

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** The hampering led to the delay in the meeting. The meeting was to have been held on the 21st May, but it had actually to be held on the 28th May.

**श्री गुलशन :** भारतीय वफद का जो अपमान पाकिस्तान की ओर से हुआ है क्या किसी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय संघि में यह व्यवस्था है कि किसी देश का अपमान हो तो वह चीज अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सभा को भेजी जाएगी ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** That is definitely so. It is really an international discourtesy.

### Electric Connections to Agriculturists

\*213. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no uniform policy in the States for giving priority in the matter of granting electric connections to the farmers for running tube-wells or otherwise utilising them for irrigation purposes; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra):** (a) Almost in all the States priority is already being given to rural loads particularly the pumping and other agricultural loads and there is an emphasis on rural electrification.

(b) Government of India have already laid great emphasis on energizing of irrigation wells.

**Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Is it a fact that numerous tubewells are lying idle because they have not received the electric connections, and if so, have Government assessed the number of such tubewells?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao):** I would be

very thankful to the hon. Member if he can give me a list of these tube-wells which are not connected or are lying idle. In cases where electricity is not available or has not been connected, diesel pumps are being used.

**Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will Government lay on the Table a copy of the instructions they have issued or the advice they have tendered to State Governments in this connection?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I shall be glad to do so.

**Shri A. P. Sharma:** Is Government aware that in a large number of states, particularly in the state of Bihar, a large number of tube-wells are not functioning because electric connection has not been given to the farmers?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I have heard that in Bihar, especially north Bihar, where electricity is scarce, electric connections are not given. But we hope that with the development of the transmission lines in the next Plan we shall be able to supply electric connections.

**Shri A. P. Sharma:** Here farmers have spent their money on tube-wells but these are lying idle for want of electric connection. On the other hand, there is shortage of food in the country. How long is it going to take to supply them these electric connections?

**Mr. Speaker:** Dr. Singhvi.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Are Government aware that in different states, electricity rates are extremely variable and that the rates chargeable to agriculturists are many times more than those chargeable to industrialists? If so, why is it so?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** Quite so. These rates are variable. It is very unfortunate that in some of the states the rates for agriculturists are much higher than those charged for industrialists. We would like these rates to be reasonable. Minor irrigation comes under the

**Food and Agriculture Ministry.** They have been trying to see that the rates are reduced and uniformity is maintained in this connection.

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** Just now the hon. Minister said that these rates are variable and as a result the agriculturists are suffering. I am told Government realised this last year itself. During last one year, how far have Government proceeded to reduce the electricity rates charged to agriculturists?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** So far the action taken was in respect of Eastern U.P., North Bihar and Gujarat where the rates are very high. Government have said that each individual case as comes up will be considered and subsidy given.

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** In West Bengal also, it is very high.

**Dr. Sarojini Mahishi:** In view of the fact that the allotment for minor irrigation in any cases has not been used and the pump sets given to agriculturists are getting rusted, may I know whether the Minister will be pleased to give a report on the amount utilised in different states for minor irrigation and also the electric connections given to the agriculturists, specially under the crash programme?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I shall pass on this question to my colleague, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, with whom minor irrigation lies.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** In view of the fact that electricity rates are so high for rural areas, is any step being contemplated to enhance the rate for industrialists so that there may be a common rate?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** That has been the attempt, to see that the rates charged to agriculturists are as minimum as possible. Attempts are being continually made towards that end.

श्री मन्मथ झा आजाद : पूरक प्रश्नों के दिये गये जवाबों की पृष्ठ भूमि में

क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछ सकता हूँ कि आप ने कोई एसेसमेंट किया है जिस के आधार पर जो आज ट्यूब वेल काम कर रहे हैं उत्तर बिहार में या आपके उत्तर प्रदेश में वे कितने हैं और जो ट्यूब वेल काम नहीं कर रहे हैं वे कितने हैं? जो कमेटी बनाई गयी जिस की रिपोर्ट सरकार के पास है, उनके आधार क्या आप यह कह सकते हैं कि ट्यूब वेल के लिए जो आपने प्राथमिकता देने का वचन दिया है, उसके अनुसार कहां तक काम हो रहा है और कितने प्रतिशत किसानों को आज पानी नहीं मिल रहा है, उन में से जिन को मिलना चाहिये?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** The subject of tube-wells is with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. But since the hon. Member has put a very useful question, I shall also call for the information from the respective states and see what action can be taken.

श्री बड़े : चम्बल योजना पूरी हो जाने के बाद भी चूँकि किसानों को कर्नकशन नहीं दिये जाते हैं या नहीं दिये जा सकते हैं, इसलिए थर्मल स्टेशन आपने शुरू कर दिये हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि थर्मल स्टेशन से जो बिजली पैदा होती है वह बिजली किसानों को क्यों नहीं दी जाती है मध्य प्रदेश में?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** Consistent with the funds we have got, every effort is being made to spread rural electrification as much as possible. It is hoped that we shall be able to supply in the Fourth Plan period more than a lakh of villages, I mean villages representing agricultural activities.

**Shrimati Akkamma Devi:** Are Government aware that there are states where there is power but no water in wells? If so, will Government give due attention to these areas so as to provide minor irrigation schemes?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I am afraid I have got to say the same thing. Minor irrigation is dealt with by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. I would request the hon. Member to put the question to that Ministry.

**श्री सरजू पाण्डेय :** जब रिहन्द डैम बन रहा था उस समय सरकार ने श्राशवासन दिया था कि पूर्व उत्तर प्रदेश को सस्ती बिजली दी जायेगी । मगर उस डैम को बने हुए भी तीन साल हो गये, अब तक सस्ती बिजली की व्यवस्था नहीं हुई । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस के बारे में भी कोई विचार कर रही है ।

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** As the hon. House knows, there was a committee appointed with Shri Venkataraman, Minister of Power, Madras, as convener, and the committee have made certain recommendations for rural electrification. One of the recommendations made was that it should be done as quickly as possible, and for that they have made some suggestions. These suggestions are being discussed with the various Ministries at the Centre.

**Shri M. L. Jadhav:** May I know whether Government have taken a decision for non-recovery of the minimum charges for use of power for agricultural pumps when they are idle?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** This is one of the items which is being discussed with the Ministry of Finance.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Apart from the rates, is the Minister aware that there are certain States where there is rural electrification of about 1,000 to 1,500 villages a year, while in Rajasthan we have not electrified even 1,000 villages in all. May I know whether the Government have any programme to boost up these States which have been lagging behind? What, in positive terms, does the Government propose to do in such matters?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** It is true that Rajasthan has only, I think, 2 per cent electrified villages as against the average of 8 per cent, and a much higher percentage in many other States. It will be our endeavour to see that as many villages, which represent agricultural activity, are electrified as possible. Especially in Rajasthan, we expect quite a good amount of power to be installed in the Fourth Plan.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** In positive terms, what are you doing now?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** The only thing I can say is that if a good case is made out by the Rajasthan Government that there are possibilities of using more power in a concentrated way, for agricultural purposes it will be considered.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will you kindly permit me to get a clarification? Is it not a fact that already a good case for Rs. 4 crores to be spent during this year has been submitted and approved by you?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I meant to answer for further assistance as a continuous process. The hon. Member may know that this year the Ministry of Finance has very kindly given Rs. 5 crores for the whole country for accelerating electric connections, and I think Rajasthan has a very substantial amount out of this.

**Shri Buta Singh:** May I know whether the Minister is in a position to inform the House whether the targets fixed in the Third Plan for electrification of the rural areas will be fulfilled or not?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I am very glad to state that achievement of rural electrification is, in fact, more than what we have provided for.

**Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:** May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the agriculturists in Assam cannot dream of using electricity? What steps do Govern-

ment propose to take to make electricity reach the agriculturists?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** It is quite true that in Assam, reaching the villages is more difficult because the places are widely spread out. The only thing I can say is that in Assam the amount of electricity that is available is being increased, and it should be possible to see that with more generation of power, more transmission lines come in and more villages are electrified.

#### Acquisition of land

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- \*214. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**  
**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**  
**Shrimati Tarkeshwari**  
**Sinha:**

Will the Minister of Works and Housing be pleased to refer to the reply given Starred Question No. 159 on the 25th February, 1965 and state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to examine the measures to be taken to expedite the proceedings for the acquisition of land for housing schemes for industrial workers has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement them?

**The Minister of Works and Housing (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A Summary of the recommendations of the Committee is placed on the table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-4632/65]. These will be considered by the next Conference of Housing Ministers and thereafter necessary action will be taken in the light of their recommendations.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** On 25th February, the reply given by the hon. Minister was that the committee would submit its report within two months.

Since six months have passed, I want to know what the recommendations of the Committee are.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The report has been received. I have given a summary of the recommendations in the statement that I have laid on the Table of the House. Before action can be taken on these recommendations, they have to go to the parent body, that is the Housing Ministers' Conference which convened this committee. That conference is likely to be held within about two months.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** May I know whether only big cities will be considered for housing schemes or smaller cities also which have some industries?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The report is in regard to the acquisition of lands and procedural difficulties. Lands are taken at a very high value and given to industrialists. The recommendations of the committee presided over by Prof. Thacker are contained in the statement; they have made very useful recommendations.

**Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** In the light of not-too-happy experiences of the performances of the States with regard to land reforms does not the Minister feel that it will not serve the purpose effectively if the matter is left to the States themselves?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** As far as I can see, I have explained to the House more than once that housing has not received in the Third Plan the same priority that it should have. Some hon. Members have also referred to it in this very House. We propose to take some steps in the matter, such as acquisition of lands, diversion of funds, setting up of Central and State Housing Boards. I am confident that if adequate funds are given by the Planning Commission we should be able to make a dent in the problem.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** In view of the great shortage of cement in Delhi and elsewhere and the sudden