

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Power Trading Corporation for trading of Power in the country;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in this direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Government are likely to set up the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) to (d) A number of complex organisational, institutional, legal, commercial and contractual issues have to be resolved before establishing the Power Trading Corporation. At present inter-regional and intra-regional power transfers are taking place through the aegis of Regional Electricity Boards. The issue whether the creation of separate Power Trading Corporation is necessary or not will arise only when sufficient experience is gained in the matter.

[English]

#### Shortage of Power in Karnataka

2897. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of power is causing problems to farmers in the backward regions of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to mitigate the problems of farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Karnataka Government requested to the Government for additional two million units of power from the Central Grid to tide over the severe power shortage in the State; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) to (d) The supply and distribution of electricity in a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/State Electricity Board. The regulation of power supply in the State to various sectors, including agriculture, is decided by the State Government/State Electricity Board keeping in view the priorities as well as demand and availability of power. However, the agricultural sector is given due priority by the State Governments. The average power supply to agriculture in Karnataka during January, 1998 to May, 1998 has been as under:

Month	Hours per day
January, 98	14
February, 98	14
March, 98	14 (upto 11.3.98)
	10 (w.e.f. 12.3.98)
April, 98	10
May, 98	14

(e) and (f) Karnataka Government had requested additional power of 2 MU per day from the unallocated quota to mitigate power shortage in the State during the month of April, 1998. After reviewing the demand and availability of power in the southern region, Karnataka's share was enhanced from 20% to 25% with effect from 1.4.1998 from the unallocated quota of Central Power Stations of the southern region. In addition, the State is also getting an assistance of about 85 MW from Maharashtra in the Western region during off peak hours.

[Translation]

#### Power Projects in Bihar

2898. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV

(JAHANABAD):

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the production capacity of each power project in Bihar during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the formalities for generating 2800 megawatt electricity under Major Power Projects in Kahalgaon in Bihar had been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to convert the aforesaid project into a small project;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether four units of 840 megawatt have been closed down after their inception; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) The production capacity of power projects in Bihar during the last three years is as follows:

Station	Agency	Type	Capacity as on 31.3.96	Capacity as on 31.3.97	Capacity as on 31.3.98
1	2	3	4	5	6
Subernekha	BSEB	Hydel	130	130	130
Kosi	BSEB	Hydel	20	20	20
Sone West Canal	BSEB	Hydel	6.6	6.6	6.6
Sone East Canal	BSEB	Hydel	3.3	3.3	3.3
E. Gandak Canal	BSEB	Hydel	5	10	15
Patna	BSEB	Steam	13.5	13.5	13.5
Barauni	BSEB	Steam	320	320	320
Patratu	BSEB	Steam	840	840	840
Muzaffarpur	BSEB	Steam	220	220	220
Panchet Hill	DVC	Hydel	80	80	80
Tilaya	DVC	Hydel	4	4	4
Tenughat	TVNL	Steam	210	420	420
Bokaro	DVC	Steam	877.5	877.5	877.5
Chandarpur	DVC	Steam	780	780	780
Kahalgaon	NTPC	Steam	840	840	840
Maithon	DVC	Gas	90	90	90
<b>Total</b>			<b>4439.90</b>	<b>4654.90</b>	<b>4659.90</b>

(b) to (g) Kahalgaon Thermal project of NTPC with an installed capacity of 840 MW was fully commissioned in 1995-96 and has been generating electricity since then. There is at present no proposal to increase its capacity to 2800 MW.

[English]

#### Irregularities in Niscom

2899. SHRI SURESH KURUP:

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a one man fact finding committee in February 1997 to look into various irregularities at National Institute of Science Communication, a constituent establishment of CSIR;

(b) if so, whether the committee has since submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the steps the Government propose to take thereon;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in submitting the report;

(e) whether the Government have assured in the Delhi High Court that the report would be implemented within a short period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The report submitted by the One Man Fact Finding Committee (OMFFC) is required to be supplemented with the versions of the concerned officials and as such the