

all the previous proposals. They have sent all the previous proposals to the Ministry of Mines for approval of the lease of diamond mines in favour of some companies including a foreign company but they have cancelled it now. They are going to take the initiative and they would like to give it in favour of the Madhya Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation. But we have not got a formal proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh as yet...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have spent twenty minutes on this Question.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have one request that will you permit to have discussion on such an important matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ok. Half-an-hour discussion will be allowed.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, let us break the record of the last Session. In the last Session, only fourteen half-an-hour discussions were sanctioned and none of them could be taken up. This time, let us have 20 half-an-hour discussions!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, please allow a Half-an-Hour discussion on this subject ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Why do you think only of exports? Sir, please allow me also to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

A.D.B. Loan for Financing the SEBs

123. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation have sought loan from Asian Development Bank to finance the State Electricity Boards (SEBs);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the SEBs likely to be financed;

(c) whether his Ministry has urged the Finance Ministry to refer the proposal to the ADB at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the response of the Finance Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) had made a loan proposal for US\$ 500 Million to ADB. The proposal has been considered by ADB on the recommendations of the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Finance. ADB has tentatively proposed a Technical Assistance Grant of US\$ 1 Million in 1998 to enable PFC and the client States to conduct studies for reforms and restructuring and US\$ 250 Million loan in 1999 to support the reforms in State Utilities not selected for direct funding by ADB and the World Bank. PFC has been having discussions with the States of Assam, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, H.P., Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Sir, Electricity Boards in the entire country are running into losses. Now the Government is taking loan from the Asian Bank. Does the Government have any scheme under which the money being received as loan could be repaid? How would it be repaid?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The objective of getting these loans is to improve the technology and the production capacity of the State Electricity Boards. The loans should be provided for transmission system and metering purposes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Does the Government have any scheme under which electricity boards which are running into losses, would function smoothly after granting loan to them and these would be able to repay the loan? How the loan would be repaid?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can the loan be refunded?

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would request the hon. Member to listen to me. The Electricity Boards can improve their financial condition only when they bring about improvement in generation, install transmission system, go for metering and chalk out schemes for the present and future. In this way, they can earn profit. It has been revealed in a study report that if the plant load factor of each Electricity Board is increased by three percent, they would become profitable since they would be able to generate more power. Their cost of production per unit would become less and their overheads would be distributed more on production. Thus they would be able to refund their loan with their increased capacity.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of generating electricity by

petroleum products is also being talked about. People want that either the bank or the Government should give the guarantee. Will the banks and the Government give guarantee in this regard?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Government have sanctioned the 12,000 Megawatt naphtha or liquid fuel project. The Planning Commission has conducted a survey last year in which this fact was revealed. Although the power generated from naphtha fuel costs dearly, yet we did not have other means. We should be able to generate this sort of power during the next two years. The specific proposals for it would be examined by the banks and financial institutions. These projects would be viable at such places where the cost of transport is less and the demand is high.

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are the State Electricity Boards not covered under the ADB or the World Bank. After the proposed loan of the ADB is given to the States what would be the power generation capacity of the State Electricity Boards?

The Minister has replied that the ADB has proposed \$ 1 million for 1998 for the Power Finance Corporation for reform and restructuring of the State Electricity Boards. Is any plan being chalked out? What sort of reform and restructuring of the Power Finance Corporation is going to be made?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, this loan with the PFC is meant for those States which are not negotiating a restructuring package directly with the ADB or the World Bank. The States listed in my reply are already considering preparation of a proposal for this loan.

The amount of \$ 1 million is meant for technical studies like preparing the project proposal. The ADB has agreed that a sum of \$ 250 million will be available after that for the actual projects involved. At this stage, the State Governments have not prepared the details of the project proposals. It is at a preliminary stage of discussion.

Now, the kinds of things that are being discussed are assistance for reform, setting a kind of precondition, setting up a regulatory body and studies for reform.

As I said earlier, the actual loan will be meant for transmission and distribution systems, systems for improving generation and things of that kind.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Since Orissa is the most backward State from the point of view of supply of electricity, is any discussion going on between the Power Finance Corporation and the Orissa State Electricity Board?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Orissa is having separate negotiations with the World Bank for a similar

kind of loan. It is between the State and the World Bank. As far as the Power Finance Corporation is concerned, we will consider projects in Orissa for renovation and modernisation and for other things for which we have received assistance from the Ministry of Finance this time.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, the States that have been named by the Minister in his reply include West Bengal. I would like to know how far has the Government of West Bengal proceeded with preparing their scheme. Have you got going to deal with it?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, at this stage I would like to inform the hon. Member that the discussion is at a preliminary stage. It is not that the State Governments have given us details of project proposals. In fact, at present we would like to have some preliminary understanding so that they can prepare a detailed project proposal.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, four questions were asked. I do not know why the replies of the three questions have not been given. My question, is that what is the report of the study for which one million dollar was sanctioned? The states which are being selected for financing have not been mentioned by him. He has said that the discussion is going on. Which states would be financed by the Government? The hon. Minister should clarify the basis of it. Besides, we should also be provided a copy of the study report for which one million dollars have been sanctioned. What are its findings?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would request the hon. Member to listen to me first. As I have told twice or thrice, this project has been prepared with the help of the Union Government and the A.D.B. for those states which are not negotiating for the structural reforms with the World Bank or the A.D.B....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : What is the basis for selection of such states, or all the states are being selected?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : It has been mentioned in my reply. I do not want to waste my time by repeating it. If any other state submits the proposal(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important question. The hon. Minister should give a reply to it....(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH : Sir, it has been mentioned in the reply.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Many proposals from Rajasthan including, that of Naptha are under consideration of the Government. But those have not

yet been cleared. Will the Government please clear these proposals in a time-bound manner? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH : Please listen to the reply of the first question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I want to know this much only whether only those states have sent proposals which have given names or there are more such states proposals of which are under consideration.

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH : If any other states particularly small states send proposals I will myself look into them...*(Interruptions)* you just listen to me ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Please read out the names of those states which have sent proposals.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let him speak.

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH : The names of states which have sent proposals are mentioned in the reply. There are no other states besides them.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Is any proposals pending with the Government?

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH : This is being discussed as to what would be the nature of the study and funds would be provided for that out of this one million dollars. When the study is over, it will be duly informed. If the hon. Member wants to have conclusions of this report, I will definitely tell him about that.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : The proposals of Rajasthan for the Naptha based power plant are pending with the Government. Why the Government are not giving clearance to them?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Joshi ji, please take your seat.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : This is not the way. Does the hon. Minister not get time? He should try to change his habits...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not give its reply.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The hon. Member is telling the truth. The people of Rajasthan are facing power crisis. We seek your protection. The hon. Minister should be urged to give an assurance to this effect that he would pay prompt attention towards this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should talk with him personally in this regard.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : This is a very serious issue. The state electricity board has to pay bribe to get its schemes cleared. The hon. Minister should give an explanation on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there should be a Half an Hour discussion on this ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanor) : There should be some decorum. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Let me ask the question...*(Interruptions)* I am rather surprised to see the reply as it mentions only Tamil Nadu, Assam, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal. The Power Corporation gives the impression as if it is going to cover all the States and the Ministry gives the impression that only a few States are being approached or only a few States are undergoing restructuring. I would like to submit that important States like Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala - or for that matter many States - find no mention in your reply. Why these States do not figure in your reply? We feel that the State Electricity Boards in the country are financially poor. What steps have you taken to give full financial strength to all the State Electricity Boards of the country? Under your dynamic leadership the Power Ministry must become more powerful. What steps are you going to take in this regard? We would like to have an assurance from you that you would be getting more money for the Power Corporation from Shri Chidambaram as also from the World Bank or ADB and that the State Electricity Boards would be given more money. We would like to know when are you going to strengthen these Boards ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down; there would be no time left for the reply.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would like to clarify once again that the Power Finance Corporation has proposals to give loan assistance to every State. We have received an additional...*(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : You must ask the States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar...*(Interruptions)* Why do you not guide them? Only having proposals would not do.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : You must be very clear about it. I am writing letters to every Chief Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Kerala needs the most. It should be given priority...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There should be a separate discussion on Power...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We want a Short Duration Discussion on Power. There was only 45 per cent achievement las year...(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : We can have a Half-an-hour Discussion on it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : As this is a very important subject - almost all the States are facing Power crisis - I feel there should be a full-fledged discussion on this.

12.00 hrs.

Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, kindly respond with a fulfilled discussion on the power crisis in the country. It is because almost all the States are now facing this problem.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, this question relates to a specific project...(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Does not matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Please listen to me now...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We want a short duration discussion on it....(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Poverty and Starvation amongst Tribals

124. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware the poverty and starvation still prevail amongst tribals and other backward people in the country specially in Maharashtra, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to ameliorate the living conditions of these people?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment does not monitor starvation prevailing amongst tribal and other backward people in the country. It, however, implements a number of employment and poverty alleviation schemes in the rural areas for all people below the poverty line including tribal and other backward people. In all these programmes, reservation has been provided for SC/ST beneficiaries ranging from 22.5% to 67%. Central allocations to the States under major programmes of rural employment and poverty alleviation which are made on the basis of proportion of rural poor in each State to the total poor in the country (except in EAS) are given below in respect of Maharashtra, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Scheme	Reservation for SC/ST	Central Allocations for 1997-98		
		Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa
Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	22.5%	19678	16927	12597
Employment Assurance Scheme	—	3575*	1920*	2090
Indira Awas Yojana	60%	10207	8780	6534
Integrated Rural Development Programme	50%	5457	4694	3494
Million Wells Scheme	67%	4402	3787	2818
National Social Assistance Programme	—	6751	3970	3920

EAS being a demand driven scheme, no prior allocations are made. On receipt of demands, funds are released.

STD Facilities in Rural Areas

125. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of demands for providing STD facilities in the rural areas are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the number thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to clear the pending demands?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, a large number of demands for provision of STD facilities in the rural areas are pending. The statewise details of the stations where STD facilities are required to be provided are furnished in the Statement enclosed.