

public hearing. The Public Hearing was conducted on 6.2.2002. The panel recommended that a comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) should be conducted and be made available to the public and a chance for public hearing should be provided before taking a decision on the application for environmental clearance.

The project authority has submitted the comprehensive EIA. It has been decided that a fresh public hearing needs to be carried out on the basis of the new comprehensive EIA. The State Government has been advised by Ministry of Environment & Forests on 23.11.2004 to approach the State Pollution Control Board for conducting the public hearing.

The Kerala State Electricity Board has submitted a revised/modified Detailed Project Report (DPR) on 2.9.2004 to Central electricity Authority with an estimated cost of Rs. 331.88 crores at 2003-04 price level for this project. The DPR was returned on 10.9.2004 due to non-furnishing/tieing up of essential inputs/details and drawings. Project authorities have stated that the hydrology and cost estimate components of the project will be revised and submitted shortly. The issue related to hydrology/water availability for the project is under study with Central Water Commission and the matter related to integrated study of Chalakkudy basin is of crucial importance. In order to take a view on the Hydrology/Water availability expeditiously, the project authorities have been invited for discussion by Central Water Commission on the integrated study of Chalakkudy Basin. The response from project authorities is awaited.

The clearance of the project by Central Electricity Authority can be granted after the project authorities submit the requisite inputs/details and drawings and after examination of the same.

Restarting Dabhol Power Project

†47. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

DR. MURU MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted a Committee of certain Ministers to suggest measures to restart the 2184 Megawatt Power Generating Project of Dabhol Power Company;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[2 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

. (b) if so, when was the said Committee constituted and what measures were suggested by the Committee in its report; and

(c) the action taken by the government to implement these measures and by when the power generation will commence?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) An Empowered Group of Ministers has been set up in September, 2004, to examine and decide all issues related to the Dabhol Power Project.

Community participation in rural drinking water supply programmes

48. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Tamil Nadu/Karnataka where Government has taken up reforms in rural drinking water supply to institutionalise community participation; -

(b) the number of drinking water schemes started during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and the number of villages benefited thereby during the same period;

(c) the target for the Tenth Five Year Plan under these schemes with the number of additional villages to be covered in Karnataka/Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the financial assistance allocated and released to Karnataka/Tamil Nadu under these drinking water schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) With a view to institutionalise community participation in the rural drinking water supply sector, Government of India had launched the Sector Reform Project in 1999 where in pilot projects were commenced in 67 districts of 26 States, including in 3 districts of Karnataka and 6 districts of Tamil Nadu, by June 2002. The project implementation period was for three years and, after the scaling up of reforms to cover the entire country through Swajaldhara in December 2002, the Sector reform Pilot Projects have been integrated with Swajaldhara from the current financial year, since these were demand-driven projects, no target of coverage as such was fixed for either the Ninth Plan or the Tenth Plan period. Up to 20 percent of the