

(c) whether Government have set up any contingency plan to tackle the situation arising because of unbundling of SEBs; and

(d) whether the unbundling of SEBs would not increase the cost of generation and distribution of power and hence putting more burden in consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, and Rajasthan have unbundled their State Electricity Boards. Several States have taken a decision to undertake power sector reforms. 14 States (Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi and Punjab) have since notified/constituted SERCs, with a view to undertake rationalisation of electricity tariff and to bring about transparency in relation to tariff and subsidies.

As a part of the strategy to give impetus to reforms and restructuring in the power sector, the Central Government has entered into Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the States of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, to support their reform efforts.

Unbundling of SEBs into separate entities for generation, transmission and distribution aims at bringing in greater accountability and improved performance in terms of efficiency and competition and in turn to ensure reliable power supply to all consumers at reasonable prices.

Special fund to protect environment

2610. **SHRI R.P. GOENKA:** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a special fund to ensure that power sector does not harm the environment;

(b) the size of the fund and what kind of investment will be

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financed from the special fund; and

(c) on what terms the assistance would be made available from this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As decided by the Ministry of Power, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) proposes to create a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for undertaking project related environment protection and water management work. The SPV is contemplated to be floated under NTPC in which 1% of the capital cost for setting up a power plant is likely to be set aside for afforestation and water management work. Depending on the initial experience with NTPC, the scope of SPV would be expanded later on so as to include other public sector undertakings of the Ministry of Power.

Rural Electrification

2611. **SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of the rural electrification was nil or negligible during the last three years in Assam, Sikkim, Bihar and Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance given to the States, State-wise, for rural electrification during these years; and

(c) the number of villages electrified so far during the above period and those remained unelectrified, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER