

Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index

1361. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog has just released the Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index, ranking States on three parameters;

(b) whether the Index is aimed at helping States to identify and address problems in farm sector suffering from low growth, low income and agrarian unrest; and

(c) whether, according to NITI Aayog Index, agrarian reforms have remained patchy, partial and implemented in a slipshod manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, NITI Aayog has launched a Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI) on 31st October, 2016. The three indicators: (i) Agricultural market reforms (ii) Land lease reforms (iii) Reforms related to forestry on private land-felling and transit of trees were used for ranking of the States and UTs in AMFFRI.

(b) and (c) Agricultural reforms in India so far has been partial and largely restricted to follow the old trajectory. The purpose of the AMFFRI is to sensitise the states to focus on agricultural reforms related to agricultural marketing, land leasing and agro-forestry on private lands. These indicators reveal ease of doing agribusiness and opportunities to farmers to benefit from modern trade and commerce for wider option for sale of the produce. Besides, the reforms on land leasing and felling and transit of farm forestry produce aims at augmenting the farm income and facilitating occupational diversification.

Report of Oversight Committee for Subansiri Lower Hydrel Power Project

1362. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an eight member Project Oversight Committee for Subansiri Lower Hydro Electric Project was formed in December, 2014 by Government;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report to Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir. An eight member Committee named Project Oversight Committee

(POC) for Subhansiri Lower Hydro Electric Project was formed by the Government on 13th January 2015.

(b) and (c) 12 rounds of meetings/discussions were held by the POC during the period January, 2015 to February, 2016. However, due to difference of opinion on some technical issues relating to seismic aspects of dam and its abutment, geology of the region and Spillway design, two separate reports have been submitted to the Government by POC members of Assam and Government of India in January/February, 2016 respectively.

Upgradation of technologies for power generation

1363. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the Ministry to ensure that the power generators revive and upgrade their old plants running on outdated technologies;

(b) whether there is any time-frame or deadline therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Decision to undertake Renovation and Modernization (R&M) and Life Extension (LE) works of existing old power plants or replacement with new efficient supercritical units is taken by the concerned State and Central power utilities depending on their requirement. The generating utilities plan the R&M/LE works/replacement works considering the condition of machine, grid requirements and cost effectiveness.

R&M intervention is normally done after 1,00,000 hours of operation or approx. 15 years whereas LE intervention is normally done after 1,60,000 hours of operation or approx. 25 years.

Rural electrification target

†1364. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the target fixed by Government for providing electricity to all the villages in the country has been achieved;

(b) the number of villages in States/Union Territories, at present, which have not been electrified, State-wise; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.