

Uncorrected/Not for publication - 16.08.2010

Q. No. 304

DR. MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the target which is proposed to be done during the next Five Year Plan is not at all difficult if the subsidy which is given by the States is continued. But, does the Minister know that in many of the States, these particular concessions, which were given for producing energy by the windmills, have been stopped? Can the Minister ask the State Governments to give those subsidies again so that the targets put for the next Five Year Plan can be achieved?

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for a very good question. I would like to say that in the Tenth Plan, we had a very good target. Our target, at that time, was only 1,500 megawatts. But the results were so good that it became 5,426 megawatts. So, on this basis, we increased the target for the Eleventh Plan to 10,500 megawatts.

(Contd. by tmv-1k)

-SK-TMV-SC/1K/11.45

DR. FROOQ ABDULLAH (CONTD.): Then, subsequently it had to be reduced to 9,000 megawatts because certain things have happened. One of these is that the subsidy to the States was reduced. I will take up this issue with the States. Otherwise, we have given a very good generation-based incentive which is so good for the people and, I think, that should also help in setting up more wind mills.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, this is a very important question. Wind energy is the cleanest energy which is possible. The hon. Minister has said in his reply that the

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target for the Eleventh Plan is 9,000 megawatts. As against that, 5,035 megawatts have already been achieved. Now my question is: Have you made any assessment of the total potential of wind energy in this country? If it is done, what is the total potential and what percentage has already been tapped? Have you got any action plan to tap the entire wind energy potential by the Government and also by involving private parties? There is a request from a private party that the incentives given are inadequate. Will you consider giving additional incentives so that the wind energy potential is fully tapped within a specified time?

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Sir, the wind energy potential that has been estimated for the country is 48,500 megawatts. That is the potential. At the same time, I would also like to say that the Ministry, through C-WET, has already completed 12,000 megawatts up to this stage. But I would also like to bring to the notice of all the Members of this House that we have put up, through C-WET, which is an organisation that looks after wind energy, which is centred in Chennai, wind monitoring stations in 650 places throughout the country. Out of that, 233 have been found to have good potential. I would like to tell the gentleman from Andhra Pradesh who had first asked this question that out of that, 32 sites are from there.

SHRI N. K. SINGH: Sir, my question arises from the first question. One of the hurdles which you have mentioned in part (b) of your answer relating to Andhra Pradesh is the constraints put by the regulatory authority in Andhra Pradesh which has not allowed wind power to be utilised for captive use. My question is

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this. On the basis of current technology -- technology is changing very rapidly in this area -- what is the margin of difference between the cost of, on an average, thermal power per unit and the cost of, on an average, wind power per unit?

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Sir, the average cost of thermal power is roughly Rs.3 to Rs.4 per unit. As regards wind power, I think, it is also about the same, that is, Rs.3 per unit. It is the average that we have calculated. This is one set of answer to your questions.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the problem with Andhra Pradesh is that the regulatory constraint does not allow wind power projects for captive use, third party sales and banking of power. As per the APERC staff order for wind, the entire cost of evacuation and infrastructure creation has to be borne by the developer. The procedure for various clearances and approvals takes far greater time and the people lose their interest to get on with it. My Secretary, the Secretary from the Ministry, went particularly to Andhra Pradesh to have detailed discussions and to tell them "For God's sake, let us get faster on this". We have also another problem which is relating to forest clearances at times. Now, the length of the mast has been increased to 18 metres. That might help us in a greater amount to be able to enter the forest areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 305. (Interruptions)...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, this question is relating to Andhra Pradesh. (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. (Interruptions)... Please resume your place. (Interruptions)...

Question No.305.

(Ends)

(Followed by 1L/VK)