

According to the provisions of existing Tariff Policy of power sector, notified on 6th January, 2006, return on investment should attract investments at par with, if not in preference to, other sectors so that the electricity sector is able to create adequate capacity. The rate of return should be such that it allows generation of reasonable surplus for growth of the sector.

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission is to notify, from time to time, the rate of return on equity for generation and transmission projects, keeping in view the assessment of overall risks and the prevalent cost of capital which shall be followed by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions also. Actual returns vary depending upon performance on various parameters as compared to tariff norms and incentives, if any, for generation beyond threshold limits.

Presently, private investment in the power generation sector is permitted under the competitive tariff bidding route also without any assured rate of return. The returns of the private developers are dependent upon various factors such as project cost, operating cost, operating efficiencies, debt-equity ratio, cost of capital etc. In the case of FDI, besides the above, factors such as country risk, foreign exchange risk, availability of alternative investment opportunities at home and abroad etc. also influence the expected returns on such investments.

Accordingly, dividend/return on the FDI investments in the power generation sector would vary from case to case based on the above factors.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

***552. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:**

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to universalise the secondary education and is in the process of finalisation of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this process is going to cover only upto 10th standard;

(d) if so, the reasons why the Abhiyan is not covering upto 12th standard;

(e) how much money would be required to make education upto 12th standard universal and how much money has been allocated, so far; and

(f) whether Government has sufficient financial resources to make the Abhiyan successful?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):

(a) and (b) Government of India has proposed to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage, tentatively called 'Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan' (RMSA), during the 11th Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group 15-16 years (classes IX and X) by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the high drop out rate of 61.92% for classes I to X (as per the Selected Educational Statistics, 2004-05, with reference date 30.9.2004), and successful implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), it has been proposed to cover classes IX and X initially.

(e) and (f) Accurate projections regarding financial requirements are possible only after baseline surveys to identify the existing gaps in secondary education are conducted by State Governments. Since the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the higher secondary stage (classes 11 and 12) was only 27.82% (as per the Selected Educational Statistics, 2004-05, with reference date 30.09.2004), attempting universalisation of education at the higher secondary stage would be premature. Even for the secondary stage (classes 9 and 10) with Gross Enrolment Ratio of 51.65% (as on 30.9.2004), universalisation (*i.e.*, improving GER close to 100%) does not appear feasible during the 11th Five Year Plan. For secondary education sector, an allocation of Rs. 53,550 crore has been made in the 11th Five Year Plan, out of which Rs. 20,120 crore is earmarked primarily for improving access through creation of additional infrastructure and resources.

Fruit and vegetable processing unit

*553. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of fruit and vegetable processing units, State-wise along with the details of their capacities; and

(b) the details of special incentives proposed for Uttar Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The details of the number of fruits and vegetables processing units, State-wise, along with the details of their capacities based on information available in respect of units registered under Fruit Products Order, 1955 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) under its Plan Scheme extends financial assistance to all implementing agencies for Establishment/Upgradation/Modernization of Food Processing Industries including fruits and vegetable processing industries. The assistance is provided in the form of grant in aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Work maximum upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas. Proposals from Implementing Agencies in Uttar Pradesh for setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing unit, which are technically feasible and financially viable, are considered for financial assistance under the scheme.

In order to ensure speedy disbursement of financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks under the scheme of setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing industries with effect from 01.04.2007. Now the applicants will be able to avail grant through the neighbourhood Banks which have appraised the project and provided loans to them.

Under its Plan Schemes, the Ministry also provides assistance for setting up of Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9000, Promotion of Research and Development, Capacity Building and Human Resource Development in food processing.