

of agreements with the contractors/supervision consultants. While NHAI was proceeding with investigation, CBI took over the case which is still continuing.

Proposal for “Lighting a Billion Lives”

*275. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal under the caption “Lighting A Billion Lives” for electrification of 500 villages and 500 Scheduled Tribe residential schools in Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) and Tribal Sub-Plan Area (TSPA) of Odisha using solar energy with the help of Tata Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); and

(b) if so, how soon the project is likely to be approved and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO):
(a) and (b) The Government of Odisha had forwarded a project proposal for electrifying 500 villages and 500 ST Residential Schools in Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and Tribal Sub-Plan Area of Odisha using solar energy with the help of The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi (TERI) proposed to be funded under ‘Grants under Article 275(1) of Constitution of India’ which could not be considered during 2010-11. Similar proposal was received in 2012 from the said Government for consideration and approval as an innovative project under ‘Grants under Article 275(1) of Constitution of India’. However, due to reduction of budget of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, no proposal for innovative projects under ‘Grants under Article 275(1) of Constitution of India’ from any State Government could be approved during 2012-13.

The State Government has revised the said proposal and has sent it in August, 2013 for consideration of this Ministry during 2013-14. Release of funds for innovative projects under ‘Grants under Article 275(1) of Constitution of India’ is an ongoing and continuous process in accordance with the guidelines and established procedures, subject to fulfillment of certain terms and conditions including availability of funds. Therefore, no time limit can be indicated for the approval and release.

Decrease in poverty as per NSSO survey

†*276. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per the latest data of National Sample Survey Organisation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.