

Interview of Chief of Broadcasting Council

196. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention is drawn towards the interview of the Chief of Broadcasting Council in Delhi Midway' dated 16th October, 1992; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the different opinions expressed by the chief of Broadcasting Council?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The interview has been taken note of.

Use of Electricity in Place of Diesel for Irrigation

197. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the villages in the country are connected to the electrical grid;

(b) whether it is also a fact that majority of farmers use diesel sets for their irrigation purpose;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what steps Government propose to take to stress on the use of electricity and discourage the use of diesel which is an imported item; and

(e) what steps are being taken to increase production of electricity through various sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir, about 84% of villages in the country were electrified as on 30th September, 1992. (b) to (d): According to the available information the number of electrically operated pumpsets used for irrigation purposes in the country far exceed diesel sets. Sustained and reliable availability of power supply and the cost of diesel are

factors which influence the choice of either electrical or diesel pumpsets.

(e) Measures being taken to increase the production of electricity in the country include capacity addition, renovation and Modernisation of old units, reduction of Transmission and Distribution loss and better operation and maintenance of the existing plants.

Entrance of Private Sector Units in Power Sector

198. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 579 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th July, 1992 state:

(a) what is the reaction of Government to private sector's entry in the power sector's.

(b) the details of power projects put up for private sector;

(c) what are the hurdles in taking a decision on their offer; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to overcome these hurdles and expedite their finalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Government is implementing the policy to encourage greater participation by private enterprises in power generation, supply and distribution.

(b) A list of projects advertised by the State Governments/Electricity Boards inviting private sector participation is given in the statement attached (*see below*).

(c) and (d) A number of inputs and clearances have to be tied-up before a power project can be set up. Government has liberalised and brought about legal, financial and administrative environment conducive to faster finalisation of private sector power proposals.