

**Statement**

*NTPC's outstanding against State Electricity Boards  
As on 31.1.1997*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/ Organisations	Outstanding dues	Surcharge billed	Total Outstanding
Uttar Pradesh SEB	69787	26825	96612
Rajasthan SEB	4048	15714	19762
Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking	77689	10450	88139
Punjab SEB	1395	322	1717
Haryana SEB	11065	12739	23804
Himachal Pradesh SEB	2022	941	2963
Jammu & Kashmir	27532	6386	33918
UT Chandigarh	1201	0	1201
POWERGRID	267	23	290
Madhya Pradesh SEB	21725	17741	39466
Maharashtra EB	11281	7975	19256
Gujarat EB	10389	6450	16839
Goa	120	35	155
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	59	0	59
Daman & Diu	296	2	298
POWERGRID	157	27	284
Andhra Pradesh SEB	7877	5210	13087
Karnataka EB	3770	3384	7154
Tamil Nadu EB	2104	5661	7765
Kerala SEB	615	2206	2821
Goa	27	66	93
Pondicherry	6	2	8
West Bengal SEB	17149	5786	22935
Bihar SEB	32807	24849	57656
GRIDCO(Orissa)	9403	0	9403
DVC	9191	9034	18225
Sikkim	307	55	362
<b>Total</b>	<b>322289</b>	<b>161883</b>	<b>484172</b>

**Kendriya Bhandar**

771. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- the number of stores operating by the Kendriya Bhandar at present, State-wise;
- whether there is no store of Kendriya Bhandar in Orissa;
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government propose to open some stores in the country particularly in Orissa; and
- if so, the details thereof, location-wise ?

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) There are 102 branch stores of Kendriya Bhandar at present in the various States/Union Territories as follows :

S.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of branch stores
1.	Delhi	72
2.	Tamil Nadu	11
3.	Uttar Pradesh	5
4.	Andhra Pradesh	3
5.	Haryana	3
6.	Chandigarh	2
7.	Karnataka	2
8.	Maharashtra	1
9.	Punjab	1
10.	Kerala	1
11.	Daman & Diu	1
		<b>102</b>

(b) to (e) There is no branch store of Kendriya Bhandar in Orissa and there is also no proposal at present to open any branch store in that State. Branches of Kendriya Bhandar are opened in areas having concentration of Central Government Employees as and when conditions like financial viability of new stores and the availability of accommodation on nominal rent are fulfilled.

[Translation]

**DESU**

772. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN :  
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "NTPC carries out its threat, long power-cut in Capital" appearing in "The Hindustan Times", New Delhi dated 5th February, 1997;
- if so, the facts thereof ;
- the difficulties which lie in the way of the DESU in making payment of the dues to the National Thermal Power Corporation; and
- the remedial measures taken to meet the situation arising from the NTPC restricting power supply to the Capital ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) It was decided by Government in October, 1996 that future supply

of power by Central Power Sector Utilities should only be against advance payment or irrevocable letter of credit. However, taking into consideration the adverse financial condition of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU), implementation of this decision was deferred till 31.12.1996 in the case of National Capital Territory of Delhi. Since DESU did not make full payment of current dues of Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), regulation of power to Delhi was enforced on 1.2.1997. The position has been again reviewed in a meeting on 10.2.1997 and it was decided to withdraw regulation of power and that the shortfall in payments made by DESU to BTPS and NTPC for the period 1st January, 1997 to 30th April, 1997 will be adjusted against the dues payable by Central Government to NCT of Delhi. The Government of NCT Delhi has given an undertaking for effecting the adjustment and for making full payment of current dues of BTPS and NTPC from 1st May, 1997.

[English]

### Right to Information

773. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a Working Group on right to information and promotion of open and transparent Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far by the Union/State Governments in this regard ?”

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) to (c) Government have set up a Working Group on Right to Information and Promotion of open and transparent Government. A copy of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances O.M. No.34011/1(s)/97-Estt.(B) dated 2nd January, 1997 indicating the composition and terms of reference of the Group is on the Table of the House enclosed as Statement.

### Statement

No.34011/1(S)/97-Estt.(B)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions  
Department of Personnel & Training

New Delhi, dated 2nd Jan., 1997

### OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject :** Setting up of a Working Group on Right to Information and promotion of open and transparent Government.

There is widespread agreement on the need for a clean and responsive administration based on the principles of accountability, openness, decentralisation and citizen orientation. In the context of the National Debate on Effective and Responsive Administration initiated by the Government of India, it has been decided to formulate specific measures for the introduction of greater transparency in the functioning of Government and public bodies, with reference to both their own employees and interaction with members of the public. It is also considered necessary to ensure widespread and easy access of citizens to all information relating to operations of Government and public agencies, subject to specified exceptions. For this purpose, the possibility of the introduction of a legislation for Right to Information at the levels of Central and State Government could be examined after appropriate consultations. This would involve also the consideration of amendment to various relevant legislations including the Official Secrets Act.

2. In view of the above, it has been decided with the approval of the Cabinet Secretary, to constitute a Working Group on "Right to Information and Transparency" under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie, Chairman, Common Cause, New Delhi with the following composition :—

1. Shri H.D. Shourie	Chairman
2. Shri Soli Sorabjee	Member
3. PIO, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting	Member
4. A representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
5. Additional/Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs	Member
6. A representative of the Ministry of Railways	Member
7. A representative of the Department of Posts	Member
8. A representative of the Department of Telecom	Member
9. Shri Narinder Singh, Jt. Secy., Department of Personnel and Training	Member

3. The Terms of Reference of the Working Group are as follows :

- a. To examine the feasibility and need of either a full fledged Right to Information Act or its introduction in a phased manner to meet the needs of open and responsive Government.
- b. To identify specific areas where Right to Information can be built into the working procedures and working system especially in large departmental undertakings including Railways, Telecommunications, Postal Ser-