

[4 May, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under this scheme prior commitment of the States would be taken before sanction of the projects for

- (i) deployment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under this scheme;
- (ii) provision of requisite revenue subsidy to the State utilities as required under the Electricity Act., 2003.

The States would also be required to make adequate arrangements for supply of electricity and there should be no discrimination in the hours of supply between rural and urban households.

The scheme covers the entire country and the funds would be released on the basis of sanction of the projects submitted. It is estimated that Rs. 16,000 crore would be required for the entire scheme. For Phase I of the scheme approved for implementation during the 10th Five Year Plan Period Rs. 5,000 crore has been provided by the Central Government as Capital subsidy.

(d) The scheme aims at completing electrification of all un-electrified villages and un-electrified hamlets in next five years.

Actions on projects involving electrification of 57,526 villages/habitations have so far been initiated.

Assistance for Export of Poultry and Dairy Products

*569. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is extending/propose to extend any assistance for export of poultry and dairy products from Namakkal and Salem districts of Tamil Nadu which have great potentiality for export of these products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) to (c) In the recently announced Foreign Trade Policy, the

Government has extended the benefit of Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana to the poultry and dairy sector. Under the scheme, exporters are entitled for duty credit scrip equivalent to 5% FOB value of exports for each licensing year.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu had proposed to set up infrastructure facility to be used by the poultry farmers at Namakkal at a cost of Rs. 258 lakhs. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) had approved financial assistance of Rs. 90.00 lakhs to set up such facility.

Mega status to power projects

*570. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to grant mega status to power projects of 250 MW capacity instead of 1000 MW;

(b) if so, the additional benefits that would accrue to the new plants once given Mega status;

(c) whether this would be applicable both the thermal and hydro power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of power plants located in Orissa that would be granted Mega Status?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SYEED): (a) There were suggestions to lower the threshold qualifying capacity for Mega projects to 250 MW based on the representations received from various stakeholders including State Governments and private power projects developers. However, no decision has been taken in the matter.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.