

payment by consumers are credited and the payment liability to the IPP is the first charge on this account.

(c) Linking Power generation with distribution.

(d) Escrow arrangement backed with central devolution at the request of State Governments' to RBI.

(e) World Bank Guarantee.

Of the above alternatives, Government have advised the States to explore alternatives (a) to (c) and some of the States have already structured private power projects based on these alternatives or combination thereof.

[Translation]

Attack on Indian Airlines Office in Lahore

129. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines office in Lahore was attacked recently;

(b) if so, the details of the loss of life and property due to the attack;

(c) whether Government have lodged any protest with Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof the reaction of Government of Pakistan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). On 31.10.1995, a group of about 40 miscreants armed with sticks forcibly entered the Indian Airlines office in Lahore, and smashed the front door, rear door and glass windows. No personnel was hurt.

(c) and (d). Government have lodged a protest with Pakistan through the diplomatic channels expressing serious concern at the attack. It has been emphasized that Government of Pakistan must provide necessary protection to the Indian Airlines office to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Pakistan has informed that the concerned authorities have been instructed to take the necessary security measures for the purpose.

Performance of State Roadways Transport Corporations

*130. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI BRISHIN PATEL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether suggestions have been given to the Government by the Transport Research Wing to improve the performance of the State roadways Transport Corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARAMURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) i) Improvement of productivity by better management and control.

ii) Improvement of maintenance facilities and thereby resulting in improved fuel efficiency.

iii) Appropriate tariff revision and

iv) Containment of staff.

(c) Necessary instructions/guidelines have been issued from time to time to various SRTC's for improving their performances.

[English]

Elections to Panchayats

131. SHRI VJOY KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether elections to panchayats have been completed throughout the country after constitutional amendment;

(b) if so, the names of State where elections are yet to be held;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed by these States to hold early elections;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure holding of elections without further delay;

(e) the assistance given by the Union Government to State Governments for holding Panchayat elections;

(f) whether delegation of power to three tier system of Panchayat elections is over; and

(g) if not, the concrete steps taken by the Government to complete the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL) : (a) and (b). Elections to Panchayats have been completed throughout the country except in the States of Bihar and Tamil Nadu. Elections to Zila Parishads only are due in the States of Goa and Manipur, Elections to Gram Panchayats and Zila Parishads are due in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry. Panchayats in Orissa and Himachal Pradesh have been dissolved and fresh elections are to be held in these States.

(c) and (d). The States and Union Territories have been asked to hold elections by the end of the year at the latest. They are expected to comply with the Central directive in this regard.

(e) No Central assistance is provided in this regard.

(f) and (g). the delegation of powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) is a continuous process. It has been impressed upon the States to take urgent steps to devolve

powers and authorities on the PRIs to make them fully functional.

[*Translation*]

Power Projects of Maharashtra

132. SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Power Projects of Maharashtra awaiting clearance and those approved so far by the Indian Government;

(b) the reasons of delay and the time by which these Projects are likely to be cleared;

(c) the quantum of power to be generated through these Projects; and

(d) whether the power generated from these Projects will fulfil the need of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) to (c). Chikaldara pumped storage scheme (2x200 MW) has been received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for the accord of techno-economic clearance. On the basis of the Clarifications by the project authority and remarks on the project received from the Central water Commission, the project has been taken up for techno-economic clearance by the CEA.

The details of power projects of Maharashtra cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and sanctioned for implementation during the remaining period of the 8th Five Year Plan and beyond are given below :

<i>S1.No.</i>	<i>Name of the project</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Capacity(MW)</i>
1.	Bhandardara Ph.2	Hydel	34.0
2.	Ghatghar PSS	Hydel	250.0
3.	Dimbhe	Hydel	5.0
4.	Dudhganga	Hydel	24.0
5.	Koyana Stage IV	Hydel	1000.0
6.	Sardar Sarovar (27%)	Hydel	324.0