

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):

(a) No.

(b) The bank has paid or provided for the payment of a sum of Rs. 102.98 lakhs to the depositors, against deposit liabilities of the order of Rs. 2.10 crores, and has, in addition, made preferential payments and payments to the secured creditors to the extent of Rs. 22.35 lakhs.

(c) The assets which are still to be recovered are mainly in the form of decreed debts and execution proceedings for the recovery of the amounts in question necessarily take time. Efforts are, however, being made to realise the assets, to the extent possible.

Working Girls' Hostel, New Delhi

*1264, **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported resort to satyagraha by a working girl, an inmate of the Working Girls' Hostel, Curzon Road, New Delhi protesting against mismanagement in the hostel;

(b) if so, whether inquiries have been made into the affairs of the hostel; and

(c) the result thereof?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (c). Attention of the Hon'ble Member is drawn to the statement made by me in the Lok Sabha on the 6th April, 1966, while replying to the debate on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development.

Rural Electrification

*1265, **Shri Karni Singhji:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Jashvant Mehta:
Shri Brij Raj Singh:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had assured that by the end

of 1969, the All-India figure of rural electrification would be 20 per cent and if so, how it is proposed to achieve this;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the year 1966-67, no financial provision has been made for rural electrification crash programme for each State over and above the Plan provision;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the States in India have achieved a much greater percentage of rural electrification than the State of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken to bring Rajasthan at par with other States?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): (a)

During the Irrigation and Power Seminar held in October, 1964, a target was set for achieving electrification of one lakh villages by October, 1969, the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, which was also reiterated in the conference of State Irrigation and Power Ministers held in November, 1965. This will mean electrification of approximately 17.5 per cent villages in the country. In accordance with the above conclusions the State authorities have been advised to take a number of steps, as recommended in the Seminar, for expeditious achievement in rural electrification. Most of the States have already initiated action on those suggestions.

(b) The rural electrification crash programme was introduced during the years 1964-65 and 1965-66 in order to bring about rapid increase in food production by energisation of pumpsets and also provide additional funds to the States. During the Fourth Plan, this objective is planned to be achieved by laying emphasis on the energisation of pumpsets as a part of the normal programme of rural electrification. Rural electrification programme will henceforth be drawn up with a bias towards agricultural production. During the year 1966-67, a Plan provision of Rs. 44 crores has been made for rural electrification, as against the

total provision (including that for crash programme) of Rs. 30.00 crores during 1965-66.

(c) Yes. Rural electrification in Rajasthan by the end of the Third Five Year Plan is expected to be of the order of 4 per cent as against the All-India figure of 9.6 per cent.

(d) The Fourth Plan has not yet been finalised. However, the tentative target for Rajasthan during the Fourth Plan has been fixed as 7,000 villages which will help Rajasthan to come at par with other States. Advance planning for procuring necessary materials have been done by the Board and partial order therefor have also been placed. Suitable organisational set up has also been built up to cope with the increased tempo of work.

Power Shortage in States

*1266. Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri Hukam Chand

Kachhavaitya:

Shri P. L. Burupal:

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:

Shrimati Sarda Mukerjee:

Shri Ravindra Varma:

Shri R. S. Pandey

Shri Thirumala Rao:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the States where acute power shortage is still being felt;

(b) the monthly consumption of energy in these States during 1965 and how much of it was less during the period from October to December, 1965 as compared with earlier months;

(c) the monthly consumption of energy in these States from January to March, 1966; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the shortage?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):

(a) The States where acute power shortage is still being felt are Punjab, Rajasthan, Chambal Service Area of

Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the figures of monthly power consumption in the States of Madras and Punjab during 1965 and during the period January-March, 1966 is given in Annexure I, laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6116 (i)/66].

The power consumption in respect of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Kerala is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

(d) A statement giving the steps taken to meet power shortage in various States is appended in Annexure II, laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6116 (ii)/66].

Price of Gold

*1267. Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Shri P. C. Borooah:

Shri Kindar Lal:

Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union have suggested a world-wide increase in the price of gold as a means of providing more liquid money for investment in developing countries;

(b) whether Government have considered this proposal; and

(c) if so, what is their reaction?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) In a meeting of the UNCTAD Committee on Invisibles and Financing Related to Trade, the USSR Delegate advocated an increase in the price of gold.

(b) and (c). Government's view has been that a rise in the price of gold will benefit only a few countries which have substantial gold production or substantial official reserves of gold.