

collection of tariff better monitoring can be done to arrest transmission and distribution losses. Whatever power is generated in the State will be made available to the farmers. We are encouraging private participation in the State Electricity Boards concerned.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the cost of production per megawatt of power is constantly rising. About three years back, the cost of production per megawatt of hydroelectric power was about Rs. 2 crore and now it has gone beyond Rs.3 crore. Consumption of power in both industrial and agricultural sectors, as has been rightly put forward by the hon. Minister, is somewhere between 35 to 40 per cent.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, in view of the economic liberalisation policy of the Government of India, there is any master plan with the Government to meet the demand of this level of consumption in the industrial and agriculture sectors, and to generate more power through conventional and non-conventional methods of power generation. There are many ways of generating power like hydro, thermal, atomic etc. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any master plan to meet the overall demand in the country including developed, undeveloped, backward and forward areas of the country.

SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI : The Government of India is thinking of renewable energy sources also. It is very essential. The States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh are doing more in this area. The Government has a master plan on non-conventional energy.

[Translation]

Enron

*282. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the item when the Maharashtra Government decided to close down the Enron Project in Maharashtra;

(b) the basis and reasons on which the Union Government accorded its approval to implement the project again;

(c) whether any offer had also been made to compensate the expenditure incurred by the company thereon; and

(d) if so, the amount paid in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Government of Maharashtra on 03.08.1995 repudiated Phase-I and cancelled Phase-II of the Dabhol Power Project.

(b) Government of Maharashtra. After negotiations, decided to revive the project in February, 1996. Consequent to the decision of Government of Maharashtra to revive the project, the Government of India as required under the provisions of Counter Guarantee Agreement, has conveyed no objection to the amendments in the Power Purchase Agreement in respect of the Dabhol Power Project, as proposed by the Government of Maharashtra.

(c) Dabhol Power Company has waived their claim to delay and disruption costs in respect of the delay in the resumption of funding of the project for the period upto 31st July, 1996.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that Govt. of Maharashtra decided to close down this project on 3-8-95. What were the reasons to close down such a big project? Why it was revived in February 1996. Who were the persons involved who received kick back in connection with this project? Is the Govt. prepared to get this matter investigated through C.B.I.?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : This is a project of the Govt. of Maharashtra. The matter pertains to the state Government and the Central Government has nothing to do with it.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question has not been answered properly. I want to know if Maharashtra Govt. is involved in closing down the project. Secondly I want to know whether Maharashtra Govt. has taken permission from the Central Govt. before reviving this project? If so, when did the Central Govt. receive the proposal from Maharashtra Govt. and on what basis it has been approved?

In Part of my supplementary Question I want to know that in earlier project which was scrapped, the cost of per megawatt power approved was Rs. 4.49 crores, which has now been revised to Rs. 2.94 crores. What is the total amount that has been saved thereby? Who were the persons responsible for making the earlier agreement and on what basis the agreement has been revised to bring down the cost to Rs. 2.94 Crores?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, the Maharashtra State Govt., the Dabhol Power Corporation and the Maharashtra State Electricity Board entered into a tripartite agreement. The proposal was then sent to the Central Govt. for approval. As per the original estimates,

the capital cost to the first and second phase—which had the capacity of 2015 MW—was about Rs. 9051 crore. Its cost was then revised and it again came to the Central Government for clearance. The Central Government has given 'No Objection' to the revised proposal.

As per the original target, the first phase had the capacity of 695 MW. Not only this capacity was increased to 740 MW, there was reduction in the capital cost also. In addition to this, 30 per cent equity was given to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board or its nominee. The raw material distillate used in the project is Naphtha, which is easily available. The State Government approached the central Government with the revised PPA for which 'No Objection' has been given.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by the Hon. Minister. I want to know the number of engineers and labourers employed in the project. Have you made any provision in this regard or whether this would also have to be enquired from Maharashtra Government or the Maharashtra State Electricity Board I want to know the details as to the amount by which the Maharashtra Govt. had been benefited as a result of the reduction of the cost in the revised contract? The project has already been delayed considerably and quite a few persons are involved in accepting gratification. That is why the agreement was made in haste.

As the details given by the officers do not serve any purpose, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the number of scheduled castes scheduled tribes and other persons employed in the project? What is the per unit cost of power. You have also mentioned per unit megawatt.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right Please conclude.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : What benefit was derived out of revision? I think that it would cause loss instead please give a clear reply in this regard.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : As far as the engineers working in this project are concerned, I would like to say, that is a private project with the collaboration of Maharashtra State Government. We do not know how many local Maharashtra engineers or other engineers are working in this project. It is a private project. We do not have such details available with us.

They have taken 1996-97 as a base to decide the tariff. At that time the capacity was Rs.1.22 paise and the total tariff and per 1997 base, was 240. As per 1995 base, the total tariff was 190.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Sir, when the Enron project was first approved what

was the tariff fixed for the consumers and what was the tariff in the revised agreement? What is the amount of saving accrued to Maharashtra Govt. as a result thereof? By what time the project would be completed?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : As far as fixation of tariff is concerned, it is the Maharashtra Govt. which deals with it. Initially the total tariff fixed as Rs. 2.40. Now they have sent a proposal for Rs.1.90. The project is going to commence very shortly.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bharatiya Janata Party Govt. gave clearance to Enron project, United Front Govt. would give clearance to Cogentrix project. It is regrettable that no attention is being paid to the projects in other states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh etc.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : As the question pertains to ENRON please ask relevant questions only.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : I want to know from the hon. Minister by what time these projects of states would be cleared so that the power generation in the country could increase? This question relates to common man, therefore, I would like to know as to when the power plants proposed for various states would be given approval?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for improving the generation of electricity, the Government have taken eight fast track projects. Further, the Government of India is giving a counter guarantee also.

Recently the Dabhol project was also given clearance. Shortly, the G.V.K. of Andhra Pradesh and other Fast Track Projects are going to be given clearance. They are under the final PPA stage. So many State Governments have sent their proposals for final clearance.

As far as private projects are concerned, I would like to say that most of these projects are at the State level only. We have streamlined the rule and the power policy applicable to the private sector. As far as their clearance is concerned, I would like to mention here that we have already given instructions to the CEA.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : What were the reasons to cancel the Enron project and what were the reasons to revive it?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : As I have told you earlier, it is a matter pertaining to the Maharashtra

Government. They only come with the proposal for finalising the PPA.

Sir, as far as review of the projects are concerned, I would like to mention here that after the change of Government in Maharashtra, the Government of Maharashtra had constituted a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet to review the project on 3.5.95. On the basis of the recommendation of the sub-committee, the Government of Maharashtra on 3.8.95 repudiated Phase-I and cancelled Phase-II of the project on the following grounds, namely, (1) No competitive bidding was resorted to, (2) Transactions with DPC were floated in secrecy and there was no transparency, (3) Environmental factors, (4) Unrealistic capital cost, and (5) High tariff.

These were the reasons due to which they wanted to review the project. After reviewing the project, they constituted one Negotiation Group. That Negotiation Group, after discussions, cleared the Phase-I and Phase-II of the Dabhol Project.

As far as reasons for suspension are concerned, after the recommendation of the High-powered Committee only, they have resorted to this method. In that high-powered Committee, the technical personnel were also there.

They cleared it only after discussing with the experts. After negotiations in the Committee they came to the reasons for review, reduction in the capital cost, reduction in tariff and as I told you earlier, the use of the LNAG etc. as an alternative fuel. As far as foreign exchange is concerned, 30 per cent of it has been allocated to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board as its nominee. They also look after the environmental safeguards, equity participation by the State Government as its nominee, including incentives to Dhabol. With these reasons they reviewed the project and sent it to the Central Government for counter guarantee.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know as to what was the participation of the Maharashtra Electricity Board in the earlier agreement with Enron project and what is the percentage of participation in the revised agreement? Who were the persons responsible for earlier agreement when the tariff was higher?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, as I told you earlier, it was the responsibility of the State Govt. of Maharashtra and the Central Govt. is not concerned with this.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Central Govt. has given counter guarantee to the earlier agreement, therefore Central Govt. is responsible for this?

[English]

I.R.D.P.

*283. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

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

(a) whether loan/concessions are granted to the tribals of Assam under Integrated Rural Development Programmes;

(b) if so, whether all the districts of the state come under the purview of this programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). IRDP is a centrally sponsored scheme under which loan and subsidy is provided to families below poverty line in Rural Areas for acquiring income generating assets.

During 1995-96, total funds amounting to Rs. 3186.62 lakhs (Central & State Share) were given to all the Districts of Assam for subsidy under IRDP. Credit to the tune of Rs.4117.79 lakhs was also provided by the Banks.

A total No. of 59030 families of beneficiaries were assisted out of which 14201 were Scheduled Tribe families.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is an accepted fact that the entire rural population of the North-Eastern India is very poor and the majority of the tribal and Scheduled Caste population of that area is below poverty line. The very object of this Integrated Rural Development Programme was to uplift them and improve their condition by providing some income generating assets to them.

I want to know from the hon. Minister what kind of income generating assets have so far been provided in the districts of Dhemaji, Dibrugarh and Lakhimpur which are inhabited by the tribal population in Assam.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a major credit linked self-employment programme for rural poverty alleviation. So far, last year, in 1995-96, 59,926 families were given IRDP loans.

The North-Eastern States have some problems in implementing this IRDP Scheme. In some states, in the district headquarters, there are no banking facilities. In those particular non-banking blocks we are giving a subsidy portion for implementing the IRDP. Last year, in that State, 14,201 families were identified as beneficiaries and were given the IRDP subsidy and credit loans from the banks.