

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instructions have been issued to State Governments to restructure the DRDAs accordingly.

(c) and (d). After the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution, a Conference of State Panchayat Ministers and a Workshop of Project Directors of DRDAs were held where this issue was discussed. It was felt necessary to have a closer coordination between the Zilla Parishads and DRDAs. States have now been advised that DRDAs should function under the overall supervision, control and guidance of Zilla Parishads. Chairman of Zilla Parishad would be the ex-officio Chairman of the Governing Body of DRDAs and would preside over its meetings. District Collectors/DMs/Deputy Commissioners are to be designated as Chief Executive Officers/Executive Directors of the Governing Body of DRDAs and will preside over the Meetings of the Executive Committee of DRDA. The Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad, where the post is not held by the DM/Collector/Deputy Commissioner, will be the Member Secretary of the Governing Body of the DRDA.

Gandhar Gas Based Power Project

3275. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have sanctioned two power projects based on Gandhar Gas in Central Sector whereby Gujarat will get only 28% of the power generated;

(b) if so, the details of the projects proposed under the central sector and their locations;

(c) whether all the formalities have been completed for setting up these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps to be taken by Government to supply adequate power to Gujarat as per their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (e). Government of India has sanctioned only one combined cycle gas power project of 657 MW capacity at Gandhar in Gujarat based on fuel supply from Gandhar gas field. The project has been executed by National Thermal Power Corporation. The project has already been commissioned and is under operation. Gujarat has been allocated 36.1% of power from this project.

Power Network Transmission

3276. SHRI SOBHAN DREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power transmission network has not been developed equally vis-a-vis the power generation network/infrastructure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to create a network to ensure dependable transmission covering the entire country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b). For the evacuation of power from the generating stations, appropriate associated transmission links are planned and executed as an on-going process. The transmission network is in the process of being further augmented/strengthened.

(c) Action has already been initiated for the formation of a National Power Grid involving inter-connection of regional grids to facilitate exchange of power across various regions in the country and to make optimum utilisation of the available generation resources.

(d) The details of the Schemes for integrating the Regional grids into a National Grid which are already approved are as follows :

(i) A 500 MW HVDC Back to Back transmission link at Vindhyaachal connecting Northern and Western Regions already exists.

(ii) A 1000 MW HVDC back to back link at Chandrapur connecting Southern and Western Regions is under execution and expected to be commissioned in 1997-98.

(iii) A 500 MW HVDC Back to Back link at Gazuwaka (Vishakhapatnam) connecting Eastern and Southern Regions has also been approved for commissioning during 1998-99.

The total estimated cost involved in the above three schemes works out to approximately Rs. 1707 crores.

[Translation]

Allotment of Steel Quota for Maharashtra

3277. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received representation from the Government of Maharashtra to increase the quota of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;