

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAUHAN :

KUMARI FARIDA TOPNO :

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the power projects sanctioned to boost the power sector during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds set apart for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government proposed to evolve a fresh power policy to cover the entire gamut of power sector including generation, transmission and distribution;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also propose to involve representatives from various sectors of economy in the framing of this policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Power projects which were accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission during the last three financial years are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of Project (Capacity in MW)	State	Est. Cost (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Rayalseema TPS St-II (2x210)	A.P.	1273.00
2.	Purulia PSS (900)	W.B.	1456.56
3.	Kothagudem TPS St-V (2x250)	A.P.	1890.00
4.	Diesel Generating Power Station at Kozhikode (6x20)	Kerala	355.00
5.	Muzaffarpur TPS Extn. (2x250)	Bihar	1452.13

In so far as State projects are concerned, the Central Government has been providing Block Plan assistance to the States for their Plans according to the formula approved by National Development Council.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power adopted by the Government after extensive consultation with the State Governments, fresh initiatives have been taken to improve the performance of the power sector and to make it viable. The broad features of the programme inter-alia, are as follows :

- Finalising the National Energy Policy.
- Creation of Regulatory Commissions at the Centre and in the States ensure rationalisation of tariffs etc.
- Review of the Role of Central Agencies to facilitate speedy approval of projects.
- Encouragement of private sector participation.
- Providing autonomy to the State electricity Boards, their professionalisation and improvement in physical parameters.
- Encouragement to co-generation/captive and mega power projects.
- Developing a National Policy on Hydro Power.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. National Energy Policy is being formulated by the Committee set up in the Planning Commission. The Committee has representatives from various energy related institutions and experts in the power sector. The details of the policy on power are also scheduled to be discussed in the Consultative Committee of Parliament of the Ministry of Power.

[Translation]

Complaints against Employees and Officers of SAIL

386. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the complaints received against employees and officers of Steel Authority of India Ltd. during the last three years;

(b) the names of the employees and officers against whom charges were framed as a result of the said complaints; and

(c) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) 3329 complaints were received against various employees and officers of SAIL, with vigilance angle, in different Plants and Units during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, out of which in 603 complaints Regular Departmental Action was initiated. The compilation of the information regarding the complaints and names of the employees and officers against whom chagres were framed etc. asked for would involve considerable time and labour which may not be commensurate with the results achieved.

Rail Passes to Employees

387. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Section Officer and Assistant both are group 'B' employees in Railway Board;

(b) if so, whether as per the railway pass rules all the group 'B' employees get 6 sets of facility passes;

(c) if so, the reasons for issuing 6 sets of facility passes to Section Officers and 3 sets of passes to Assistants; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the disparity and to ensure that the Assistants also get 6 sets of facility passes like Section Officers ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Section Officers are Group 'B' (Gazetted) and Assistants are Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted).

(b) to (d) Six sets of passes are issued to group 'A' and Group 'B' Gazetted Officers only. Since Assistants are Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted), they are not eligible for six sets of privilege passes.

Functioning of Telephones

388. SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of telephones in villages that are functioning properly;

(b) the number of sets which are repaired or maintained by the Department;

(c) whether the priority is given to Multi Access Rural Radio telephones;

(d) if so, the criteria adopted for deciding such priority; and

(e) the criteria followed for installation of rural PCOs and the position in regard to their functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Post Offices in Rental Buildings

389. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Gujarat functioning in rental buildings, Distt-wise;

(b) the details of post offices shifted from these private buldings during the last three years, Distt-wise;

(c) the details of schemes for construction of buildings for post offices in the State;

(d) the rent paid by the Government for hiring private buildings during 1996;

(e) the details of the schemes completed during the last three years, Distt-wise;

(f) the details of the schemes not taken up, though sanctioned for construction so far with reasons therefor, Distt-wise; and

(g) the time by which all the schemes sanctioned for construction of Post office/sub-post office buildings are likely to be completed, Distt-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As per Statement I 'A'.

(b) As per Statement II 'B'.

(c) As per Statement III 'C'.

(d) The rent paid by the Government for hiring private buildings during 1996 – Rs. 55,62,233.64 (Rupees Fifty five