

(DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) One of the items of the National Agenda for Governance is to set up a National Judicial Commission to make recommendations for Judicial appointments in the Supreme Court and the High Courts and draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary. It is not possible to indicate the time by which the decision in this regard would be taken.

Tariff Rationalisation in Power Sector

926. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently stressed the need on tariff rationalisation in power sector to make State Electricity Boards more viable and efficient;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since examined the aspect of power tariff rationalisation throughout the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the power tariff rationalisation is going to help the State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The establishment of Electricity Regulatory Commissions at the Centre and in the States under the ERC Act, 1998 is primarily aimed at rationalising electricity tariffs throughout the country. While State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have become fully functional in Orissa and Haryana, it is at various stages of implementation in most of the other States.

(d) The poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) is mainly attributed to the irrational tariff structure. Rationalisation of tariff will restore the credibility of the SEBs and in turn improve their financial health.

Shortage of Power in Kerala

927. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has submitted any proposals to the Union Government for the construction of gestation projects using liquid fuel;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have banned the usage of HSD for power generation, leading to stoppage of such projects and loss of more than Rs. 8 crore to the State; and

(c) if so, the alternative measures taken to revive the projects and also for generating additional power in the State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The policy of Government on the use of liquid fuels for generation of power announced in November, 1995, stipulates that HSD (diesel) would not be permitted as fuel. However, in the revised policy announced in July, 1998, the use of HSD for power generation has been permitted only as a special case in inaccessible and isolated areas where small diesel based capacities are sought to be set up and where used of other fuels is not feasible. Government of Kerala had made a request for allocation of HSD for a 5 MW DG based power plant under execution at Edarikode. It was, *inter-alia*, mentioned by the State Government that an amount of nearly Rs. 8 crores had already been invested in the project. Ministry of Power has considered the request of Government of Kerala and accordingly recommended the allocation of HSD for this project to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

(c) Does not arise.

Declaration of Sanctuary in Orissa

928. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhitarkanika in Orissa has been declared as a sanctuary;

(b) if so, whether this declaration has adversely affected the livelihood of fishermen residing in the area; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide them alternative employment and shelter to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the interest of the conservation of Olive Ridley Turtle, which is an endangered species, only bare minimum area has been declared as a sanctuary