has infused additional corpus (capital) to the tune of ₹ 375 crore into the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA), raising the corpus to over ₹ 2,100 crore, and strengthened the capacity to augment project exports from the country. The equity capital of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) of India Ltd. has been raised by ₹ 50 crore to ₹ 1,300 crore, enabling higher underwriting capacity to support exporters to expand their business and support banks for adequate lending to exporters. Recently, the Government has approved the proposal for implementing the Interest Equalisation Scheme on Pre and Post shipment Rupee Export Credit *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2015 for five years which would benefit all MSMEs.

Ministry of MSME has several schemes designed to benefit the MSME sector. Some of these schemes are Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS), National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP), Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme, MSE-Cluster Development Programme, Market Development Assistance Scheme. The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has notified the Technology Acquisition and Development Fund (TADF) to provide funding support to all existing and new MSMEs for acquisition and development of clean and green technologies.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Opposition from locals against nuclear plant

2081. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is facing stiff opposition from local villagers, where Nuclear Power Plants is proposed to set up;

(b) if so, the details of those power plants which face opposition from local villagers;

(c) whether Government has adopted any strategy to face the opposition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there is sporadic opposition among some sections of the local people at some of the new sites like Jaitapur, Maharashtra.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The opposition has been mainly on account of issues related to rehabilitation, apprehensions about loss of traditional means of livelihood and safety of the nuclear

power plants. Public outreach programme based on a multipronged approach is being implemented to address the apprehensions of the people and allay their fears in a credible manner. The issues related to rehabilitation are being addressed in association with respective State Governments.

Roadmap to generate power from nuclear energy

2082. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:
SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared a roadmap to generate power through nuclear energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government has consulted various stakeholders for providing assistance to this sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the suggestions received by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) With a view to optimally utilise limited uranium reserves and large thorium reserves in the country, the Department of Atomic Energy has adopted a three stage nuclear power programme, based on a closed nuclear fuel cycle, for generation of nuclear power and for achieving long term energy security. The three stage nuclear power programme, which is to be implemented sequentially, aims to multiply the domestically available fissile resources through the use of natural Uranium in Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (first stage), followed by use of Plutonium obtained from the spent fuel of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors in Fast Breeder Reactors, in the second stage. Large scale use of Thorium will subsequently follow making use of Uranium-233 that will be bred in Fast Breeder Reactors, when adequate nuclear installed capacity in the country has been built. Accordingly, the utilisation of Thorium as a practically inexhaustible energy source has been contemplated during the third stage of the Indian nuclear programme, which can be reached after a few decades. The first stage of nuclear power programme comprising indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) is in industrial domain. A Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) under the second stage is being commissioned by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

For the near term, the Government in July 2014, had announced tripling of the then existing capacity of 4780 MW in the next ten years, that is by the year 2024. A capacity of 1000 MW has already been added with the start of commercial operation