(D) Sindhudurg in Maharashtra.

(E) Tadri in Karnataka.

For each of the identified 5 projects, a Shell company has been set up by Power Finance Corporation as special purpose vehicle. These shell companies have to invite global bids for setting up the projects.

In addition, Central Electricity Authority has identified Orissa and Andhra Pradesh for development of an Ultra Mega Power Project each in these States.

(d) No, Sir.

Use of Coal for Power Generation in Assam

3130. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is abundant quantity of coal in Upper Assam, estimated to be around 320 million tonnes which may last more than 100 years with generating capacity of 500 MW of power;

(b) whether Assam coal is of low ash content approximately 4 to 15 per cent and high Sulphur content (2 to 5 per cent) is used for other industries, but the same has not yet been utilized for generation of electricity;

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to use this type of coal for generation of electricity with the help of sophisticated technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per the latest estimates of Geological Survey of India, a total of 375 Million Tones of coal resources have so far been estimated in Assam

(b) Assam cola is of low ash content ranging from 1.7 to 13.5 per cent and high Sulphur content ranging from 1.1 to 3.9 per cent. Coal with such parameters is used by other industries. The low ash content in majority of estimated coal resources varies from 3% to 20%. The total Sulphur content normally varies from 2 to 6% in major areas. During the year 2005-06, NTPC has used Assam coal for generation of electricity at its stations at Farakka and Kahalgaon after blending it with non-coking coal of other coalfields.

(c) and (d) NTPC has envisaged to use Flue Gas Desulphurization

(FGD) technology for its Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project (2x250 MW) in view of high Sulphur content in Assam Coal.

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana

3131. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, along with the budgetary allocation;

(b) the number of rural areas electrified so far under the scheme, State-wise along with the assistance released;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has requested for assistance for implementation of the scheme in 9 more districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Government of India introduced "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) in April, 2005 for the attainment of National Common Minimum Goal of providing access to electricity to all rural households over a period of four years.

The salient features of the RGGVY are as under:—

1. Scheme is for the attainment of National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) goal of providing access to electricity to all rural households and electrification of all villages over a period of four years.
2. Creation of Rural ELectricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66.11 kV) sub-station in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.
3. Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all unelectrified villages/ habitations and provision of distribution transformer(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.
4. Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from conventional sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).
5. REDB, VEI and DDG would also cater to the requirement of agriculture and other activities which would facilitate overall rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation.