

Statement

Gist of Discussions held during the Second Annual Meeting of the Election Commission with the State Election Commissioners (SECs) on 11.1.1999 at New Delhi

1. Stress was laid by the Election Commission of India on Annual Meeting with SECs.
2. Stress was laid by the Commission on improving the inter-relations with SECs.
3. Need was felt for coordination between all Electoral Registration Authorities to avoid duplication of efforts, labour and expenditure in respect of preparation and revision of Electoral Rolls.
4. The SECs held different views with respect to the proposal of the Commission for indicating Ward Numbers in the Assembly Electoral Rolls.
5. The benefits of the Scheme of Computerisation of Electoral Rolls and having a common data base in this respect were discussed.
6. The Commission and the SECs assured each other on sharing of electoral material between them on approved rates.
7. Use of EVMs in recent Assembly Elections was appreciated and need was felt for amending State Laws to include enabling provisions for the use of these machines in relation to local bodies' elections.
8. Utility of Photo Identity Cards in local bodies' elections was discussed.
9. The SECs welcomed the offer of Commission for imparting training to their officers and staff on various Electoral Laws, Procedures and related matters.
10. The need for insisting on an affidavit/declaration from candidates regarding their antecedents in respect of criminal activities was felt.
11. The Commission's proposal for disqualifying candidates who had been charge-sheeted by appropriate Courts for an offence leading to a

sentence of five years or more, during pendency of trial, found favour among participants.

12. Need was felt to entrust the job of delimitation of Wards to SECs in view of the fact that some of the State Governments have reserved this power on-to themselves.
13. Need to harmonise the terms and conditions of appointment of SECs giving them the same status, salaries and other service benefits as available to High Court Judges was discussed.
14. Need for making the expenses of the SECs 'Charged' on the Consolidated Fund of the States was discussed.
15. Debarring delinquent officers from election related duties, mutual coordination between Election Commission and SECs in this regard and need for having disciplinary jurisdiction over the officers deputed on election duties was also discussed.
16. Some SECs desired that the Election Law Reports and Annual Reports of the Commission should be revived.

Power Generation by NHPC during Ninth Plan

1037. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) propose to enhance power generation during the Ninth plan;

(b) if so, the number of new power projects proposed to be constructed by NHPC in the said plan period;

(c) whether NHPC also proposes to expand its existing power projects during this period; and

(d) if so, the target fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Rangit Hydro-electric Project (3x20 MW) in Sikkim and the Dulhasti Hydro-electric project (3x130 MW) in Jammu and Kashmir are under construction by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC). Both these projects are

scheduled for commissioning during the IX Plan. There would, therefore, be a capacity addition of 450 MW through NHPC Projects at the end of the IX Plan.

(c) and (d) NHPC would also be taking up Renovation and Modernisation of its existing plants at Baira Siul in Himachal Pradesh and Salal-I Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

[*Translation*]

**Increase in gap between Tariff and
Production Cost of Power**

1038. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the difference between the average tariff received and the production cost of power has been continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the details of such difference during the last three years with reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The difference between average cost of supply and average realisation of the SEBs in the country, based on the Annual Statements of Accounts for the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, is given attached in statement. The difference between average cost of supply and average realisation has come down in the year 1996-97 as compared to the difference in the year 1995-96.

(c) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has since been set up by Central Government. The structural reforms in the power sector are being undertaken by various State Governments and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC) have been/are being established in the states for tariff rationalisation.

Statement

Average Cost of Supply of Power and Average Realisation

S. No.	Year	Average Cost of supply	Average realisation	Difference	Difference %
1.	1994-95	156.44	134.49	21.95	14
2.	1995-96	179.76	148.71	31.05	17.3
3.	1996-97	204.37	176.13	28.24	13.8

Bungling in Telephone Bills

1039. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from the telecom office Ghaziabad regarding bungling in the telephone bills;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken thereon;

(c) whether the telephone bills in question have since been corrected; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Two cases of errors in wrong data feeding were noticed in March, 1998. No complaints were, however, received.

(b) Yes, Sir.