

It is a demand drive programme. We are ready to release whatever amount is required by the State Governments. That is the programme.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that under the Poverty Alleviation Programme, I.R.D.P. scheme is in operation in villages for rural poor. But people could not get the full amount of loan due to corruption. Sometimes they get only Rs.3500 out of the total loan amount of Rs.7000. Women have to face more problems when they want to get loan for starting any work. Mostly women are not ready to bow before corruption. Hon. Minister and hon. Prime Minister are also present here, I would like to know from them as to whether the Government propose to take measures so as to ensure that women could be benefited by it. Women, especially the widows, helpless and abandoned women would get a means of livelihood if a quota for loan for women is fixed in the loan amount disbursed for removing the rural unemployment. I would like to make a submission that in his reply, the hon. Prime Minister should give an assurance that a provision would be made to provide reservation to women under I.R.D.P.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what the hon. Member has said is true. In all our poverty alleviation programmes, there is a percentage reserved. In IRDP, forty per cent is reserved for women. With regard to wage also, whatever wage a man gets, the same wage a woman also gets. Our monitoring department goes in for examination and everything. I have already given notes and everything regarding my Ministry. If there is any violation in the implementation with regard to women or anything else, you give those specified areas to me where it is not being implemented. We will then send our officers to look into that.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : It is violated in Madhya Pradesh. I will produce evidence.

[English]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : It is also violated in Maharashtra.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the entire programme money is released to the State Governments. All officers belong to the State Governments because they are the implementing agency. If there is any representation or any complaint received from any Member of Parliament with regard to any violation committed by the State Government officials, we will refer it to the State Government for inquiry and will take necessary action. If the hon. Members have any complaints, they can send them to me. I shall then send it to the State Government concerned for action.

### Co-Ordination between SEBs and Private Power Sector

\*84. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether setting up of mega power projects based on imported coal is feasible option; and

(b) whether the Government are considering to set up central organisation to co-ordinate with private power projects and State Electricity Boards for proper distribution of power generated in the private power sector; and

(c) the details thereof?

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 issue of viability of mega projects at various locations in the country is under examination in the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a report on 2nd September, 1996, according to which the Union Government is reportedly considering the setting up of a National Regulatory Authority for the power sector, reducing the powers of the existing Central Electricity Authority and bringing the private power producers within the ambit of the former. My question was based on this report. But the hon. Minister has stated in his answer that there is no move in this matter. I would like to ask him whether the Government believes that the objectives of faster clearance and creation of an efficient power sector would be served better by strengthening the Central Electricity Authority and making it a truly independent regulatory body. If so, how would the Government strengthen the Central Electricity Authority?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister on 16th October announced a lot of incentives in the power scenario and has made some policy announcements. One of the items in the announcement is to form Regulatory Commissions - one at the national level and another at the State level - which will monitor the tariff structure. Accordingly, we sent draft notes to all the Chief Ministers for their approval.

Regarding the role of the CEA, the hon. Member has raised a pertinent question. Now CEA will not look into the cost and tariff and competitive bidding. It will only look into the location of the project and also availability of fuel and availability of transmission network. Their role will be restricted only to these.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, my second supplementary is relating to an announcement made by the hon. Prime Minister. I would like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to that announcement. It

is fortunate that he is present in the House. He has made an announcement in mid-October that the States need not come to the Centre for approval of their power projects, howsoever big or small they may be.

I would like to know as to what is the progress in this matter. It is a very important question relating to the States.

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA):** Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to intervene. Yes, I made an announcement to relax the existing procedure so far as the power projects are concerned. Earlier the States were authorised by the Central Government to clear the projects up to Rs. 400 crore that is 100 M.W. The cost is about Rs. 400 crore. Subsequently, we took a decision to further decentralise it to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crore, that is 250 M.W. The States have been authorised, without coming to the Centre for clearance, to clear the power projects up to Rs. 1,000 crore which may go up to 250 M.W.

In the Chief Ministers' Conference, some of the Chief Ministers mentioned that the time consumed at the Central Government level would be enormous because of the procedural delays. That is why I made the announcement that irrespective of the cost of the project, we will see that the powers were going to be given to the States themselves. But we are going to formulate the guidelines and those guidelines will be circulated to all the Chief Ministers and the Chief Ministers' Conference will be called again. If the guidelines are going to be accepted, then that will be the yardstick for the clearance of all the power projects.

Based on that, the guidelines were worked out by the Ministry of Power and they were circulated to all the Chief Ministers. We have intended to have the Chief Ministers' Conference on the 25th and 26th of this month. But on account of the Parliament session it has been postponed. Mostly probably during next month, either on a Saturday or Sunday, I am going to call the Chief Ministers' Conference to convince the Chief Ministers and to finalise the guidelines.

**SHRI SANAT MEHTA :** Sir, in spite of the liberalisation attitude adopted by the Central Government, is the Prime Minister aware that none of these projects is taking place because most of the projects are based on imported naphtha and imported coal? Unless the fuel policy is decided, no power project is becoming a reality. What steps does the Government want to take regarding imported naphtha policy and imported coal and when will it be finalised?

**SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA :** No, Sir. Sufficient naphtha is not available indigenously. Earlier some of the projects were cleared by the Central Government based on naphtha as raw material. For those projects, what we have indicated to the State Government is to follow - they have also not started first-come-first-served policy. There is no question of any other consideration. Those people who are going to complete the projects

with all necessary speed and after completion of the project if they come forward, we will see that the priority guideline is applied. It is only those who complete the projects before the Central Government who will be allotted naphtha. That is one guideline. This was done only because we wanted to create a little competition among those people who wanted to depend on naphtha as raw material. Of course, the naphtha which is available indigenously is not sufficient and we may have to import naphtha. For that the Ministry of Power, with a High Powered-Committee, is examining the modalities and other things. In the Chief Ministers' Conference I made this suggestion that those people who are eagerly waiting for naphtha may be told to complete the project and come before the Government of India and we are going to allot whatever indigenous naphtha that is available on the basis of first-come-first-served.

**PROF. P.J. KURIEN :** Sir, hon. Prime Minister has just now said that irrespective of the cost of the project the Government is considering to give power to the State Governments to sanction projects. I would like to know from him whether the clearance on the basis of Environment and Forest Act is also included in this clearance.

If that power is also given to the States, what alternative steps will he take to ensure that our forests are not degraded, denuded and also the environment is protected?

**DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI :** Sir, on the initiative of the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests is working out the modalities with regard to environment. I am happy to inform that we want to give delegation of power in this respect also for projects upto 250 MW worth Rs.110 crore.

[Translation]

**DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, now-a-days farmers are not getting proper power supply in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and in several other areas. The reply given here reveals that the Government is not serious about power supply. The issue of setting up of power projects based on imported Coal is being discussed here. At present, farmers in Madhya Pradesh are getting power supply for less than eight hours and that is also not at proper time. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister about the programme to be launched in this regard.

[English]

**MR. SPEAKER :** This question relates to power projects. Mr. Minister, would you like to answer?

**DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI :** Sir, I would request the hon. Member to raise a separate question because it pertains to Madhya Pradesh.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Qn. No.85- Shri. Ashok Pradhan  
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Sir, this is a current problem. When I would ask a separate question for it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : Hon. Minister is procrastinating the problems of farmers...*(Interruptions)* They are looting the country. People are not getting power...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Enough is enough.

[Translation]

Question No.85.. Shri Ashok Pradhan.

*(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, power plants are lying closed for the last three years in Rajasthan...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This question pertains to power project and not to power distribution.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. Q.No.85 -Mr. Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, I have gone to the next question. We are on the next question now.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is the Prime Minister of the country and son of a farmer...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Prime Minister is son of the soil and son of a farmer...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can not do like that. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Katheriaji, please take your seat. Vermaji please sit down.

[English]

You have done enough.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total area of land acquired and percentage of family members of farmers given employment in the plants running there vis-a-vis total number of employees. I would like to raise the question about the total number of employees there.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 1882 families were affected in first phase. It was 1,878 acre area of land belonging to six villages. In first phase, 692 acre area of land was acquired and 551 acre area of land was acquired in 1975-76. 1,186 acre area of land was acquired in second phase and out of it 883 acre land was acquired privately for displaced people. 537 displaced persons...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The question is about the number of persons whose land have been acquired and number of employees working there. The number of affected persons given employment. You have stated that only 197 families have been given employment. Hon. Member wants to know the total number of persons working there and percentage of these 197 families vis-a-vis total number of persons working there. He is not interested in acres.

[English]

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Sir, how could you allow her?

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question. It is a clarification. All right, I accept it.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I am telling about the number of families given land but please listen to me ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : I would like to know the number of families whose land has been acquired?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The number of families whose land has been acquired and number of people given employment?

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : I have asked the total number of employees working there...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have clarified very sufficiently.

#### Narora Atomic Plant

\*85. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the date of setting up of Narora Atomic Power Plant;

(b) whether any assurance for employment on priority basis to the displaced persons and proper development of the area were given by the Union Government/Narora Atomic Power Plant at the time of setting-up of this power plant;

(c) if so, the number of affected families which have been given employment so far and details of the development works undertaken in this area alongwith the amount spent thereon during the last three years, year-wise;