

non-conventional energy have not taken off due to faulty implementation;

(b) what steps Government are taking to reduce the expenditure on foreign travel by officials of his Department;

(c) whether it is also a fact that vast sums have been spent on visiting different sites around the world, instead of developing our go-bar gas and other Indian alternatives; and

(d) whether a review of the existing programmes will be done to improve its impact on the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposals for foreign travel are examined according to the guidelines issued by the Government. Ministry of Finance have issued detail-instructions for processing and approval of all cases involving foreign travel by officials in this regard.

(c) Foreign travel is undertaken only in connection with specific projects and—for attending important meetings and conferences. - Some of these are financed by United Nations agencies also. Foreign travel is not allowed to the detriment of normal programmes of the Government.

(d) The programmes are under constant review. National Project for Biogas Development and National Programme on Improved Chulhas are also evaluated by independent agencies. Project for Biogas Development, National Programme on Improved Chulha, Street lighting through solar photovoltaic integrated energy centres, namely, Urjagrams etc. are already making an impact on the quantitative and qualitative upgradation of the standard of living of the people in rural areas. These Programmes have become very popular in the rural areas.

Facilities provided by Central Government to State Governments for setting up industries in backward areas

12. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the facilities/concessions provided by the Central Government to different State Governments in regard to setting up of industries in the backward districts during the last five years; year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Details of facilities/concessions provided for setting up industries in Centrally identified backward districts/areas are given in the booklet "Incentives for Industries in Backward Areas (Central Government and Central Financial Institutions)". Details of reimbursements made to the State Governments in identified backward areas during the last five years have been furnished in the statements on Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, Transport Subsidy Scheme and the Scheme for Development of Infrastructure in No Industry Districts. Copies of the booklet as well as statements are available in the Parliament Library.

Rihand Thermal Power Station

12. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

13. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) the names of the countries which are bidding for the 300 million-pound second stage Rihand Coal fired Power Station; and

(b) whether there has been any delay in completion of the first phase of the project for which contract was undertaken by a British Consortium

led by Northern Engineering Industries and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The UK Government have evinced interest in financing the extension stage of the Rihand Super Thermal Power Project.

(b) The first unit of the Rihand Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I (2x500 MW), which was originally to be commissioned in June, 1987, is scheduled to be commissioned in the fourth quarter of 1987. The commissioning programme has been affected by delays on the part of the lead contractor in mobilising project management resources and by delays in completion of design and engineering work, supplies etc.

USSR offer for construction of Power Plants

14. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 622 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether there are any proposals from USSR for cooperation in the construction of new thermal power plants in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) (a) and (b) USSR has shown interest in the construction of the second stage of Vindhyachal Thermal Power Project (2x600 MW), the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project (3x210 MW) and a captive Thermal Power Station based on the coals of the Mukunda deposits in Bihar.

NTPC Targets for Power Generation

15. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 597 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation has also failed to achieve its generation targets fixed for 1986-87; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of gas based power stations in the country

16. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 601 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision for setting up gas based power stations in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the amount of power that would be made available from such gas based power stations; and

(c) whether any gas based power stations are also to be set up in Andhra Pradesh in view of the availability of large amount of natural gas in the Godavari basin?