(d) whether ownership of mines abroad would be reoriented and aimed towards cost-cutting measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Ministry of Power has not set up a designated task-force to explore possibilities for upgrading our engineering designs aiming at generation cost reduction. However, upgrading of technology and engineering designs is a constant and on-going process. Supercritical technology has been adopted with a view to improving efficiency, reducing fuel consumption and lowering overall fuel cost. Standardization is also being carried out with a view to reducing project execution period. A standard design document for main plant equipment for 500 MW sub-critical units has been developed by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and a document on standard technical features of super-critical units is being developed.

NTPC Limited, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) had entered into an MoU in August, 2010 to collaborate on development of technology for steam parameters of 300 Kg/cm^2 and 7000C temperature. The Project aims to execute an 800 MWe AUSC coal fired unit in a 7-year period comprising of 2½ years of design and development.

(b) NTPC was procuring imported coal through MMTC/STC from 2005-06 onwards and continued upto December, 2011. Thereafter, NTPC has been procuring imported coal directly through international competitive bidding (ICB) *w.e.f.* February, 2012 which is just about one year. It is therefore too early to conclude which alternative is better in terms of cost-effectiveness.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As far as NTPC is concerned, it is so far not owning any mine abroad.

Separate power distribution lines for agricultral and rual consumers

928. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has separate power distribution lines for agricultural and rural consumers;

(b) whether the Ministry wants to implement a similar system in other States;

(c) if so, the estimated expenditure to be incurred and how will it be funded; and

(d) whether multiple distribution lines will lead to increased power thefts and rise in maintenance costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Government of Gujarat has reported that it has a Scheme called "Jyotigram Yojana" introduced in year 2003-04. Under the scheme, the existing Rural distribution feeders were separated into Jyotigram Feeders for supply to all the non-Agricultural (Residential, Commercial and Industrial) consumers in rural area, and Agricultural Feeders for 3-Phase power supply to Agricultural Consumers and single phase power supply through Special Design Transformers to the farmers residing in the farms.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Power does not have any such scheme at present.

Power demand in various States

929. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between the power demand in various States and the actual status of power supplies;

(b) the number of States able to use solar power, wind power to meet the requirement, the details of their energy production and cost per unit, project-wise;

(c) whether there is any tax relief available to the end user of solar and wind power;

(d) if so, the details of relief quantum; and

(e) the number of such beneficiaries, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) State-wise details of demand for power and percentage of shortage in power supply in various States of the country both in terms of Peak and Energy during the current year (April, 2012 to January, 2013) is given in Statement-I *(See* below).

(b) As per report of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, State-wise details of solar projects which have been commissioned under Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) under batch-I of Phase-I *vis-a-vis* grid solar PV projects under migration scheme and the total wind installed capacity are given in Statement-II *(See* below). The details of energy generated by these units is not centrally maintained. The per unit cost of solar power on an average is Rs. 7.49/kWh.

(c) to (e) As per report of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, there is no tax relief for end users of solar and wind power.