

[19 December, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Tamil Nadu is providing free electricity to poor farmers; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to compensate the financial loss of the Tamil Nadu Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYA WANTED MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. According to the provisions of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998, if a State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commission under this section the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the State Commission may direct. Further in the Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3.3.2001 it was resolved that subsidies may be given only to the extent of State Governments capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget provisions.

Proposal to acquire Enron Stakes in DPC

3140. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to acquire Enron Stake in the Dabhol Power Company; and

b) if so, the negotiations made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYA WANTED MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Withdrawal of surplus power from Eastern Region

3141. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to increase withdrawal of surplus power from Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, what was the target fixed and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) and (b) In the last few years, a notional surplus of power has arisen in the Eastern Region because of low load growth and addition in generating capacity in the region. An action plan has been formulated for improving the plant load factor of the generating stations and exporting the available surplus power in the Eastern Region to the neighbouring regions over transmission elements which are under construction or are planned to be constructed. The existing transmission capacity for evacuation of surplus power in Eastern Region is 1500 MW which is planned to be increased to 5350 MW by February, 2006.

Bringing power generated by NTPC at Kayamkulam to Central Pool

3142. SHRIN.K.PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring the power generated from the NTPC at Kayamkulam in Kerala to the Common Central Pool; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYA WANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Plant (350 MW) is fully dedicated to Kerala and so the entire power generated from the project is made available to the State. However, Kerala has recently expressed its intention to surrender 100 MW power from this plant for one year during off-peak hours. The proposal for inclusion of this surrendered power in the Regional Energy Account in Southern Region is to be considered by the Southern Region Electricity Board. Thereafter, a decision in the matter will be taken by the Government.

Shortage of power in Karnataka

3143. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of power and the voltage is very low in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of total requirement of power of the State;

(c) whether the State Government has established any new power generation plant during the last two years; if so, the details thereof; and