

Passing of Cess Amount to the OIDB

664. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money collected by Government as cess from petroleum industry and passed on to the Oil Industry Development Board; and

(b) whether the Government to re-examine the cess issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU):

(a) The net collection of the Government from Cess upto 31.3.1996 was Rs. 25,955 crores approximately and the allocation of Cess to the OIDB upto 31.3.1996 was Rs. 902.40 crores.

(b) As per Section 16 of the Oil Industry Development Act, 1974, the cess is to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may, after due appropriation made by the Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the Board such sums of money out of the proceeds of cess as the Government may consider necessary. As per the Legislative provisions, the cess is to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and a part of it may be paid to the Oil Industry Development Board. To the extent, the cess collection exceeds the sums directly paid to OIDB, it becomes a resource for financing Government expenditure in and for extending direct and indirect budgetary support to the Central Public Sector Undertakings in Petroleum, Petrochemicals and Fertilizers Sectors. Presently, there is no proposal to re-examine the above provision.

Setting Up of National Power Grid

665. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to exempt power projects of all

sizes and costs from Central clearance; if so, the details of the decision taken;

(b) whether Government propose to exercise some element of control with a view to set up national power grid which would coordinate power supply among the States and resolve disputes that frequently arise among the states; if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, what other measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI):

(a) The government have decided that a scheme shall be submitted to the Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence only if the capital expenditure exceeds Rupees One thousand crores for a scheme for a generating station prepared by a Generating Company and selected through a process of competitive bidding and Rupees One hundred crores in relation to all other schemes.

(b) and (c) The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. has been set up for establishment and operation of Regional and National Power Grids to facilitate transfer of power within and across the Regions. The Power Grid and REBs regularly monitor the power supply position and also address disputes, if any.

Revamping the MP Area Development Scheme

666. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to revamp the MP Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) the funds released therefor during 1996-97;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ongoing schemes suggested by Members of 10th Lok Sabha have not been completed due to lack of fund; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to release more funds for implementing those ongoing schemes and also for the schemes suggested for 1996-97 by Members of 11th Lok Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE ON THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Government have received a proposal suggesting changes in the existing Guidelines on MPLADS.

(b) So far an amount of Rs. 112.50 crores have been released as first instalment for the year 1996-97.

(c) and (d) It is not a fact that the ongoing schemes suggested by the Members of the 10th Lok Sabha have not been completed due to lack of funds. In fact, the first charge on the balance funds with the Collectors is that of the on-going schemes. As regards the schemes suggested for 1996-97 by Members of the 11th Lok Sabha, it is stated that instructions were issued to all the Collectors to process the recommendations of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament of the 11th Lok Sabha for the financial year 1996-97 without waiting for release of funds. Further orders sanctioning the release of the first instalment of Rs. 50 lakhs per MP for the year 1996-97 were also issued on 1.8.96. The release of funds is regulated having regard to the available balances with the Collectors based on the requisitions received from them. Accordingly, funds are being released on the basis of the requisitions received from the Collectors. Further releases are expedited.

Effect of SEB Dues on the Functioning of REC

667. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased

to state whether non-recovery of outstanding dues from the State Electricity Boards has adversely affected the functioning of the REC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): Yes, Sir, the non-payment of dues by State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has had an adverse impact on the financial health of the Corporation besides restricting its ability to recycle the funds for rural electrification programmes in the country. It has also impaired the capability of REC in negotiating loans with multinational lending organisations and mobilisation of funds through market borrowings.

Seismic Surveys for Oil Exploration in Gujarat

668. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC have conducted any seismic surveys for oil exploration in Gujarat, including gulf of Kutch, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, area-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether oil reserves have been located in these surveys; and

(d) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir, ONGC has conducted, seismic surveys in Gujarat. However, no seismic survey have been carried out in Gulf of Kutch during the last three years.

(b) the details of seismic survey carried out by ONGC during the last three years, area-wise are as follows: