

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) In Uttar Pradesh, there are 40080 villages yet to be electrified as on 31.03.04.

(b) To achieve the objective of the National Common Minimum Programme of completing rural household electrification in five years a new strategy has been drawn up, which envisages:

- (i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) of 33/11 KV substations, with at least one such substation in each block appropriately networked and linked to the State transmission system.
- (ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) by providing Distribution Transformers) with at least one such transformer in every village.
- (iii) Rural Households Electrification of un-electrified households from village distribution transformer(s).
- (iv) Decentralized distributed generation system for such villages where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective.

(c) Uttar Pradesh has been advised to target completion of village electrification by the end of the 10th Plan.

1000 MW power plant in Maharashtra

*422. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC had decided to set up a 1000 MW power plant at Mauda in Nagpur district of Maharashtra and so far about Rs. one crore has already been spent;

(b) the present status of this power project and by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the total deficit of power in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions of Maharashtra and what steps are proposed to be taken to meet the total demand?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) NTPC has identified a site for development of a 1000 MW power plant at Mauda in Nagpur District of Maharashtra. Works for various site specific studies

such as Topographical Survey, Geo-Technical Investigation, Seismic Study, Environmental Impact Assessment Study and Make-Up; Water Study etc., for the project have been taken up by NTPC to examine the Techno-Eco-nomic viability of the project. So far, approximately Rs.21 lakhs have been spent on various site specific studies mentioned above.

Government of Maharashtra (GOM) conveyed its in-principle clearance for availability of 50 Million Cubic Metres of Water for the project from Gosikhurd Irrigation Project and which is expected to be completed within three years, once their fund requirement is tied-up. The confirmation of funding tie-up and time frame for assured water supply is still awaited from Maharashtra Government.

Coal availability from the near by coal mines is required to be confirmed.

Setting up of the project will be taken up depending upon the establishment of Techno-Economic viability of the project.

(c) As reported by Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB), re-gion-wise power demand and supply study is not carried out. The study is carried out for the entire MSEB system. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) have informed that the total peak and energy deficit of power in the State of Maharashtra during the period April-July, 2004 and 3,102 MW (21.3%) and 2818 Million Units (9.5%) respectively.

To meet the power deficits, Maharashtra has proposed a capacity addition of 1950 MW in 10th Plan in the State sector. Maharashtra is also entitled to a share of 1074 MW during Tenth Plan from central projects.

Crimes in" Metropolitan cities

†*423. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any effective steps to deal with increasing crimes in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the schemes being formulated for this purpose; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to implement the schemes?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.