

and Part II of Schedule II is higher than the punishment committed in relation the animals mentioned in other Schedules and therefore no further action is required in this case.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Shri Ali Mohammed was killed by hunters as he was protecting peacocks from the hunters at Ummaid Ganj Farm, Rote on 31.7.98. Shri Mohammed was posthumously awarded state level Amrita Devi Award wherein a payment of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) was made to the family of Shri Mohammed on 31.8.98. Besides a sum of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand only) was also given by World Wide Fund for Nature, India to the family of Shri Mohammed.

[Translation]

Increase in Rates of Power for Agriculture Sector

986. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the rates of electricity for the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the increase is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The rates of electricity for various categories of consumers including agriculture are fixed by the State Governments/SEBs concerned under section 59 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. However, during the Chief Ministers Conference held in December, 1996, it was *inter-alia* agreed that the tariff for Agriculture Sector will not be less than 50 P/KWH to be brought to 50% of average cost of supply in not more than 3 years.

[English]

Hydro Electric Project in Karnataka

987. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to direct the water of Mhadai river (Goa) into Malaprabha river and also plan to construct a Hydro Electricity Project at Chapoli in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is likely to create problems for the water treatment plant at Dabhos Volpai in Goa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (e) The detailed project report on Mahadavi Hydroelectric Project (2x10 + 2x12.5 + 2x150 MW) was returned to Karnataka Power Corporation Limited in March 1992 for resolving Inter-State aspects. The scheme involves trans-basin diversion (Eastwards) of 113 Mcum/annum of waters of Mahadavi river (from the main reservoir at Kotni) to adjacent Malaprabha river (Krishna basin) for augmenting the irrigation supplies in the Malaprabha irrigation scheme. Government is not aware about the implications for the water treatment plant at Dabhos Volpai in Goa due to this proposed project. However, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited was *inter-alia* requested to obtain concurrence of Goa as the proposed diversion may affect the downstream flows in Goa.

Solar Energy System

988. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to use the solar energy system developed in Australia in the country; and

(b) if so, the areas in which this system is likely to be utilised?