government and Ministry of Environment and Forests and in October, 1996 a Committee has been constituted by Ministry of Environment and Forests for indepth analysis of the Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric Project.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

111. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have discontinued its most publicised 'TATKAL SEVA' scheme regarding issue of LPG connections sine-die;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) the total number of beneficiaries of this scheme during the last six months; and
- (d) whether the Government propose to restore the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Total number of beneficiaries of this scheme during the last six month i.e. April to September, 1996, is 54,777.

(d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Sanitation and water Supply

112. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects regarding cleanliness, supply of drinking water, development of rural areas of

Uttar Pradesh pending for approval with the Central Government;

(b) the amount of money provided for implementation of such projects in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the names of the projects of which the money was provided;

(c) whether approval for any project in the year 1996-97 has been given for Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) An amount of Rs.16.22 crore have been released in the last three years for controls flurosis and for water quality testing to State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Stats of Action taken on the Project received from Uttar Pradesh

S. No.	Name of Project	Status Project
1.	Firozabad Village	Detail not received hence project report is sought from the State Government.
2.	Jhansi 6 groups WSS for 14 villages	In principle this project has been approved but detailed design of the project proposal are to be furnished by the State Government.
3.	Kanpur Nagar	The State Government has been requested to review the project as per Government of India norms.

Power Regulatory Commission

113. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an independent Power Regulatory Commission;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The Government is considering finalisation of an Action Plan for the power sector in consultation with the States which, inter-alia, includes suggestions on Regulatory Commissions.

(b) and (c). The features and time frame could emerge only after the issues involved are discussed with the State in details.

[English]

Reconstitution of Planning Commission

114. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister's delayed decision in reconstituting the Planning Commission has virtually brought to a halt the advance work on the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether it will take more time to discuss the documents that will articulate the priorities and programmes of the Ninth Plan;

(c) whether the new Government has reconstituted the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, the details and present status thereof;

(e) the names of its full-time and ex-officio members;

(f) whether Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have been represented in the Commission;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the action being taken by the Union Government to represent Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K.ALUGH) : (a) and (b). No Sir. The Ninth Plan is proposed to be put in place from the 1st April, 1997 which is the normal date for initiation of the Ninth Plan. The Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan would inter-alia include the priorities of the Plan.

(c) to (h). The Planning Commission has been reconstituted by the Government, and the composition of the commission as of 31.7.96, is shown in the *statement* enclosed. The Commission has been constituted as per the Government of India's Resolution dated 15.3.1950. There is no scheme for representation of particular caste/community on the commission which as per the above Resolution, has the objective of promoting "a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources of the