(b) how the purchase of power generated from these projects will be ensured, so that financially viable projects may be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) The Government is promoting installation of wind power projects in the country including low wind velocity states through private sector investment by providing various fiscal and financial incentives such as Accelerated Depreciation benefit; and concessional custom duty exemption on certain components of wind electric generators. Besides, Generation Based Incentive (GBI) Scheme was available for the wind projects commissioned on or before 31 March, 2017.

In addition to fiscal and other incentives as stated above, following steps also have been taken to promote installation of wind capacity in the country:–

- Technical support including wind resource assessment and identification of potential sites through the National Institute of Wind Energy, Chennai.
- In order to facilitate inter-state sale of wind power, the inter-state transmission charges and losses have been waived off for wind and solar projects to be commissioned by March, 2022.
- Issued Guidelines for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Process for procurement of Power from Grid Connected Wind Power Projects. These Guidelines aim to enable the Distribution Licensees to procure wind power at competitive rates in a cost effective manner. Further, the wind power projects are set up by private developers based on techno-economic viability of the project. The Government has issued ' Guidelines for Development of Onshore Wind Power Projects' dated 22 October 2016 for orderly growth of wind power sector in the country, including low wind velocity States.

(b) The electricity generated through wind power projects is purchased through tendering process at competitive prices in accordance with the Guidelines for tariff based competitive bidding for wind power issued by the Government on 8th December, 2017. The guidelines *inter-alia* provides that the power purchase agreement period should be not less than 25 years from the date of the scheduled commissioning date or from the date of full commissioning of the projects, whichever is earlier.

Disinvestment of power sector PSUs

2673. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether disinvestment plan of power sector PSUs is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for disinvestment of power sector PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has approved listing through disinvestment upto 25% paid-up equity capital out of Government' s shareholding of 100% in NEEPCO and 75% in THDC respectively. The Government had also approved the proposal of Offer For Sale (OFS) upto 10% paid-up equity capital of NTPC out of Government' s shareholding of 69.74%. Out of which GoI disinvested 6.63% in August, 2017 and Gol realized an amount of ₹ 9117.92 crores.

(c) Disinvestment helps CPSEs and also the Government in the following manner:–

(i) Minority stake sale, including by listing CPSEs on stock exchanges, promotes and people' s ownership and improves efficiencies of CPSEs through accountability of its shareholders.

(ii) Efficient management of public investment in CPSEs for accelerating economic development and augmenting Government' s resources for higher expenditure.

(iii) It brings in operational efficiencies in CPSEs through strategic disinvestment, ensuring their greater contribution to economy.

Formation of power sector council

2674. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to set up a power sector council to address the issues between the Union and the States as part of the Ministry' s action plan;

(b) if so, what is the composition of this council; and

(c) what measures are being taken for bringing about a common agenda for Union and State Governments and ensure round the-clock power to all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no plan to set up a power sector council to address the issues between the Union and the States as part of the Ministry' s action plan.

(c) Electricity is a concurrent subject under the Constitution of India. To improve the power situation in the country and ensure round the clock power to all, the Ministry of Power, Government of India has taken significant measures through various schemes