(a) whether Government is all set to build new strategic ties with gas-rich Iran;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry, along with the State-owned NTPC and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., is working out the contours of another $10 billion (Rs. 48,750 crore) deal with Iran;

(c) whether his Ministry is preparing a plan to set up a 6000 MW gas-based power project in Iran and 1500 km transmission line to bring 5000 MW of power to India *via* Pakistan; and

(d) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) Preliminary discussions to set-up a 6000 MW gas based power project by NTPC Ltd., in Iran and evacuation of power by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) subject to its viability were held in the Ministry of Power recently. The proposal is at the conceptual stage only.

(d) No final decision has been taken in this regard.

Sale price of electricity

†1165. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has fixed the maximum sale price of electricity in the market at Rs. 8 per unit;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the above rate is higher than the power generation cost in the Dabhol power project some years ago;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and whether consumers were not available to purchase electricity due to higher electricity cost of Dabhol project; and

(e) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission had issued an Order on 11th September, 2009 on a *Suo Motu* petition fixing minimum and maximum tariff for sale and purchase of electricity in day ahead transactions through bilateral agreement and on Power Exchanges. The minimum tariff for such transaction was fixed at Re. 0.10/Kwh and the maximum tariff was fixed at Rs. 8/Kwh, for a period of 45 days from the date of the Order, which is over now.

(c) and (d) Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) took over assets of erstwhile Dabhol Power Company (DPC) in October, 2005 and commenced commercial generation from September, 2007.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The RGPPL has informed that the average sale price of electricity from Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Ltd. for FY 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as follows:—

Fin. Year	Fuel Type	Annual Average Rate (Rs/kWh)
2006-07	Naphtha	5.25
2007-08	Naphtha and R-LNG	3.58*
2008-09	R-LNG	3.25*

*Provisional

RGPPL has been able to dispatch available generation capacity on a sustained basis and there has been no generation loss on account of low scheduling.

(e) Electricity Regulatory Commissions including Central Electricity Regulatory Commission are mandated to determine tariff and issue guidelines/regulations under the Electricity Act, 2003, National Electricity Policy and the Tariff Policy in the discharge of their functions.

Implementation of open access policy

1166. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has advised Government to take up with States, the separation of management and controlling issues between entities operating SLDCs and entities engaged in distribution/trading activities to have a non-discriminatory open access;

(b) whether it has been pointed out that the Electricity Act is not being implemented in letter and spirit;

(c) whether in an internal review meeting of the Planning Commission this issue was also discussed; and

(d) whether Government is now planning to bring a comprehensive and time bound programme for introducing open access besides promoting competition enshrined in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission advised the Central Government that it may take up with the State Governments, the matter of completely separating the management and controlling interests between the entities operating State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs) and the entities engaged in distribution/trading activities.

(c) The Planning Commission has informed that the Advisor to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission presented a paper representing his views on the open access in the Internal Planning Commission (IPC) meeting on November 20, 2009.