

[18 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

### **National Electricity Policy**

1548. SHRI BALWANT *alias* BALAPTE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that National Electricity Policy is being prepared;
- (b) if so, the details thereof,
- (c) whether the States have been consulted in this regard; and
- (d) whether the policy is likely to take into account the regional compulsions of States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Section 3(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003 which came into force with effect from 10.6.2003 provides that the Central Government shall, from time to time, prepare the National Electricity Policy and tariff policy, in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Electricity Authority for development of the power system based on optimal utilization of resources such as coal, natural gas, nuclear substances or materials, hydro and renewable sources of energy.

Based on comments received on the previous draft and the objectives of the National Common Minimum Programme as revised draft National Electricity Policy has now been formulated. The views received from stakeholders have also been taken into account.

Draft National Electricity Policy aims at achieving the objectives of providing access to electricity to all households in next five years, fully meeting the demand of electricity, making available supply of reliable and quality power at reasonable rates and increasing per capita consumption to over 1000 units by year 2012. It addresses the issues of rural electrification, generation, transmission, distribution, technology development, financing, private sector participation, energy conservation, promotion of renewable and non-conventional sources of energy, protection of consumers' interests etc.

Consultations have been done with the State Governments on the revised draft National Electricity Policy.