

Foreign investment in wind energy

2117. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the foreign investment in wind energy is very nominal;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government proposes to modify the policy regarding foreign investment in this sector to attract more investment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) No Sir. Wind Energy is the fastest growing renewable energy sector in the country and the foreign direct investment inflow has been increasing over the years in renewable energy sector of which wind energy has been the major component. The foreign direct investment in the renewable energy sector has been growing rapidly during 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 was US\$ 2.11 million, US\$ 43.15 million, US\$ 85.27 million and US\$ 497.91 million respectively. The investment in 2009-10 has been very attractive.

(c) to (e) The Ministry has last year announced a Generation Based Incentives (GBI) scheme for grid connected wind power projects with the objective of broadening the investors' base by attracting the foreign direct investment and independent power producers.

Electricity to rural households

2118. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether kerosene is used in a large percentage of rural households for lighting purpose causing serious health hazard, particularly for women and girl children who stay indoors for longer periods;
- (b) whether Government plans to promote the supply of electricity from renewable sources to the households, particularly for the benefit of women and girl children; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?