

[Translation]

**Sub-Standard Educational Institutions/
Business Schools**

1253. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether sub-standard educational institutions and business schools are running in the country in the name of providing vocational education;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken or propose to take any stern action against such vocational institutions and business schools; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a), to (c) Keeping in view the deterioration of standards and quality of some of the unaffiliated management education institutions conducting post-graduate diploma courses, as reported by the expert committees, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided in 1996, not to approve Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Management (PGDM) till a suitable mechanism of admission, evaluation, examinations' monitoring is evolved and implemented by the Council. In the meanwhile, the Council has already started monitoring Business Schools every year and has already stopped admissions in certain institutions and withdrawn approval to some substandard institutions, after serving show-cause notice to them.

[English]

Standing Independent Group on Power

1254. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently accepted the recommendations of the standing independent group on power headed by former Chief Justice of India Mr. P.N. Bhagwati in regard to creation of 20 000 MW capacity through mega projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to set up a Power Trading Corporation jointly by National Thermal Power Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Government has recently recast the policy on development of mega power projects. According to the revised policy, certain project 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. The Standing Independent Group constituted by the Government would initially be the apex body to oversee the implementation of the mega private power projects. The principles of competitive bidding would be adhered to as far as possible, while obtaining tariff offers for private sector projects. These projects are being given certain concessions and are being linked to reforms. It is expected that these projects would result in low tariffs and would also help in catalysing reforms and accelerating the establishment of systems that would transfer power across states and regions.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, a Power Trading Company (PTC) would be established with majority equity participation by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), along with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and other financial institutions. Concerned State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) would also be co-opted, if found feasible. The PTC would purchase power from the identified private projects and sell it to the identified State Electricity Boards. This would help in project development as the project developer would have to deal with only one agency.

[Translation]

National Highways

1255. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the length in kilometre of national highways constructed in the country during Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the total financial amount provided for this purpose and the actual demand made by the State Governments in this regard during the said period; and

(c) the length in kilometre of national highways being constructed currently and proposed for the Ninth Plan period with the details regarding the rest of the works under consideration for the approval, State-wise?