

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Electricity is a Concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity at affordable rate to all the consumers including Farmers, in a State / UT falls within the purview of the respective State Government / State Power Utility. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various measures for improvement in power sector and to provide electricity at affordable rates. The State Government can give subsidy to any class of consumers including farmers, to the extent they consider appropriate as per provisions of section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003 as well as clause 8.3 of the Tariff Policy. There is no specific provision to give free power to farmers by the Union Government.

(c) and (d) Payment of compensation for the land acquired from the land owners, including farmers, for Thermal/Hydro Power Projects is made as per the existing policy.

Revival of gas based power plants

1753. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several gas based power plants have been stranded;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;

(c) whether any subsidies and tax concessions are being offered to those plants and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is now planning to revive 25GW stranded gas based capacity to push consumption of the fuel and transform the nation into a gas based economy; and

(e) the time by when a decision in the matter will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) and (b) A total of 14305 MW gas based power generation capacity is stranded in the country due to non-availability of domestic gas. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) have informed that domestic gas is being supplied to the power sector as per current production level and domestic natural gas supply to power sector can improve only in case production levels increase in future and as per prevailing MoP&NG guidelines.

(c) to (e) Government has provided for Nil Customs duty on import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Natural Gas (NG), if it is used for generation of electrical energy

by a generating company, as defined in section 2(28) of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003) to supply electrical energy or to engage in the business of supplying electrical energy to the grid. The Gas based power plants are free to import the LNG, generate power and sell it to the consumers.

Adverse impact of LED bulbs on environment

1754. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 76 per cent of India's LED bulbs fail safety test;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any survey conducted has proved that large scale use of LED bulbs is environmentally hazardous?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Quality standards for LED products are laid down and enforced by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). BIS has informed that a survey carried out by Nielsen Market Research Group has alleged that more than 76 per cent of the LED bulb brands across 200 electrical retail outlets were found to be non-compliant with consumer safety standards.

MeitY has notified "Electronics and IT Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012 (CRO) mandating Indian safety standards for the notified goods in October, 2012. Self -Ballasted LED Lamps for general services and fixed general purpose LED Luminaries are included under the CRO. As per the provisions of the Order, registration is granted by BIS after successful completion of testing of product at BIS recognized labs as per applicable Indian Safety Standards. MeitY is executing the surveillance of notified goods registered by BIS and the non-compliant cases are forwarded to BIS for necessary action as per provisions of BIS Act/ Rules. MeitY has informed that approximately 5% of registration granted by BIS for LED product category is non-compliant with the notified Indian Safety Standards.

Further, LED bulbs distributed to domestic consumers across the country under Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) Scheme by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture company of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry of Power, undergo 3-tier (at bidding stage, distribution stage and post distribution stage) quality control checks, to ensure that only high quality LED bulbs