

(b) if so, the steps taken by those undertakings for reduction of expenditure and effecting economy in all directions before the increase in power rates?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):

(a) Seven out of fourteen State Electricity Boards have reviewed their rates subsequent to the circulation of the Venkataraman Committee Report. The rates have generally increased though some of the Boards have decreased the rates for certain categories of services. The details of the changes are given in the Annexure laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5796/66] Under section 59 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the Boards are not to carry on their operations at a loss, as far as practicable. The recommendations of the Venkataraman Committee regarding financial returns as accepted by the Government have also influenced the Boards in working out their revised rates.

(b) The State Electricity Boards have taken steps towards reduction of expenditure and effecting economy by taking several steps e.g., reducing the stand-by capacity, saving of capital expenditure on available civil works, economising in the use of vehicles, stationery, curtailment of expenditure on new posts etc.

Committee on Technical Consultancy Services

***608. Shri Dharmalingam:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have appointed a Committee on Technical Consultancy Services; and

(b) if so, the constitution and functions thereof?

The Minister of Planning (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Government Resolution containing the constitution

and functions of the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5797/66]

Upper Krishna Project

***609. Shri Linga Reddy:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Mysore have represented that the Upper Krishna Project in Mysore State should be taken over and executed as a centrally sponsored scheme; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): (a) and (b). The request of the Mysore Government for the financing of the Upper Krishna Project entirely by the Centre is being considered in the context of the general question regarding the manner of financing of large multi-purpose projects.

World Bank's Rate of Interest

***610. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: Shri Yashpal Singh:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that the World Bank is proposing to raise its interest rates;

(b) if so, the precise proposal of the World Bank, and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is understood to be to raise the interest rate from $5\frac{1}{2}\%$ to 6%.

(c) While the raising of the interest rate will obviously make further loans from the World Bank to developing countries costlier, it will also enable the Bank to raise more funds from