

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NTPC is planning similar ventures in Nepal and Middle East also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had submitted a proposal to the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) for setting up a joint venture gas based combined cycle power project with an ultimate capacity upto 1000 MW using locally available natural gas. In this regard a delegation of NTPC visited Bangladesh during November, 1999. Discussions are being held for finalising the modalities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Villages electrified and De-electrified in Bihar

2247. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages in Bihar have been electrified so far;

(b) how many of them have been subsequently declared de-electrified after huge loans were disbursed for their electrification;

(c) whether any enquiry has been instituted into this power scam; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) According to Central Electricity Authority, out of 67,513 total inhabited villages in Bihar, 47,851 villages have been declared electrified as on 31.8.1999.

(b) Bihar State Electricity Board has reported 14,402 villages as de-electrified in 1996.

(c) and (d) The matter has been referred to CBI.

Change in the Structure of Tehri

†2248. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by giving importance to the people comprising less than two to four percent or even lesser in comparison to the main community having been living in old Tehri city for centuries, the land has been allotted at prime locations to their religious places and buildings have been constructed with crores of rupees;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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(b) whether Government would contemplate to conduct an inquiry by a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into this planned strategy of changing the structure of Tehri town; and

(c) if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No special importance or favour has been given by THDC to the people of any particular community of Old Tehri Town in allotment of land for their religious places. Construction of all the religious buildings in lieu of structures existing in the Old Tehri Town have been done in accordance with the provisions of the prevailing Rehabilitation Policy which provides that the religious places would be constructed by the project to the extent possible. Keeping in view the requirements of the affected population, excepting where compensation for the existing structures of places of worship in Old Tehri Town has been taken from the THDC. Religious places of all the communities are being constructed in New Tehri Town in the same number as are existing in Old Tehri.

In the New Tehri Town, so far an amount of Rs. 2.34 crores has been spent on the construction of religious places, including Temples and two Mosques, in lieu of those existing in the Old Tehri Town.

(b) and (c): There is no such proposal under consideration.

Pending Proposals for Power Projects

2249. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) which States are facing acute power crises;

(b) whether the proposal to set up some power plants in those states are pending with Government;

(c) if so, at what stages; and

(d) the steps taken to clear those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the period April - November, 1999, three states namely Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Goa faced energy shortage of more than 10%

(b) to (d) Only two schemes pertaining to the State of Uttar Pradesh are pending for techno-economic clearance in Central Electricity Authority as on 30.11.1999. The details of these schemes, namely, Name of the project, Installed capacity and status are given below:-