

Per Unit cost of Electricity

†2573. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cost of 59,000 crore units of electricity reached to Rs. 5.9 per unit during the first half of the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;
- (b) if not, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this cost is considered to be the highest at the international level; and
- (d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The average rate of sale of power in the country increased from Rs. 1.98/kWh to Rs. 2.36/kWh in 2008-09. The electricity generation in the country (including import of power from Bhutan) increased from 70,446 crore unit in 2007-08 to 72,379 crore unit in 2008-09.

(c) and (d) The average cost of supply of electricity in the country, as indicated above, is not be highest at the international level.

Effect of diversion of Brahmaputra river on Hydro Projects

2574. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China plans to divert water from Brahmaputra river and has set in motion a 62 million dollar scheme to divert its tributaries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposal scheme will affect Jai Prakash Hydro Power Ltd. and other hydro power projects if the water discharge becomes limited; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No specific information is available regarding plan of China to divert water from Brahmaputra

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

river. However, there have been reports in the media that China plans to construct hydro power projects on Brahmaputra river and to divert its water. But Chinese Government has been officially denying since 2000 that it proposes to dam/divert waters of Brahmaputra.

A Technical Group headed by Member (D&R), Central Water Commission (CWC) was constituted to study the implication of possible diversion of Brahmaputra water by China. In its report, the Technical Group has observed the matter as under :

(i) "China plans to divert approximately 40 billion cubic meter waters of Yalung Zangbo (Brahmaputra) to Chinese North-western province of Xiangjiang and Gansu (Gobi Desert). According to China 160 billion cubic meter of water is available annually in Brahmaputra. Diversion would be through a carrier system of 800 km. in length to irrigate arid regions of upper Yellow river where there is scarcity of water.

(ii) The proposal takes advantage of a hair pin bend in the river with a drop of about 2225 meters in a distance of 40 km. for generating 40,000 MW of power. The proposed location is near Doshong (Doshong of Bujalacong in Chinese on our maps) at an altitude of 2880 m above MSL just before the South westward hair pin bend".

(c) and (d) No specific study has been made to assess the impact of the proposed diversion of water by China on Hydro Power Projects in India being constructed by Jayprakash Hydro Power Ltd., and other developers. It is, however, apprehended that in the event of diversion of water from Brahmaputra river (known as Siang in Arunachal Pradesh) by China, power generation from various hydro electric schemes identified on Siang river (mainstream) is likely to be adversely affected, especially during lean flow months.

Supply of equipments for power projects

2575. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various private projects have suffered from supply of cheap quality equipments by Chinese companies and placed orders with BHEL, after scrapping contracts with the Chinese vendors, as per corporate agreement;

(b) if so, the name of those projects; and

(c) what is the turn out of power equipments in BHEL during 2009?