

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (e) During the current year, the Government have issued counter-guarantee in the case of the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) of M/s Hinduja National Power Company Limited (HNPC) in Andhra Pradesh, Bhadravati Thermal Power Project (1082 MW) of M/s Central India Power Company (CIPCO) in Maharashtra and 250 MW single unit lignite based Neyveli Thermal Power Project of M/s ST-CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu. The amount of foreign debt for which counter guarantee has been given in respect of these 3 projects is as under :-

Visakhapatnam Thermal - Power Project	US \$ 818 million.
Bhadravati Thermal - Power Project	UK £ 332 million + French Franc 1480 million
Neyveli Thermal - Power Project	US \$ 52.42 Million + DM 237.12 million

Normally the counter guarantee will remain in force for a period of 12 years from the date on which the power station is declared commercially operational.

Adult Education Scheme

1183. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Adult Education Scheme is being implemented in Bihar;

(b) if so, the amount spent in Bihar under the scheme during the last five years;

(c) the number of persons benefited in the State under the scheme, year-wise;

(d) whether the amount earmarked for the scheme is being misused in Bihar; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount released to Bihar under various schemes of Adult Education Programme during the last five years is as follows :-

	(Rs. in Lakhs)
1993-94	1109.93
1994-95	1628.87

1995-96	1977.84
1996-97	1062.52
1997-98	446.98

(c) The targets and achievements under National Literacy Mission are not fixed on annual basis. The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to 100 million non-literates in the age group of 15-35 years. 52.31 lakh persons have since been made literate in Bihar under various schemes of National Literacy Mission.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Counter Guarantee to Private Power Projects

1184. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded counter guarantee to some of the private sector power projects during the last 3-4 months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and justification of according counter guarantee to these power projects;

(c) whether the Government have flouted proper norms in according counter guarantee to said power projects; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Government of India (GoI) enunciated a private power policy in 1991 aimed at encouraging the flow of private capital to the power sector. This was due, among other reasons, to insufficient resource generation and dwindling budgetary support in the face of very large investment requirements in the power sector. To instill confidence in the private power developers, GoI considered issuing counter guarantees to private power projects that were identified as developing rapidly. In May, 1998, Government of India revised the procedure for issue of counter guarantee to private power projects. Under this procedure, it has been decided that counter guarantee will be given only for the event of termination and will be limited to the outstanding foreign debt only.

During the month of August, 1998 the Government have issued counter-guarantee in the case of the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) of M/s Hinduja National Power Company Ltd. (HNPC) in Andhra Pradesh, Bhadravati Thermal

Power Project (1082 MW) of M/s Central India Power Company (CIPCO) in Maharashtra and 250 MW single unit lignite based Neyveli Thermal Power Project of M/s ST-CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

National Highways for Vidharbha Region

1185. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of National Highways already in existence and planned for the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) whether any proposal is pending to develop National Highway connecting all the districts of Vidharbha region;

(c) whether any foreign investment has been made in the offing for construction of National Highways in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) An aggregate length of 870 Km. is already in existence in the Vidharbha Region of the Maharashtra State as per details given below :

Sl.No.	N.H.No.	length in km.
1.	6	509
2.	7	252
3.	16	50
4.	69	59

Further, there is no new National Highway planned for the Vidharbha region at present.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Forests in J&K

1186. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total area covered by the forests in J&K;

(b) the total area deforested during last three years;

(c) the reasons for deforesting on such a large scale and steps taken by the Government for preventing it;

(d) whether a large number of flash floods are occurring every year in J&K due to deforestation; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The forest cover in the State of Jammu & Kashmir is 20,440 sq.km as per State of Forest Report, 1997.

(b) and (c) The latest State of Forest Report, 1997 gives the change of forest cover pertaining to the period October-November, 1992 to Nov, 1995. During this period, there has been an increase of forest cover by 7 sq.km. in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

(d) and (e) As per the State of Forest Report 1997, there has been no change in the forest cover as well as in the density of the forest in the state of Jammu & Kashmir and in view of this the question does not arise.

Courses in High Technology

1187. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of vocational courses already integrated with mainstream educational courses in various central and other universities and colleges in General and particularly in University of Delhi;

(b) whether the Government plan to introduce more courses in High Technology in Universities and colleges and establish more institutions providing such courses;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.