

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is empowered to give concurrence to power projects both in the public and private sector in the country, till March, 1998, 40 schemes for setting up power generation projects in the private sector aggregating 19593 MW and involving an estimated investment of Rs. 80106.974 crores were techno-economically cleared by CEA. Of these, 3 projects having an installed capacity of 939 MW have been fully commissioned. Another 9 projects having an installed capacity of 3415 MW have been partly commissioned/are under various stages of construction and it is estimated that by the year 2000, 2125 MW will also be added to the 939 MW already installed.

UNDP's Report on Ecological Devastation

*116. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is heading for ecological devastation as reported in UNDP's recent Human Development Report released in September, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The Human Development Report published by UNDP in 1998 examines the perspective of human development in the light of the consumption pattern at the global level. It suggests that despite a dramatic surge in consumption globally, the consumption pattern in many countries is socially as well as environmentally not sustainable. This is true for most developing countries, including India, when seen in the context of rising population, poverty and depletion of natural resources. The focus of the Report is not on environment damage alone but takes into account various parameters of human development like health, literacy, poverty, consumption pattern and gender issues covering various regions and countries.

The Report says that India is paying "an enormous price" for economic development which was brought in its wake "ecological devastation" and numerous health problems. While discussing the cost of such environmental degradation, it estimates such cost at US \$ 10 billion for India, that is around 4.5% of the GDP in 1992. References have also been made to the problems of Ganga river, safe drinking water, sanitation, inequalities in levels of consumption, air pollution and degradation of eco-

systems. India's efforts towards alternatives to pesticide use, afforestation, access to information, health, life expectancy and improved child care and adult literacy have been commended.

For a substantial segment of the human population living in poverty, increased consumption is a vital necessity and a basic right in order to ensure freedom from poverty. Although some aspects of such increased consumption do undermine prospects of sustainable human development for all, environmental damage can be reversed or minimised by following a sustainable development paradigm.

(c) Government have taken a number of remedial steps for integration of environmental considerations with development. Various policies and programmes have been adopted along with enactment of necessary legislative and regulatory measures. Some of the important measures in this direction are:

1. Government have formulated the following policy initiatives for protecting and improving the environment : The National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement of Environment and Development, 1992, Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution, 1992 and National Forest Policy, 1988.
2. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1998 provide the legal backing for enforcing pollution control and conservation measures.
3. A comprehensive enforcement structure comprising of central and state government agencies is in place, including the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards/Committees.
4. Ambient air and water quality standards, and emission and effluent discharge standards into air and water respectively, have been notified and are being monitored regularly.
5. Environmental clearance is mandatory for 29 categories of developmental projects, including public hearing and environmental impact assessment process.
6. Seventeen categories of highly polluting industries are being rigorously monitored for compliance of the stipulated standards.
7. A number of Common Effluent Treatment Plants are being set up for industrial units.

8. Twenty four critically polluting areas have been identified for pollution abatement and improving the environment. Action Plans in respect of twenty two critically polluting areas have been finalised and are under various stages of implementation.
9. Ganga Action Plan and National River Conservation Plan are under implementation to improve the river water quality. These plans envisage interception and diversion of municipal sewage from being discharged into twenty two rivers covering one hundred and fifty six towns in fourteen states. Sewage is to be treated and utilised for irrigation. Industrial pollution of the rivers is controlled under the environmental law enforced by Central and State Pollution Control Boards.
10. Waste Minimisation Circles are being established for control of pollution at source for certain highly polluting industries, such as electroplating units, textile dyes and printing units, tanneries and agro-based paper units.
11. Environmental Audit has been made compulsory for certain categories of industrial units.
12. For controlling vehicular pollution, emission norms at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms will come into effect from 1.4.2000. Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
13. Low lead petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in these four cities with effect from 1.4.1995. Effective from 1.9.1998, only unleaded petrol is being supplied in Delhi.
14. The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been set up for the National Capital Region for protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution. Similarly, an authority has been set up for controlling industrial pollution in the state of Tamil Nadu.
15. The Ministry has initiated environmental epidemiological studies in seven critically polluted areas located in Gujarat, Orissa, Mumbai, Kerala, U.P., Punjab and Delhi.
16. Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.
17. A National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board has been established for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities.
18. The strictest controls have been placed on diversion of forest land to other uses. Compensatory afforestation is a prior requirement when use of forest land is permitted for development purposes.
19. Necessary regulations covering all aspects of management of hazardous chemicals from manufacturing upto the final disposal have been brought out.
20. The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been notified which govern the generation, collection, treatment, storage, disposal and import of hazardous wastes.

Mega Power Projects in Private Sector

*117. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified New Mega Power Projects to be set up in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places where they are likely to be established;

(c) the conditions laid down for setting up such projects; and

(d) the total outlay and the expected capacity of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) Government has recently recast the policy on development of mega power projects. According to the revised policy, certain projects sites, both in the Public as well as Private sector have been identified for setting up such mega projects which would cater to the power needs of more than one state.

In the private sector, in addition to Hirma (6 x 660 MW) project in Orissa, the following new projects are also proposed to be taken up : Cuddalore (1000 MW)