

*[Translation]***Uniform Power Tariff**

781. SHRI D.P. YADAV :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed to rationalise electricity tariff structure all over the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter;

(c) the specific steps taken to improve the deteriorating financial health of the State Electricity Boards;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to curtail the annual plan funds of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power, finalised in the Chief Ministers' Conference on Power, held on 16th October, 1996 and 3rd December, 1996, inter-alia, recommends for establishment of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC) in each State/UT for determination of retail tariffs, cross-subsidisation between categories of consumers subject to no sector paying less than 50% of the average cost of supply, agriculture tariff not being less than 50 paise per kwh to be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than 3 years, recommendations of SERCs being mandatory, and any deviation from tariff recommended by it, the State Governments/UTs to provide for the financial implications of such deviations in the State/UT budget and a package of incentive and disincentives to encourage and facilitate the implementation of tariff rationalisation by the States. Further, the Action Plan also recommends autonomy to the State Electricity Boards, restructuring and Corporatisation of SEBs to run on commercial basis, improvement in the management practices of State Electricity Boards, and improvement of physical parameters etc. to improve the deteriorating financial health of the State Electricity Boards.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Investment on Research and Development**

782. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be

pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested on Research and Development in the country by the Public and Private Sector separately;

(b) the percentage of the amount invested in industrial sector for Research and Development out of the total amount invested and its comparison with other developing countries; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for increasing amount of investment on Research and Development in the Industrial Sector ?

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. ALAGH) :

(a) According to data reported to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the total amount invested on Research and Development in the country by the Government recognised in-house R&D units in the Public and Private Sectors together is around Rs.1575 crores during 1995-96; expenditure incurred by the Public Sector units is around Rs.550 crores and rest is by the Private Sector units.

(b) The percentage of the amount invested in Industrial Sector for Research and Development out of the total amount invested for Research and Development in the country is around 26% as compared to 5% to 30% in other developing countries.

(c) Government have, from time to time, evolved fiscal incentives and support measures to encourage industry to increase investments in Research and Development.

Indian Oil Corporation Investment

783. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has planned to invest about 500 crores in port infrastructure in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of ports where such infrastructure is proposed to be created by the IOC and approved by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited has planned to take up infrastructure development of priority areas to meet the demand for petroleum products in the Ninth Plan. This activity covers development of terminals/depots pipelines