

taken a number of initiatives to boost private investment in the power sector. The initiatives taken and underway include liberalising the scope of automatic approval for foreign direct investment, simplification of procedure for issue of counter guarantee, improving the procedures for competitive bidding and credit enhancement of SEBs by encouraging reforms.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Reservation of Seats for Women and Lok Pal Bills

1853. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a bill for the reservation of seats in Parliament and State Assemblies for women and Lok Pal Bills; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposed Bills are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) Government is committed to bring a Bill to provide for reservation for Women to seats to be filled by direct election in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies as well as the Lok Pal Bill in the current session of Parliament.

[*Translation*]

Shortage of Power in U.P.

1854. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of electricity being generated in Uttar Pradesh at present and the total consumption thereof;

(b) whether the Government are taking any steps to remove shortage of electricity in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The energy generated in State Sector by Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board during 1997-98 was 23664 MU. The energy requirement

during 1997-98 in U.P. was 41157 MU against which the availability was 36105 MU.

(b) and (c) Various measures are being taken to improve the availability of power in U.P. which include maximising generation from existing capacity, renovation and modernisation of power stations, better demand management, reduction in T&D losses and assistance from neighbouring States/system. In addition new power plants of total capacity 3264 MW are planned/under execution in Central/State/Private Sectors in U.P. which will improve the power supply position in the State.

[*English*]

Increase in Subsistence Allowance

1855. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that meagre "subsistence allowance" is paid to women in the divorce cases by the courts;

(b) if so, whether even after decree in such cases, these women are not able to get the amount of subsistence allowance according to the actual income of their husbands and their survival becomes very difficult;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to fix a minimum amount for such women so that they can lead a normal life;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (e) Payment of maintenance allowance to a wife, including after divorce, is made in accordance with the provisions of personal law applicable to the parties. Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides a summary remedy for getting maintenance subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 500. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 pending consideration in Rajya Sabha proposes to raise the ceiling to Rs. 1500. Determination of actual amount is done by the courts looking into the paying capacity of the husband and the needs of the wife.

Low Telephones Growth Rate

1856. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :