

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.