

- (i) Enhancing support to Lok Adalats to reduce the pressure on regular courts
- (ii) Promoting the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to resolve part of the disputes outside the court system.

As regard Lok Adalats, the 13th Finance Commission has proposed to allot funds with the guidelines that a component of the justice delivery grant is to be used to enable States to hold about ten mega Lok Adalats per High Court per year and about five Lok Adalats for each of the 1500 court locations per year, during 2010-15. The Lok Adalats are expected to reduce pendency of cases in courts so as to dispose 15 lakh cases each year, and 75 lakh cases during 2010-15.

#### **Power distribution under PPP mode**

\*250. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has stressed the need to implement the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) in the power distribution sector;
- (b) if so, the details of the modalities worked out to promote the power distribution segment under PPP mode;
- (c) whether the State Governments have agreed to implement this mode in power distribution; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has recognized the need of Private Participation in Power Distribution Sector as stated in the National Electricity Policy. The Government has also made enabling provisions to promote Public Private Partnership (PPP) as per details given below:

Under Section 14 of Electricity Act, 2003, the Appropriate Commission may, on an application made to it under Section 15, grant any person licence to distribute electricity as a distribution licensee.

Under Section 13 of Electricity Act, 2003, Appropriate Commission may, on the recommendation of Appropriate Government, in accordance with the National Policy formulated under Section-5 and in public interest, direct, by notification to dispense with the requirement of licence for distribution of Electricity in the case of local authority, panchayat institutions, users associations, cooperative society, non-governmental organizations or franchisees.

Provisio-7 of the Section-14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that in a case where a distribution licensee proposes to undertake distribution of electricity for a specified area within his area of supply through another person, that person shall not be required to obtain any

separate license from the concerned State Commission and such distribution licensee shall be responsible for distribution of electricity in his area of supply.

In addition, for encouraging Public Private Partnership (PPP) in distribution system in rural areas, one of the conditions stipulated under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) is appointment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution, including, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), users associations, cooperatives or individual entrepreneurs.

(c) and (d) Public Private Partnership (PPP) has been implemented by way of privatization and appointment of distribution franchisees in States. The distribution sector in the States of Orissa and Delhi was privatized in 1999 and 2002 respectively.

Public Private Partnership in the form of Urban Distribution Franchisee (UDF) are in place in the states of Maharashtra in the town of Bhiwandi and in the state of Uttar Pradesh in Kanpur and Agra urban areas.

Further, a Task Force on Private Participation in Power Distribution has been constituted by Planning Commission on 09 November, 2010 under the chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission. The terms of references of the task force are as under:

- (i) The Task Force will review the experience relating to privatization, franchisees and other forms of private participation;
- (ii) The Task Force will make an assessment of the investment required during the Twelfth Plan period for augmentation and modernization of the distribution system;
- (iii) The Task Force will identify any regulatory impediments constraining private investment in the distribution system and make specific recommendations to facilitate their removal; and
- (iv) The Task Force will consider various models of privatization and recommend a suitable model(s) for adoption by the States.

The task force is working to address the above issues.

#### **Procurement and stock of foodgrains**

\*251. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the procurement and stock of foodgrains during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;