

[10 May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Nadu under DPAP and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme; Rs. 484.93 Lakhs has been given to Tamil Nadu. It has been alledged by the hon. Member that he has submitted a proposal and it has not been looked into so far. We will give the full details. I will enquire into the matter and give the full details later.

सरदार बलविन्दर सिंह भुंडर: आनरेबल चेयरमैन साहब, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि देश में जो 550 लाख हेक्टेयर की बजाय अब 750 लाख हेक्टेयर रकबा बैरन लैंड हो गया है, और 3700 करोड़ रुपया आपने खर्चा किया है, जबकि पंजाब में पठानकोट से लेकर रोपड़ तक, एक-एक हजार फीट की गहराई तक मुश्किल से पीने के लिए पानी उपलब्ध है, तो क्या पंजाब में भी इस रकम से कोई प्रोजैक्ट मंजूर किया गया है? अगर हां, तो कितनी रकम दी गई है और उसके क्या असर पड़े हैं?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, as the House is aware, Punjab is a State which has not been hit by drought so severely. As such, we have given 7.70 lakhs so far under this scheme.

624. [The Questioner (Shri K.M. Khan) was absent. For Answer *vide* page 29 *infra*]

विद्युत उत्पादन का लक्ष्य

625. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी. सौलंकी: क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1998-99 तथा 1999-2000 के लिए देश में विद्युत उत्पादन का कितना-कितना लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया;

(ख) क्या लक्ष्य प्राप्त कर लिए गए हैं;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) वर्ष 2000-2001 के दौरान लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती जयवंती मेहता): (क) से (घ) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) 1998-99 और 1999-2000 के दौरान ऊर्जा उत्पादन लक्ष्य की तुलना में वास्तविक ऊर्जा उत्पादन निम्नवत है:-

(आंकड़े मि.यू. में)

श्रेणी	1998-99			1999-2000		
	लक्ष्य	वास्तविक	लक्ष्य का	लक्ष्य	वास्तविक	लक्ष्य का
ताप विद्युत	362000	353662	97.7	377000	386226	102.4
न्यूक्लीय	10000	12015	120.2	11000	13252	120.5
जल विद्युत	78000	82703	106.0	81000	80533	99.4
जोड़	45000	448380	99.6	46900	480011	102.3

(ग) 1998-99 के दौरान ताप विद्युत उत्पादन लक्ष्य से 2.3% कम रहा। विद्युत विनियमन अथवा कम मांग का होना, यूनियों को जबर्दस्ती बंद करना, पारेषण, वितरण और वित्तीय अवरोध इत्यादि। कुछ ताप विद्युत संयंत्रों द्वारा लक्षित विद्युत को उत्पादित न किए जाने के कारण रहे हैं। 1999-2000 के दौरान, जल विद्युत उत्पादन कुछ प्रमुख जलाशयों में पानी के कम बहाव के कारण लक्ष्य से केवल 0.6% कम रहा।

(घ) वर्ष 2000-01 के लिए ऊर्जा उत्पादन लक्ष्य 500.7 बिलियन यूनिट निर्धारित किया गया है। वार्षिक उत्पादन लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा निम्नलिखित कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं:-

- (i) केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण में दैनिक आधार पर लक्ष्यों की तुलना में वास्तविक उत्पादन की केन्द्र-वार और यूनिट-वार मानीट्रिंग करना।
- (ii) केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण द्वारा संबंधित विद्युत केन्द्र से प्राधिकारियों के साथ मिलकर जबरन बन्द की गई यूनियों को शीघ्र चालू किए जाने के लिए कार्रवाई की जा रही है।
- (iii) नई चालू की गई यूनियों को प्रारम्भ से ही स्थिर बनाना।
- (iv) ताप विद्युत केन्द्रों को पर्याप्त कोयला आपूर्ति को सुनिश्चित करना।

[10 May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Power production Target

†*625. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Ministr of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power production target fixed for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in the country;

(b) whether the target has been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to achieve the target during the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) A Statment is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) energy generation target *vis-a-vis* actual energy generation during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given below:—

(Figures in MU)

Category	1998-99			1999-2000		
	Target	Actual	% of target	Target	Actual	% of target
Thermal	362000	453662	97.7	377000	386226	102.4
Nuclear	10000	12015	120.02	11000	13252	120.5
Hydro	78000	82703	106.0	81000	80533	99.4
TOTAL	450000	448380	99.6	469000	480011	102.3

(c) During 1998-99, thermal generation was less than the target by 2.3%. The reasons for some of thermal plants not generating the targeted power are backing down of gneration due to power regulation or low demand, forced outage of the units, transmission, distribution and financial constraints. During 1999-2000, hydel generation was less than the target by 0.6% only due to less inflow of water in some of the major reservoirs.

(b) Energy generation target of 500.7 billion units has been fixed or the year 2000-01. Following steps are being taken by Government to ensure

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

achievement of annual generation target.

- (i) Monitoring of actual generation *vis-a-vis* targets, station-wise and unit-wise, on daily basis in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- (ii) Action for early restoration of units under forced outages is taken by CEA in association with concerned power station authorities.
- (iii) early stabilisation of newly commissioned units.
- (iv) Ensuring adequate coal supply to thermal power stations.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: As far as the reply of (a) and (b) are concerned, I am satisfied because the target has been achieved by the Government as was expected during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000. But as far as the reply of (c) is concerned, I do not understand this particular reply. During 1989, thermal generation was less than the target. It was 2.3 per cent. The reason for the thermal power plant not generating the targeted power is backing down of generation due to power regulations or low demand. As far as power demand is concerned, the country is in need of more generation and supply also. Therefore, I would like to know which is the area where the power generation is high and why it could not be transmitted to other States where there is higher demand?

श्रीमती जयवंती मेहता: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो सवाल पूछा है पहले तो उन्होंने अपनी सन्तुष्टि जताई है और उसके बाद कारणों की मीमांसा पढ़ते हुए उन्होंने यह कहा कि क्या ऐसा नहीं है कि जहां पर विद्युत जेनरेशन अधिक है, वहां से उसे दूसरी जगह ले जाया जा सकता है। तो उनकी इस भावना से मैं सहमत हूँ। जहां पर सरप्लस विद्युत जेनरेशन होता है, वहां से नेशनल ग्रिड के माध्यम से, हम दूसरी जगह ले जाकर, जहां पर आवश्यक हो, उसके अनुसार बांट सकते हैं। यह नेशनल ग्रिड के माध्यम से देने का हमने चालू किया हुआ है। ऐसा नहीं है कि हम नहीं देते हैं। इसलिए मैं यह कह सकती हूँ कि ईस्टर्न रिजंस में, जहां पर सरप्लस बिजली है, वहां से लाकर आवश्यकतानुसार दक्षिण भारत और अन्य जगहों पर भी देने का प्रावधान है।

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Sir, the second part of my supplementary is this. Hydel power generation was also targeted but it is less than what was expected. I would like to know how many projects are going to produce hydel power. Particularly, the Sardar Sarovar Project which is expected to produce power to the tune of 1450 megawatts is still pending and not completed because of the pendency of litigation in the Supreme Court.

[10 May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

But is the Government thinking of expediting it early, so far as the pendency of the matter before the Supreme Court is concerned? At the same time, so far as part (d) of the question is concerned, what steps are going to be taken by the Ministry? I would also like to know what the line-loss is. Sir, generation is important; but supply is also important and meeting the demand is also equally important. In many parts of the country, there has been a greater line-loss than is expected. In Japan, it is 6%. But in India, it goes up to around 29 or 30%. Is the Government thinking of controlling it through the State Governments?

MR CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, Before the Minister replies, I have an announcement to make.

WELCOME TO MALDIVIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make—

We have with us, seated in the Special Box, members of a parliamentary delegation from Maldives, currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Hameed, Speaker of the People's Majlis of Maldives.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the leader and other members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people, and that their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Maldives. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of Maldives.

श्रीमती जयवंती मेहता: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने पन-बिजली विद्युत उत्पादन के बारे में पूछा है। मैं कहती सकती हूँ कि पूर्व-काल में हमारा पन-बिजली विद्युत उत्पादन बहुत कम था, लेकिन अब भारत सरकार की नई नीति के अनुसार हम इसे 40-60 करने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं और भारत में अलग-अलग कई पन-बिजली विद्युत योजनाओं का प्रारंभ करने जा रहे हैं। महोदय, अभी-अभी माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने पारबती परियोजना का हिमाचल प्रदेश में उद्घाटन किया था। वैसे पन-बिजली विद्युत योजनाओं के माध्यम से बहुत से राष्ट्रों, जैसे कि नेपाल और भूटान की तरफ से भी बिजली उत्पादन कर के यहाँ लाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। जहाँ तक नर्मदा सरोवर से संबंध है, मैं कह सकती हूँ कि भारत सरकार ने हाल ही में दो दिन पहले मुख्य

मंत्रियों की एक बैठक आयोजित की थी, लेकिन किसी कारणवश वह बैठक नहीं हो पाई। महोदय, भारत सरकार नर्मदा सरोवर योजना को जल्दी कार्यान्वित करने के लिए उत्सुक है और उस दिशा में भारत सरकार की तरफ से कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं, लेकिन नर्मदा सरोवर का केस सुप्रीम कोर्ट में लंबित होने की वजह से इस विषय में बहुत विलंब होता जा रहा है। मैं और भारत सरकार ही नहीं बल्कि सारे देश की जनता भी इस योजना को जल्दी कार्यान्वित करने के लिए उचित कार्यवाही हेतु उत्सुक है और हम चाहेंगे कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट से निर्णय होने के बाद ही तुरन्त इस योजना को कार्यान्वित किया जाए।

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, वर्ष 1999-2000 के लिए हाइडल पावर जनरेशन का जो लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया था, स्वयं मंत्री जी ने स्वीकार किया है कि उस लक्ष्य के मुकाबले 0.6 प्रतिशत जनरेशन कम रहा है जिस का प्रमुख कारण यह बताया गया है कि जलाशयों में पानी का बहाव कम था। इसी प्रकार वर्ष 1998-99 में भी थर्मल पावर जनरेशन का जो लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया था, उस के मुकाबले 2.3 प्रतिशत उत्पादन कम रहा और जिस का कारण फायनेंसियल कन्स्ट्रेंट बताया गया। इस के लिए जो प्रस्तावित कदम माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताए हैं, उस में उन्होंने बताया है कि पर्याप्त कोयले की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जाएगी। महोदय, मैं आप के माध्यम से सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि इस के लिए कितना कोयला लगेगा, क्या वह कोयला आप को उपलब्ध हो सकेगा? यदि नहीं हो सकेगा तो फिर आप आपूर्ति कैसे करेंगे? महोदय, मेरे पूरक प्रश्न का 'बी' पार्ट मध्य प्रदेश के संदर्भ में है कि इन तीनों श्रेणियों की योजनाओं का कितना लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है और कितना प्राप्त हुआ है? यदि कम प्राप्त हुआ है तो उस के क्या कारण हैं और उन कारणों को दूर करने के लिए सरकार की तरफ से क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

श्रीमती जयवंती मेहता: सर, माननीय संसद सदस्य द्वारा पूछे गए प्रश्न के पहले भाग के उत्तर में मैं यह कह सकती हूँ कि इन योजनाओं में, थर्मल में या जिस प्रकार से कमियाँ आईं, उनकी मुख्य जांच करने के पश्चात आज हमारी सरकार ने यह कदम उठाए हैं कि हम इसके डे-टू-डे मॉनिटरिंग करते हैं और मंत्रालय में उसकी मीटिंग करके निर्णय किए जाते हैं। चाहे वह कोल इंडिया हो, कोयले की स्थिति क्या है, किस प्रकार से उसकी आपूर्ति की जा सकती है, इसको डे-टू-डे मॉनिटरिंग करके इस प्रकार से निर्णय किए जाते हैं ताकि कहीं भी कोयले की कमी न हो। दूसरी बात, विद्युत उत्पादन यदि कम है तो जहां पर उत्पादन कम हो रहा है वहां पर उसको नेशनल ग्रिड के माध्यम से पहुंचाने के भी प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। तीसरे, हम इस प्रकार के भी कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं कि जो-जो योजनाएं हमारे पास आज लम्बित हैं, वे सारी की सारी योजनाएं जल्दी से जल्दी पूरी हों ताकि जनरेशन प्रारम्भ हो और उनके कारण हम बिजली का उत्पादन शीघ्रतातिशीघ्र कर सकें, इसके लिए भी हम प्रयास कर रहे हैं। हम एक उपाय यह भी कर रहे हैं कि हम पी.एल.एफ. के परसैंटज को बढ़ाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। 1991 में 53 परसैंट रहा था पी.एल.एफ., लेकिन आज हम यह कह

[10 May, 2000]

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सकते हैं कि 67.3 प्रतिशत तक पी.एल.एफ. हमने कर लिया है। इसलिए आज जिस प्रकार के लक्ष्य निर्धारित किए गए हैं उनको इन चारों उपाय योजनाओं के माध्यम से हम पूरा कर सकते हैं।

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: मध्य प्रदेश के संदर्भ में मैंने पूछा था।

श्रीमती जयवंती मेहता: हां, मैं बता रही हूँ। इस सवाल को जहां तक संबंध है, यह गुजरात राज्य के बारे में है, मध्य प्रदेश के बारे में आप अलग से प्रश्न पूछिएगा, उसका जवाब आपको मिल जाएगा।

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: थैंक्यू।

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, my question relates to the power generation. Sir, with regard to the installation of capacity in our country, there is a wide gap between demand and supply to the tune of 20,000 MW- -I am subject to correction. Sir, earlier, most of the power generation used to be done by the PSUs and the State Electricity Boards. The reason for going to the private sector is paucity of funds faced by the State Electricity Boards.

Sir, a new concept has come up in our country, because the State Electricity Boards are unable to contribute even 30% of the equity of the project cost as debt equity. There are foreign companies, which are coming to finance the project totally, the projects, which have been cleared by the Government of India and the State Governments. The cost per MW worked out is Rs.6 crores, whereas those companies are coming to install projects at Rs.3.4 crores per MW. In this scenario, has the Government contemplated on inviting such companies so that the cost of projects would come down and the cost of power to consumers also is substantially less?

THE MINISTER OF POWER SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: With your permission, I would like to take this question. Actually, shortage, in so far as availability of power is concerned, is 6.2% on a national level in what is called the base load in power. So far as the peaking power is concerned, the difference is 12.4%. It is nowhere near 20,000 MW but it is about 9,000 MW. It is true that recently some Chinese companies have come forward and spoken of investing and building thermal power stations at slightly below Rs.4 crores per MW, while, actually, Rs.4.3 crores is the per MW cost which is being installed by the NTPC. We have, in fact, told the State Electricity Boards and State Governments that they are free to have even bilateral negotiations if they get such competitive rates with good financing. They can set up such power plants. If we can have power plants at cheaper cost, whether in a fair manner or unfair manner, it is all right for us because, ultimately, in today's competitive environment, it is the cheaper cost which matters. I wish to assure my hon.

Member that we are aware of what is happening and we are encouraging States to look at the cost per MW so that the tariff cost actually comes down.

श्री कृपाल परमार: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कोल डैम प्रोजेक्ट, हिमाचल प्रदेश के लिए जो एन.टी.पी.सी. के साथ M.o.U. साईन हुआ है, क्या सरकार किसी वित्तीय वर्ष में उस पर काम शुरू करने का विचार रखती है? यदि हां तो कब तक इस पर काम शुरू हो जाएगा और इसमें कितनी लागत आएगी?

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMA NGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with regard to the Kol Dam, we recently had an understanding between the NTPC and Himachal Pradesh. We are looking into the DPR provisions. The work has already commenced in the sense of looking at the detailed project report and preparing the same.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, the hon. Power Minister has stated here that he will allow any collaboration which is going to be cheaper. Sir, I would like to submit that the Cogentrix Power Project in Karnataka was delayed by four years because of not being given counter guarantee by the Central Government for four years. Sir, Enron and Cogentrix came here simultaneously. Now they are going in for a company from China. I would like to know whether the Government of India has approved it. I would also like to know whether it is going to be cheaper. And what is the target period?

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, actually what is commonly called the Cogentrix Project is technically called the Mangalore Power Project in which there were two partners, one was the Cogentrix from the United States and the other was a company called the New China Light Power Company. The Cogentrix has withdrawn but the New China Light Power Company which was a major shareholder in the Mangalore Power Project has, in fact, searched out an Indian partner whom they will announce. The project is on-stream and it is not off-stream. The only problem which we have had is with regard to the liquidity in Karnataka because the IDFC which did a survey on the escrowal capacity suddenly declared that there was zero escrowal capacity. So, we are now working out between us and the financial institutions to sort out this problem of the differential assessment of escrow. If we do away with this artificial creation of an escrow and really go into the nitty-gritty for which we are holding a meeting in the next week, I shall hope that there will be a solution to it. I can assure the hon. Member that the Mangalore Power Project will take off.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Power Ministry is under the dynamic leadership of an energetic Energy Minister who has given a

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very clever reply. Sir, in his reply it has been stated that in 1998-99 the target achieved was 99.6 per cent and in 1999-2000 the target achieved was 102.3 per cent. Mr Chairman, Sir, he has very cleverly avoided as to what the installed capacity is. The target may be 60 per cent of the installed capacity. Now the target fixed for 2000-2001 is five hundred billion units. My first question to the hon. Minister is....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can put only one question.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, it is a very interesting question about the power situation in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. You can put only one question.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, (a) part of my question is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, time is short.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, I would like to know as to what is the installed capacity against which this target of 500.7 billion units has been fixed for the year 2000-2001. I would also like to know as to what was the target set for setting up new additional capacity during the Eighth Plan and the Ninth Plan. Half of the Ninth Plan is over. We have already passed three years. So, I would like to know as to what we have achieved and what is yet to be achieved.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, as usual the hon. Member while complimenting me ensures that he can put a very large question which spans the whole arena. We took a capacity of 97836.88 MW which actually exists today on stream commission, of which hydel is 23816.01, thermal is 70186.16, nuclear is 2680 and wind is 1164.71 I shall come later to the capacity addition programme. I wish to assure him that we had kept a very clear target in our mind of an all-India PLF of over 67 per cent and, it is on that basis, it had been drawn up. In fact, 500-billion units worked out to, approximately, 68 per cent of the PLF. It is a good PLF considering that in the Eastern Region we have to back-down most of the time because the requirement being much less than the capacity that is available. One of the reasons why we have achieved 102 per cent is, we have realised that our drop in thermal production is mainly because our thermal capacity in the Eastern Region has not been utilised. So, we have put up inter-regional connectors using the High Voltage Direct Current Technology between the Eastern and the Southern Region and between the Eastern and the Northern Region. We are expanding to ensure that we can do quick transfer of power between the Regions and, due to shortage in capacity utilisation we should not have less generation and floods and drought

sort of a situation should not arise, at least, in the power sector which is controllable.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, the Minister was explaining the question of power development. May I put a small question, through you, to the Minister? The Government of India is out to privatise the whole power sector. May I put a question to the Minister to explain as to what is the result of this famous or infamous Enron Project, which assured us to supply power at Rs. 2.11 per unit? May I know from the Minister, whether it is a fact that since the price of power supply has gone up, on bulk quantity, to Rs. 4.54 per unit, the Government of Maharashtra is forced to sell this to the end user at the rate of Rs. 6.15 per unit? According to the latest information, the Government of Maharashtra is thinking of reviewing the first stage of the Project and they want to give up the second stage of the Project. Is it a fact? Kindly explain to me. Is it a fact that the Government of Maharashtra itself is thinking in terms of giving up the Enron Project? If it is so, will the Government reconsider its position of privatisation of the power sector?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, the truth of the matter is, the Enron Project has two stages. The first stage is using a bridging fuel called Naphtha. The other stage is where they use the Liquefied Natural Gas, brought in by ships, re-gassify it and use natural gas for production. The rate of tariff, which the hon. senior Member has mentioned, is a rate based on when the Liquefied Natural Gas comes in and when it is converted into gas and that gas is used. Sir, Naphtha, today, costs somewhere in the region of Rs. 16,000 per tonne. It adds, exactly, Rs. 2.80 per unit merely on fuel cost. This has shaken, naturally, the tariff with which the Enron has come out. I must also inform the House that the independent regulator of Maharashtra has intervened in this matter and said that if such costly power is there, then the deem-generation clause must be looked into. To the best of my information, as on date, the Government of Maharashtra has not informed the Centre and, I do not think, it has taken any decision to review the agreement. We have not received any such intimation. It is a counter-guarantee Project for the first phase. So, if they were going to review the PPA, normally, they would have contacted us. But, so far, we have not received any such information. So, I do not think that any such step has been taken.

श्री गया सिंह: सभापति महोदय, समय बहुत कम है। इसीलिए मैं मंत्री जी इतना ही पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप बाढ़ गए थे तो वहाँ के कर्णपुरा प्रोजेक्ट की क्या स्थिति है और कहलगांव में जो विस्तार होना था उसकी क्या स्थिति है?

[10 May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Corruption cases against officials of CIL

*624. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of corruption/fraud cases pending for investigation and enquiry against the officers and officials of the Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiary companies for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) in how many cases suspension orders have been issued and what are the nature and amount involved in each case; and

(c) what action is being taken for the speedy enquiry and disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The number of corruption and fraud cases pending investigation and inquiry against the employees of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies during the last three years is as follows:—

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Cases pending investigation	3	17	68
Cases pending inquiry	14	19	44

During the period of three years from 1997-98 to 1999-2000, 599 cases were taken up for investigation and after investigation, 202 cases were taken up for departmental inquiry as per the latest information available with the Department of Coal. After the completion of the inquiries, penalties were awarded in 80 cases. The officials penalised included several General Managers and two Directors of CIL subsidiaries. In addition, as a result of vigilance investigation more than Rs. 1 lakh was recovered from the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of a subsidiary company of CIL.

(b) 21 suspension orders have been issued in CIL and its subsidiary companies during the last three years in various cases of possession of disproportionate assets, illegal appointments under the land losers' scheme, illegal gratification, irregular lifting of coal and irregularities in tendering and purchases. Out of the 21 cases of suspension, the amount involved that could be quantified in 15 cases was Rs. 11,26,982/-.