

Private Sector Participation in Power Generation

629. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER; Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a number of proposals for the participation of private sector in the area of generation of power; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Government have received, from time to time, proposals for participation of private sector in the generation of power. The power industry in India is governed by the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. Under these Acts, permission of the State Electricity Board and State Government concerned is necessary for setting up a generating unit in the private sector. If the capacity of a unit is more than 25 MW, approval of the Central Electricity Authority is also necessary.

Under Government of India's Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956, which governs the policy for industrial development in the country, power generation has been included in Schedule A and thus reserved in the public sector, alongwith other industries of basic and strategic importance or those in the nature of public utility services. However, expansion of the existing privately owned units, or the possibility of the State securing cooperation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units when the national interests so require, is not precluded. Each proposal for participation by private sector in power generation is considered accordingly.

Grant for Housing Projects in Gujarat

630. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Gujarat Government, Gujarat Housing Board and some other agencies had sent various plans, projects and schemes to HUDCO and Central Government for the construction of houses etc. as well as for loans, grants and aids during the period from 1st January, 1983 to 31st December, 1984.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken on each one of them;

(c) what is the amount of loans, grants and aids given by HUDCO or the Central Government to the Gujarat Government, Gujarat Housing Board and such other agencies during the above period; and

(d) what are the plans, projects and schemes for 1985 and 1986?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GAFOOR): (a) to (c) During the period in question, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, received 156 Rural and Urban Housing Schemes from various agencies of Gujarat State. Out of these, 115 schemes with a loan component of Rs. 48.43 crores have already been sanctioned. Two schemes were withdrawn and the remaining are under various stages of process.

Central assistance is given to the State Governments in the shape of block loans and block grants without being tied to any scheme or head of development.

(d) Housing is a State subject and the State Governments formulate their own plans in accordance with plan priorities and their need*.