

seepage of water in the power tunnel, slow progress of works in the tail race tunnel and other adit tunnels due to bad rock conditions and strike by workers and employees of civil contractor, M/s Patel Engineering Company from February, 1995 to August, 1995. As per the present status of works the first unit of the project would be commissioned by July, 1999 and balance units at an interval of six months each thereof.

[*Translation*]

#### LPG Connections

809. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of LPG connections provided under the discretionary quota during 1996;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court have issued any guidelines in this regard; and
- (c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) LPG connections issued under discretionary quota during the period January - December, 1996 are as under:

LPG Connections

issued under

discretionary quota - 77142

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### Renewable Energy Sources

810. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have set up solar power projects in the country and the details of progress achieved on ongoing projects and performance of completed projects;
- (b) details of wind power projects already set up/ under implementation in the country with State-wise break up;
- (c) details of projects completed/under execution for generation of energy from garbage/waste;
- (d) details of major policy initiatives recently taken to encourage private/foreign direct investment to tap energy from natural sources/non conventional sources; and
- (e) details of programme-wise and state-wise allocations of funds for the current year particularly for Kashmir and how to they compare with the funds actually utilised during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYANA PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes Sir. Solar photovoltaic Power Projects of over 1254 KW aggregate capacity have been installed in the country. State-wise details are given in Statement-I enclosed. The performance of these projects has so far been satisfactory.

(b) The details of Wind Power projects set up in the country, with state-wise break-up are given in Statement-II enclosed;

(c) The details of projects for generation of energy from garbage/waste, completed and under execution, are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) Major policy initiatives taken to encourage private/foreign direct investment to tap energy from Non-conventional sources, include provision of fiscal and financial incentives under a wide range of programmes being implemented by the Ministry and simplification of procedure for private investment including foreign direct investment in the non-conventional energy projects. The fiscal incentives provided for this purpose include 100% depreciation in the first year of the installation of the project, exemption from excise duty and sales tax and concessional customs duty on the import of material, components and equipment used in non-conventional energy projects. In addition, the Government provides financial incentives such as interest-subsidy and capital subsidy from the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and soft loans from the Indian renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) a Public Sector Company of the Ministry. For creation of attractive facilities for evacuation and purchase/wheeling/banking of electrical energy generated from non-conventional sources, the Ministry has issued a set of guidelines to all the States. It has been suggested that the States should announce general policies for purchase/wheeling/banking of electrical energy generated from all non-conventional energy sources. A minimum purchase price of Rs.2.25/unit with an annual escalation of 5% for first 10 years, with liberal wheeling/banking facilities at nominal charges has been suggested. Twelve States have so far announced such policies in respect of various non-conventional energy sources. Foreign direct investment proposals involving upto 74% of foreign equity for manufacture of items based on solar energy like solar cells, cookers, air and water heating systems and other related items, wind electric generators, small hydro equipments and non-conventional energy generation and distribution qualify for automatic approval.

(e) The details of funds allotted under various non-conventional energy programmes during 1995-96 and 1996-97 alongwith programme-wise expenditure incurred during 1995-96 and expected expenditure during 1996-97 upto 31st March, 1997, are given in Statement-IV. Statewise allocation of funds is not made by the Ministry. The funds are provided to State Governments based on their past performance under various programmes of the Ministry and on the merit of the proposals received from them.