

(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.