

[*Translation*]

Establishment of Wind Energy Units

829. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up more Wind Energy Units in the country in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Wind power projects aggregating to about 1000 MW have been taken up in (i) the Government sector as demonstration projects (50 MW), or (ii) as commercial projects (950 MW) through private investments. Further capacity addition will depend upon technical feasibility, economic viability, continuation of fiscal and promotional incentives and private investments for commercial projects. New demonstration projects have been proposed for sites in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Karnataka.

Internet Facility

830. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Begusarai, Shekhpura, Lakhisarai and Munger districts of Bihar with internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per Gazetted IT Task Force Recommendations, in all local charging areas, the access to the nearest Internet access nodes will be on local call rates (172 XXX code) progressively w.e.f. 15.8.98. In Begusarai Distt., the Internet access is available on local call basis. Further,

as per DOT Internet plan, these places (Begusarai, Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Munger Distts.) have been identified as Type C-III Internet nodes.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

[*English*]

Telecom Facilities in A.P.

831. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1100 telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh are to be modernised by the end of March 1999;

(b) if so, whether at present 400 exchanges were now connected through optical fibre and another 700 exchanges would be linked in a similar manner by March; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) At present, 236 exchanges are working on optical fibre media. It is proposed to modernise the transmission links of 404 exchanges on optical fibre during the year 1998-99 subject to availability of materials.

In addition, it is planned to modernise the transmission links of another 891 exchanges on UHF/Microwave media and 7 on Satellite media subject to availability of materials.

Development of Small Hydro Power Projects

832. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing schemes financed by Power Finance Corporation to encourage the development of small hydro projects in the North-Eastern States with their present status;

(b) the details of new projects proposed to be financed by Power Finance Corporation in these States;

(c) the details of the schemes available with the Power Finance Corporation for encouraging private sector participation in small hydro power projects;

(d) the reasons for low participation of the private sector in small hydro power sector; and

(e) the steps being taken to encourage private participation in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The details of on-going schemes financed by Power Finance Corporation to encourage the development of small hydro projects in North-Eastern States are given in the attached Statement.

(b) At present one scheme i.e. Horangki HE Project (3x500 KW) of the Govt. of Nagaland, estimated cost Rs. 12.19 crores, is under consideration in Power Finance Corporation for a loan amount of approximate Rs. 5.90 crores.

(c) The financial assistance from Power Finance Corporation is open to private sector for development of small hydro projects. The Corporation's lending rates are lower for hydro electric projects as compared to thermal projects for the private sector. Further, the Corporation is providing financial assistance to the extent of 50% of the total project cost for private small hydro projects as compared to the limit of 20-25% for other types of private projects.

(d) The main reasons for low participation of the private sector for implementation of hydro sector, *inter-alia*, include technical (difficult investigation & inadequacies in tunneling methods), financial (deficiencies in providing long-term financing), tariff related issues, geological surprises, inaccessibility of the areas, problems due to delay in land acquisition and re-settlement of project affected families as also law and order problems in militant infested areas.

(e) To encourage private participation in the hydro-electric sector, the Government in August, 1998, has formulated a policy for hydro power development. The salient features of this policy are: (a) ensuring targetted capacity addition during 9th plan; (b) exploitation of vast hydroelectric potential at a faster pace; (c) promoting small and mini hydel project; (d) increasing private investment; (e) providing adequate funds in the Central/State Government budget and organising supplementary funding through Power Finance Corporation; (f) entrusting basin-wise development to Central Hydel Public Sector Corporations; (g) funding support for Survey and Investigations; (h) providing an institutional mechanism for dealing with geological risks; (i) simplification of procedures relating to transfer of clearances from State Government to Central Public Sector Undertakings and State Government to private sector etc. etc.

Statement

Details of Small Hydro Power Projects financed by Power Finance Corporation in North-Eastern Region including Sikkim (plant capacity less than 15 MW).

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/ State	Capacity (MW)	Latest Cost	Amount sanctioned	Amount disbursed	Commissioning Schedule
1.	Tsutha Nagaland	0.70	6.74 (1997)	1.09	0.50	March, 1999
2.	Telangao Nagaland	0.40	6.62 (1997)	3.30	2.33	June, 1999
3.	Kau-Tlabung Mizoram	3.00	25.52 (1997)	3.43	3.14	March, 1999
4.	Tuipang Lui Mizoram	3.00	30.19 (1997)	3.60	3.60	March, 1999
5.	Teirei Mizoram	3.00	25.13 (1997)	5.00	4.68	June, 1999