

(b) and (c) Land for realignment has already been acquired by State P.W.D. The project is proposed for being taken up under private sector participation.

#### **Amendment to Indian Forest Act**

3856. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927;

(b) whether Government have the objective of increasing the green cover; and

(c) whether this legislation will enable the Government to declare de-forested land as suitable for emergency afforestation programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIBABULAL MARANDI):

(a) Yes, Sir. Government has undertaken a detailed exercise to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927 to provide for restoration, conservation and management of forests and also to consolidate the various State amendments for providing a uniform law thereby.

(b) and (c) Government have the objective of increasing green cover, in the National Forest Policy, 1988, by massive afforestation programmes with the involvement of people. The legislation under amendment aims to strengthen the provisions of forest protection to safeguard against qualitative and quantitative decline of forests.

#### **Prosecution of Senior Officials**

3857. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India in its order of December 18, 1997 had given free hand to prosecute the senior officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Government have examined the orders of the Supreme Court; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have taken/are taking necessary steps for action in accordance with the direction of the Supreme Court.

#### **Private Sector Power Projects**

3858. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the case of Independent power projects, the tariff is derived from the total cost of the project which includes the financing and interest charges incurred during construction;

(b) whether hard and soft cash are complimentary to each other and increase in one leads to decrease in the other and vice versa;

(c) if so, the reasons for the Central Electricity Authority not comparing the total completed cost of different projects for giving Techno Economic clearance; and

(d) the steps the Government proposes to take for removing the anomalies referred to in the interest of speedy implementation of the power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Soft cost is dependent upon the quantum of Hard cost in general terms. Elements of soft cost like interest during construction and financing charges depend upon a number of factors which vary from project to project. In view of the multiplicity of factors involved in the Hard cost and Soft cost in respect of the power projects, the Central Electricity Authority appraises the projects in terms of Hard cost and Soft cost separately and also the total cost for tariff comparison with other similar projects. Central Electricity Authority has issued detailed guidelines for submission of DPRs with necessary clearances/approvals under Section 18(A) and 29(C) of the Electricity (Supply) Act 1948, fuel linkage, environmental clearance etc. to expedite accord of techno-economic clearance of the power projects.

#### **Reduction in Power Imbalance**

[*Translation*]

3859. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation has achieved any success in reducing the power imbalance in the States;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of amount of loan sanctioned during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Power Finance Corporation provides loan for power projects whose implementation helps to bring down the deficit in power supply. The details of the loan sanctioned by Power Finance Corporation, during the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given the attached Statement.