

implementation in 7 States. Project Reports have been received for the setting up of ten bagasse based power plants in four States. Details are given in the Statement attached.

(c) Such projects are generally implemented over a period of 18-24 months. Commencement of implementation, however, depends on financial closure, signing of Power Purchase Agreements, and other approvals and clearances.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of Project Reports for Bagasse based power projects*

Sl.No.	States	No. of Reports	Surplus Power Capacity (MW)
1.	Gujarat	2	25.00
2.	Karnataka	5	44.20
3.	Maharashtra	2	21.18
4.	Punjab	1	10.20

[English]

**Agreement between India and Senegal for Solar Energy**

1849. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUMARIA:  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Senegal in regard to solar energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said agreement is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-

CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Republic of Senegal has been signed on 15th January, 1999 on cooperation in the field of solar photovoltaics. The objectives of the Memorandum include collaboration in research & development; demonstration, promotion & commercialisation of the solar photovoltaic and other renewable energy technological applications, on the basis of equality and joint benefit as mutually agreed by the two sides. As a part of the Memorandum, a Solar Lighting Demonstration Project in Senegal is being implemented by India by agreeing to design, supply and installation of this project using systems manufactured in India. The Memorandum has come into force with immediate effect.

[Translation]

**Solar Energy Programme**

1850. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently provided subsidy for water heating system through the solar energy under the solar energy programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether commercial and technical viability of the said system has been taken into account; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Under the Solar Thermal Extension Programme of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources launched in 1984, subsidy was being provided to both individual and institutional users of solar water heaters. The subsidy was discontinued during 1993-94 and replaced by soft loans to users. Presently, under an Interest Subsidy Scheme of the Ministry, soft loans at an interest rate of 5% - 8.3% depending on the category of users are available from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and five public sector banks. In addition, commercial organizations can avail of 100% depreciation benefit for income tax purposes.

(c) and (d) The commercial and technical viability of solar water heating systems was taken into account while introducing the soft loan schemes. The technology of solar water heating is now fairly mature though improvements are also being pursued. With increasing fuel costs, the commercial viability of solar water heating systems has been found to be steadily improving. Where the solar system replaces electricity, the pay back period for the investment is 2-4 years and where it replaces other fuels, the pay back period is 5-6 years. In addition, there are also environmental benefits arising from the use of solar systems.

#### Internet Service on Life Saving Medicines

1851. DR. ASHOK PATEL:  
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce "Chemist ki Duniya Cyber Chemist" on Internet for the first time in India for making life saving medicines available to the needy patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the cities in which the said service would be introduced and the timing of the service; and

(d) the time by which the said service is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) (a) and (b) A newspaper report which appeared in the 'Hindu' dated 3.3.1999 with the caption "New Mail- medicines and Cyber Chemist" regarding launching of services by M/s. MAGS International, New Delhi has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

[English]

#### Thermal Power Plant in Mannargudi

1852. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to set up thermal power plant in Mannargudi in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal of the Central Public Sector Undertakings, to set up a Thermal Power Project in Mannargudi in Tamil Nadu, at present.

#### World Bank Loan for Health Projects

1853. SHRI MADAN PATIL :  
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:  
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:  
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide loan for the health projects to be set up in the country;

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

(c) The places where the proposed health projects are likely to be started;

(d) the estimated areas likely to be covered under these health projects;

(e) the number of hospitals/dispensaries functioning with the assistance of World Bank state-wise and Union territory-wise;

(f) whether there has been any review of the on-going projects aided by the World Bank and other foreign agencies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Fake Law Colleges

1854. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:  
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:  
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: