

**Electricity Bodies Undergoing Losses**

\*257. SHRISHRAVANKUMARPATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the State and other Electricity Corporations and Undertakings incurring losses during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the extent of losses incurred during each of the last three years;

(c) the main reasons for these losses; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). The number of State Electricity Boards, who have suffered loss during the last three years, is given below:-

<i>Year ending 31st March</i>	<i>No. of SEBs in loss</i>	<i>Amount in crores</i>
1988	10	524.09
1989	9	608.86
1990	10	842.78

In addition, there are six Power Generation Corporations under various States, of which, according to available information, one unit in Uttar Pradesh and another in West Bengal are making loss to the extent of Rs. 66.55 crores and Rs. 77.58 cores during 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

(c) Main reasons for Boards' losses include low agricultural tariffs, low plant Load Factor(PLF), High Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses, pilferage of power, heavy interest burden on loans, losses accruing due to rural electrification etc.

(d) State Governments have been impressed upon, from time to time, including in the Conferences of Power Ministers of States, to improve the operations of the SEBs so as to achieve the statutory surplus of 3%, and to take steps like equity participation, provision of subsidy to meet the losses for supply of power to the agricultural sector, timely revision of tariff, improving the

performance of generating stations, reducing T&D losses etc.

2. As per the consensus reached at the Power Minister's Conference held in September, 1990, it is proposed to set up five Regional Power Tariff Boards, which will make recommendations to the State Governments regarding fixation of rationalised tariffs. States have also been urged for fixation of a minimum agricultural power of 50 paise/kwh.

**Upgrading of the North Eastern Council**

\*258. SHRI BHOY KRISHNA HANDI-QUE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal to upgrade the statutory North Eastern Council (NEC) from an advisory body to a full-fledged regional planning authority; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). The North-Eastern Council has discussed its role in the last two meetings. The Government has not taken any decision in the matter so far.

**Direct Dialling System with U.S.A.**

\*259. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has introduced a new system through which U.S.A. has been put on direct dial link with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits which are likely to accrue from it; and

(d) the number and names of other countries which are linked up with India through direct dialling system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. New service known as 'Home Direct' service has been introduced.

(b) Details are given in the attached statements.

(c) The service has been introduced as part of Department of Telecommunications's contribution to the Visit India year 1991. This service will facilitate foreign tourists and businessmen visiting India to contact their home instantaneously by using their credit card. This facility saves foreign exchange for our country as these calls are treated as calls emanating from the foreign country even though it is an outgoing call from India.

(d) As at (b).

**STATEMENT**

1. *The service has been introduced to 8 countries with effect from 1.11.91, as detailed below:-*

	Access Code		
1. USA	000	11	7
2. U.K.	000	441	7
3. JAPAN	000	811	7
4. ITALY	000	391	7
5. SPAIN	000	341	7
6. SINGAPORE	000	651	7
7. NETHERLANDS	000	311	7
8. CANADA	000	16	7