

beneath the said 95% that is finally awarded after the resolution of the dispute shall be paid/adjusted with interest @15% p.a. to be calculated from the day on which the amount in dispute was payable/refundable. Chief Minister, A.P. has suggested that the amount to be paid upfront may be reduced to 50%.

- (v) The Expert Group has suggested in case of defaults by the SEBs/utilities, the amounts so overdue should be adjusted against releases due to the concerned State from the Centre. Chief Minister, A.P. has suggested that this provision should be dropped and should not be made a precondition for scrutinisation of the past dues.

(c) and (d) Following the submission of the Report of the Expert Group a high level Empowered Group consisting of Finance Minister, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister of Power and Chief Ministers of some States met on 26-6-2001 and 6-7-2001. The Empowered Group endorsed the recommendations of the Expert Group with the following modifications :—

- (i) Waiver of surcharge would not be 60% instead of 50% as recommended by the Group.
- (ii) The incentives for achieving the reform-based milestones shall be increased to 6% in the first year and 5% in the second year.

Minister of Power has recently written to CMs of States/UTs urging them to take necessary steps for the implementation of the report.

Availability based Tariff

4039. SHRI B. J. PANDA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the zone and constituency, the Availability Based Tariff (ABT) is presently in force and since when;

(b) whether there is any improvement in frequency and voltage after introduction of ABT;

(c) if so, the percentage of time during which the frequency is in the statutory band of 48.5 hz to 51.5 hz in the respective zones where ABT is applicable; and

(d) how it compares with the figures prior to ABT ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The order of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission on Availability Based Tariff (ABT) has been challenged in the High Courts of Delhi, Madras and Hyderabad by various utilities. The High Court of Delhi in the appeal filed by NTPC has ordered that all directions issued by the commission shall be observed in letter and spirit except that the NTPC shall continue to charge tariff on the basis of the pre-existing norms subject to some conditions. Hyderabad High Court has stayed the payment of unscheduled interchange charges.

(b) to (d) It is too early to assess the improvement in frequency and voltage.

Clearance of proposals of Power Projects of Government of Rajasthan

4040. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has submitted any proposal for sanction of funds for their ongoing power projects and for taking up new power projects in the State during the last one year and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the proposals cleared or waiting clearance by the Central Government as on 30th June, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Government of Rajasthan had submitted a proposal for Annual Plan 2001-2002 in the power sector to the Planning Commission for an amount of Rs.1340 crores. This was discussed with State Government in the Working Group discussions and their plan proposal on power sector was recommended by the Working Group.

(b) The details of various power projects cleared by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in Rajasthan as on 30-6-2001 and proposals awaiting clearance from CEA are given in the statement.