

Electricity import from Iran

*637. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran is keen to explore the possibility of exporting electricity to energy starved India and ready to prepare the grounds for development of new energies in co-operation with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a new power plant is under construction at Iranian border with new method of transforming natural gas into electricity;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India has also expressed its readiness to import electricity from Iran, as the power transmission is less costly compared to natural gas exports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) With a view to synergize India's growing energy requirement with that of abundant energy resources available in Iran, the two Governments discussed the subject of Iran exporting electricity to India. The discussions are at a preliminary stage.

(c) Construction of any new power plant at Iranian border with new method of transforming natural gas into electricity is not in the knowledge of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Viability of the proposal on evacuation of electricity to India has not been fully studied.

Availability of water resources

*638. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various water policies formulated earlier by the Central Government have been implemented in letter and spirit by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of water bodies in the country, at present, along with the annual capacity of such water resources;