

(e) In addition to States mentioned in (c) and (d) above, a project each is envisaged for development in State of Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

Loan and aid under APDRP

3111. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accorded special status to some of the backward States for grant of loan and aid under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme, if so, the names of such States;

(b) what are the criteria of categorizing the States under the same;

(c) whether Government intend to accord special status to the State of Rajasthan in consideration of its being a Border and a famine ridden backward State to bring it at par with other such States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE):
(a) Yes, Sir. Eleven States viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttaranchal have been included under Special Category States for getting assistance under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programmes (APDRP).

(b) National Development Council (NDC) accords special status to the States as per the following guidelines:

- Strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries;
- Hilly and difficult terrains;
- Overall economic and infrastructural backwardness;
- Low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population; and
- Limited and weak resource base compared to development needs.

(c) There is no proposal in Ministry of Power to accord special status to Rajasthan.

(d) The funding pattern for release of funds to the Special Category States under APDRP has been adopted as per the criteria laid down by NDC.

Claims of Rajasthan in Hydel Projects in Punjab

3112. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission has prepared a background paper regarding claims of Rajasthan in Hydel Projects in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted in Central Electricity Authority in February, 1999 for preparing a background paper on sharing of power in the hydro-electric power stations of Punjab. The Committee invited of the concerned States in the matter. After analyzing various points raised by the States of Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh in support of their claims and in the absence of the observations of Government of Punjab, the Committee concluded that it would be in the best interest of all the concerned States that the agreement already reached between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Government of India on 10.05.1984 be followed.

Power connection expense

†3113. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to bear the power connection expenses by Government with regard to rural families in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the said proposal; and

(c) the assessment made with regard to total expenditure for the implementation of said proposal?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.