States (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) under Part-B.

So far, an amount of ` 4052.88 Crores have been released as loan under the programme for disbursement to state power distribution utilities against Part-A and Part-B projects.

(e) The standard project completion cycle for Part-A and Part-B schemes is 24 months and 36 months respectively. The schemes sanctioned are under various stage of implementation.

It is expected that on successful completion of the scheme, the AT&C losses will be reduced in the project areas. On achievement of loss reduction to 15% or below, 50% of loans taken by utilities in Part-B will be converted into grant.

Investment in power sector

127. SHRI A.A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that policy loopholes and lack of commitment from the State Governments is casting an adverse impact on the investment inflows by the existing and potential investors keen to invest in India's power sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and in what ways Government proposes to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Coal import for power generation

128. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal is being imported for the use of thermal power stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, year-wise, with quantities imported and countries from where imported;

(c) whether it is also a fact that electricity would become costlier due to the imported coal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what remedial measures Government proposes to take to protect the interest of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Coal is being imported for thermal power stations for blending with the domestic coal subject to technical limitations of boiler design in order to bridge the gap between requirement and its availability from the domestic sources and also for the power stations designed on imported coal. During 2009-10 and 2010-11, power utilities have imported coal to the tune of 23 million tonne and 30 million tonne respectively. Coal has been imported by the Power Utilities mainly from Indonesia and South Africa.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Electricity becomes costlier by use of imported coal; the increase in cost of electricity depends on characteristics and price of imported coal, distance of the power plant from the port *vis-a-vis* linked indigenous source and quantity of imported coal blended with the indigenous coal.

(e) Ministry of Coal is being impressed upon to enhance production of coal in the country and supply to thermal power stations. Efforts are also under-way to promote energy efficiency in the thermal power stations in the country. The new generating units of 660 MW and higher capacity are being planned with super critical technology requiring lesser quantity of coal.

Augmenting power generation

129. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several States are lagging behind in increasing capacity of power generation year by year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the new action plan prepared for augmenting power generation during the Twelfth Five Year Plan?