

the Government from time to time to cut delays in their implementation and remedial measures taken for their timely completion. As each hydro project is unique in its own way keeping in view the site conditions, the hydrological data and the extent of civil engineering, it may not be possible to fix a uniform time frame for implementation of different hydro-electric projects. However, efforts are being made by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Ltd. that execution of hydro electric projects is achieved in less than five years from the date of investment approval.

MoU signed between India and U.K. in Power Sector Reforms

861. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India and U.K. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in London to promote power sector reforms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to augment the power ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) During the visit of the Minister of Power to U.K. in the last week of June, 2002, a MoU was signed between India and U.K. for cooperation in the power sector. The MoU, *inter alia*, envisages establishment of a Joint Power Sector Working Group to promote and facilitate reforms in the power sector. It also envisages sector related studies, exchange of experts and other forms of cooperation in the power generation, transmission and distribution. The MoU also speaks of cooperation in the field of power by sharing information, experience and best practices.

Unifying Programmes for Wasteland Development

862. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government propose to bring all of the programmes relating to wasteland development under one umbrella;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the efforts made by Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the task force constituted to examine the private sector participation in the development of wastelands in the country has submitted its report;