(a) whether it is a fact that power generation has been discontinued from first and second units of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP), Rawatbhata;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the power generation is likely to be restarted;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan has urged to increase its allocation from the units of RAPP constructed earlier as well as from the under construction new units of RAPP; and

(e) the details of the steps being taken by Government to accept the request of Government of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) RAPS-1 is shut down for techno-economic evaluation on its refurbishment/continuation of operations. The second unit, RAPS-2 was shutdown for En-Masse Feeder Replacement (EMFR) which has since been completed.

(c) RAPS-2 is expected to restart in September 2009.

(d) and (e) Full power of RAPS-2 (200 MWe) is allocated to Rajasthan and will be available from September 2009. Rajasthan has a share of 36 % from RAPS-3 and 4 (2 × 220 MWe) and 13% from Narora Atomic Power Station in Uttar Pradesh. Rajasthan will also have a share of 20% from units 5 and 6 of RAPS (2 × 220 MWe), which are expected to come on line in 2009-10.

Scheme for slum dwellers

*395. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to formulate a new scheme for slum dwellers and the urban poor to promote a slum free India in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has decided to extend support to the State Governments who will assign property rights to people living in slum areas; and

(d) if so, the details of model legal framework developed for the purpose and to what extent State Governments have agreed to adopt or follow the same?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced that a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana would be introduced for the slum dwellers and the urban poor. The Schemes for Affordable Housing through Partnership and the Scheme for Interest Subsidy for Urban Housing would be dovetailed into the Rajiv Awas Yojana which would extend support under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to States that are willing to assign property rights to people living in slum areas.

(d) No model legal framework has been developed. However, legal/regulatory frameworks adopted by select States/UTs have been circulated to all State Governments for information sharing. These models have been circulated very recently and State Governments would need time to develop their own legal frameworks.

Reservation for tribals and dalits in industries

†*396. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted a "Group of Ministers" for obtaining their suggestions with regard to the reservation in industries for tribals and dalits;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Group of Ministers had a discussion on this matter with top representatives of industries; and

(c) if so, the reaction of representatives of industries?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) Representatives of industry are in favour of affirmative action to enhance employability of SC/ST candidates, but not in favour of reservation. A Coordination Committee was set up in October, 2006 to carry forward the dialogue with Industry on affirmative action in the private sector. The Committee held meetings with representatives of Apex Industry Chambers/Associations during 2006-08.

Problem of Sikhs in Afghanistan

*397. SHRI O. T. LEPCHA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the reports of religious persecution of Sikh minorities in Afghanistan;

(b) whether Government has ascertained the fact regarding imposition of pilgrimage tax on the Sikhs in Afghanistan;

(c) whether Government has taken up the issue with the Government of Afghanistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) No incident of complaint of religious persecution of Sikhs in Afghanistan has come to notice.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.