

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CONSUMPTION OF POWER FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

*828. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state what is the reaction of Government to the recommendation of the Chairmen of State Electricity Boards that no electricity duty should be levied on the consumption of the power for agricultural purposes in any State ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The recommendation of the Conference of Chairmen of State Electricity Boards held in November 1965, in regard to making consumption of electricity for agricultural purposes duty free was brought to the notice of the State Governments and they were requested to take action in the light of the recommendation. Government of Maharashtra exempt levy of Electricity duty on consumption of energy in the working of the Pumping Sets of capacity not exceeding 10 HP used for Agricultural purposes. Madhya Pradesh does not levy and electricity duty for electricity sold or used by the agriculturist for his land or in chaff cutting or in crushing or treating the produce of his land. No electricity duty on consumption of electricity for agricultural purposes is levied in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Other State Governments are considering the matter.

RESERVATION OF SEATS IN MEDICAL COLLEGES

*831. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to abolish reservation of seats in medical colleges on the basis of castes and communities; and

(b) if so, whether the proposal is going to be implemented soon and the reactions of the State Governments in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates is made all over India. In certain States reservations are also made for backward classes and certain areas and communities. Government of India has advised the State Governments to admit students to medical colleges only on merit.

(b) The State Governments have not indicated any proposals for doing away with non-statutory reservations. The latter have to be observed.

POWER GENERATED BY SHARAVATHI PROJECT

*832. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the actual cost per MW of power generated by the Sharavathi H. E. Project in Mysore; and

(b) what is the price paid by Madras and Kerala respectively for the power purchased from Mysore ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) On the basis of investment made so far and partial development of power, the cost of power generated at Sharavathi is 7.45 paise kwh. This will go down considerably as more generators are added.

(b) According to the *ad hoc* arrangements made, Madras is purchasing power from Mysore at 9 paise per kwh and selling to Kerala at 13 paise per kwh. The higher rate charged from Kerala by Madras is to cover transmission loss and cost of transmission etc.

FOREIGN AID

*838. SHRI M. M. DHARIA:

SHRIMATI TARA
RAMCHANDRA SATHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to gradually reduce and then to liquidate the foreign aid;

(b) whether Government have called for any suggestions to that effect; and