

World bank assistance for composite power project in Southern States

455. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has agreed to provide assistance for composite project which will go a long way in easing the power constraints in the southern States; and

(b) if so, which are the States where power supply will improve with the implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) and (b). The World Bank have approved a loan of US \$ 330 million for the Karnataka Power Project. The Project's main objectives are to assist in meeting the electricity demand in the State of Karnataka and the Southern Region and to effect institutional, operational and financial improvements in relation to the Karnataka Power Corporation and the Karnataka Electricity Board.

World Bank aid for expansion of telecommunications

456. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER:
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank aid has been sought for the expansion of Telecommunication services in major cities in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount of aid to be sought;

(c) whether in addition to World Bank aid, Japanese contribution and other assistance has also been received; and

(d) which are the major cities in the country to be covered under the World Bank and other aids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) US \$ 345 million under 9th World Bank Project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In addition to Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, these loans provide for long distance transmission equipment for expansion of telecom. facilities for various cities and towns between these major cities.

Modernisation of Telecommunication Department

457. SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to modernise the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) whether any detailed programme for modernisation has been drawn up; and

(c) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Department of Telecommunications has drawn up schemes to modernise the communications system, within the limited resources made available to it. The schemes of modernisation include substantial digitalisation of local switching network, long distance switching and transmission network. Installation of telex exchanges, dusts for underground cables, induction of PCM on cables, microwave