

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Section 13 (e) of the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 envisages the formulation of a tariff policy by the Central Government on the aid and advice of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).

A Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Power) to prepare a concept paper on tariff policy. The Group submitted its report in May, 2002.

Since tariff policy is of vital importance for the smooth development of the power sector, it has been considered necessary to have consultations with stakeholders and experts on the report of the working group and to finalise the draft tariff policy thereafter. In order to finalise the tariff policy after taking into account the comments and views of the various stakeholders and experts, a High Level Committee which includes Chairman, CEA and Managing Director of Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd. (CRISIL) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Power) was constituted on 7th June, 2002. In its meeting held on 8.11.2002 the Committee discussed the issues relating to generation, transmission and distribution and felt the need for further in depth discussions with various stakeholders before finalizing the draft tariff policy.

NTPC efforts to revive the DPC

1615. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the NTPC to revive and operate the Enron Sponsored Dabhol Power Company's power plant;

(b) whether a joint team consisting of NTPC IDBI, Central Electricity Authority, MSEB and the equipment manufacturers were asked to visit the site in the last week of October to inspect the feasibility of reviving the project, its likely cost and the anticipated time frame; and

(c) if so, whether the team has submitted its report and what are its findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Indian Financial Institutions having stakes in the Dabhol Power Project of M/s. Dabhol Power Company have

been making efforts to revive the project. Government of India has agreed to facilitate any amicable resolution of the related issues in this regard. As a first step, it has been agreed that interim revival package for restarting Phase-I of the project, which has been shut down since May, 2001, be worked out by the concerned agencies. Among other things, it has been proposed that the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) will under-take the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Phase-I on an interim basis as O&M contractors.

(b) In a meeting held in the Ministry of Power on 25th September, 2002, it was decided that a preliminary inspection of the Dabhol Power Plant would be conducted jointly by M/s. GE India, M/s. Bechtel, NTPC, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) and IDBI, to ascertain its condition and to work out an action plan for restart of Phase-I.

(c) The joint team visited the Dabhol power plant site during October 28—30, 2002. It was felt that a more detailed assessment and internal inspection of the equipment would need to be carried out by a team of experts, so as to ascertain the time frame for restarting the project as well as the likely expenditure to be involved.

Private investment in Power Generation

†1616. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indian and foreign private sector companies, with whom agreements have been signed during the last three years for power generation in the country;

(b) what is their installed generation capacity, State-wise; and

(c) the details of progress in other projects including the Daewoo Power Project in Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) and (b) As per available information, in regard to private power projects accorded Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), during the last three years, *i.e.* from 1.4.1999 to 31.3.2002, Power Purchase Agreements (PPA)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.