

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) As per the tariff notification dated 30.3.1992 of the Government of India (Ministry of Power), power projects by private sector power promoters are allowed a 16% rate of return on subscribed equity corresponding to 68.5% Plant Load Factor (PLF) for thermal projects plants and 85% availability for hydro- electric power plants. Apart from this, an additional incentive not exceeding 0.7% is allowed on the subscribed equity for each percentage increase of the normative PLF/availability. Under the revised mega power policy, certain fiscal benefits including customs duty exemptions on capital goods, deemed exports benefits, tax holiday, etc. have been extended to large size power projects of private and public sectors provided certain conditions are fulfilled. The rate of return for licensee companies has been delinked from the RBI rate in order to provide better incentives to the licensees.

The policy to encourage private sector participation in the power sector in the fields of generation and distribution was announced in 1991. The Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 were also amended in 1991 to provide a legal framework for facilitating the investments. After further amendment in the Electricity Laws in 1998, transmission activity has been given an independent status which has made the entry of private sector in this area possible. The Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 has enabled establishment of regulatory commissions in the Centre and the States.

Technology Summit for Cheap Power

1847. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to hold a technology Summit next year to bring technology for cheap power in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the countries/private parties who have been approached/shown interest and special incentives proposed to motivate transfer of such technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is proposing to organize 'Empower India 2001' next year as an exhibition in

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tandem with a major International Conference on various aspects of the power industry in India. The Ministry of Power will also be associated with this event.

The exhibition will provide an opportunity for the power industry to showcase the technological capabilities and best practices. This Conference will also examine and deliberate on international experiences, on technology transfer, financing options, innovative strategies for least cost options, managerial practices etc.

Apart from the Private sector engaged in the power sector, both from India and abroad, the central public sector undertakings in the power sector are also expected to participate.

Modernisation and revival of power generating projects

† 1848. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH LALAN':

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power generation capacity can be increased by modernisation and revival of existing power generating projects in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified such projects where modernisation and revival is required;

(c) if so, the names of those projects and the extent of increase in terms of percentage likely to be achieved in power generation after revival of those projects; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is possible to increase the power generation of existing power generating projects by undertaking Renovation and Modernisation (R and M), Up-rating and Life Extension (L.E.) works. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in consultation with State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Utilities have identified various thermal and hydro power stations requiring R and M, Up-rating and Life Extension works during 9th, 10th and 11th Plans.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.