

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Release of grants to Rajasthan

†\*167. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Twelfth Finance Commission had recommended that the grant for the construction of roads and culverts be given to the State Governments in two installments; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not sanctioning the grant in respect of Government of Rajasthan so far and by when it would be released?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) recommended State Specific grants specifically for construction of roads to only two States: to Andhra Pradesh for roads in remote and tribal areas and to Madhya Pradesh for extension of road networks in remote areas. These State Specific grants were available to States during 2006-10. TFC indicatively phased State Specific grants equally over 2006-10.

No grant for construction of roads and culverts was recommended for Rajasthan. However, TFC recommended grants to all States for maintenance of roads and bridges over 2006-10. TFC's grant for maintenance of roads and bridges has been released in full to Rajasthan.

### Competition faced by BHEL from China

\*168. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) is facing competition from China and other countries in the core area of equipments required for power plants as well as in other areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by BHEL to meet the challenges posed by China and other countries;

(c) whether it is also a fact that BHEL had requested the Government to provide a level playing field in areas where Chinese products enjoyed a favourable treatment, on being exported to India, as against BHEL products; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Constant endeavour is made by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to successfully meet the competition from main power equipment suppliers from other countries, especially from China by (i) Taking necessary steps to integrate contemporary technologies to be at par with global players, (ii) Manufacturing and supplying superior products with higher efficiencies and optimized designs compatible with local Indian

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

coal specifications; (iii) Enhancing its capacity (iv) Undertaking capability building measures; (v) Convincing the customers and utilities to take into account the "Life Cycle Cost" of the equipment instead of initial capital cost alone, including the 'After Sales Service' provided by BHEL; (vi) offering in addition to conventional sets wide variety of new range of sets of 150 MW, 270 MW, 525 MW and 600 MW including supercritical sets of 660 MW, 700 MW and 800 MW ratings to offer diverse and versatile choice, etc.

(c) Yes Sir. BHEL, along-with other domestic suppliers, has been highlighting the need for having in place suitable measures to provide a level playing field to the domestic power equipment manufacturing industry. These measures are sought not as protection, but to offset the disadvantages suffered by them.

(d) During 2009-10 the Government had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Industry), Planning Commission "to suggest options and modalities to take care of the disadvantages suffered by the domestic industry related to power sector keeping all factors in view". The Committee evaluated the evidence and identified the extent of disadvantages suffered by the domestic power equipment manufacturing industry and has made certain recommendations to ensure adequate and timely availability of power generation equipment, as well a level playing field for domestic manufacturers. The recommendations of the Committee for providing a level playing field to domestic power equipment manufacturing industry are under consideration of the Government.

#### **Forest plantation by mining companies**

\*169. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is almost impossible to re-grow a forest in its original form;

(b) whether there are reports of several mining and other companies claiming to have helped grow forests as part of their corporate social responsibility;

(c) whether Government is considering to take action against these companies and to stop their publicity claiming to have grown a forest;

(d) whether Government differentiates between planting of a sapling and taking care of the sapling to grow as a tree; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Forests are a dynamic system and not a physical entity only. Therefore, re-growing of forests to its natural or original form is difficult.

(b) and (c) Whenever a forest land is diverted under the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, a standard condition of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is stipulated with an objective to compensate the loss of forest. Afforestation and maintenance of green belt form a part of the corporate social responsibility for the applicant companies. So far, no reports are available in the Ministry on such claims of re-growing