

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, May 22, 1995/ Jyaistha 1, 1917 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rural Electrification

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*641. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages not electrified so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have made any study recently to assess the Power requirements in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details and findings thereof, State-wise;

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose during 1994-95, State-wise;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to provide electricity to all the villages in the country; and

(f) the target fixed for rural electrification in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) There are 84,750 villages yet to be electrified as on 31.03.1995. State-wise details of such villages is at *Annexure-I*

(b) and (c). A separate survey has not been made to assess the power requirements in the rural areas. However, in the 14th Power Survey Report, which covers the requirements of electricity projected at the national level published in March, 1991 by the Central Electricity Authority, an estimate has been made of the energy consumption for pumpsets, tubewells and lift irrigation schemes for each State and Union Territory upto 1994-95. The projections made in this regard, State-wise are at *Annexure-II*.

(d) The State-wise details of funds allocated for rural electrification work in 1994-95 is at *Annexure-III*.

(e) The majority of the remaining unelectrified villages are located in remote, inaccessible and difficult areas requiring heavy capital investment for their

electrification. The State Governments and State Electricity Boards have been requested to accord higher priority and prepare necessary action plans for completing electrification of the remaining villages.

(f) A target of 50,000 villages (including 10,000 remote villages to be electrified through Non-conventional Energy Sources) has fixed for electrification during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

ANNEXURE-I

*State-Wise Number Of Villages Yet To Be electrified
As on 31.3.1995*

S.No.	States	Villages to be electrified as on 1.4.1995
1.	Andhra Pradesh	②
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1108
3.	Assam	494
4.	Bihar	19784
5.	Goa	②
6.	Gujarat	②
7.	Haryana	②
8.	Himachal Pradesh	②
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	246
10.	Karnataka	②
11.	Kerala	②
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4114
13.	Maharashtra	②
14.	Manipur	182
15.	Meghalaya	2495
16.	Mizoram	59
17.	Nagaland	13
18.	Orissa	13605 (b)
19.	Punjab	②
20.	Rajasthan	5047
21.	Sikkim	②
22.	Tamil Nadu	②
23.	Tripura	1149
24.	Uttar Pradesh	27546 (a)
25.	West Bengal	8928
Total States		84750
Total UTs		②
Total All India		84750

② Cent percent villages electrified.

(a) As On 1.4.1995

(b) As on 1.3.1995

ANNEXURE-II

Energy requirement for irrigation pumpsets/State tubewells and lift irrigation for the year 1994-95 as projected in the Fourteenth Electric Power Survey

S.No.	State/UT	(MKWh)	
		Pumpsets/ Tubewells	Lift Irrigation
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7514.82	100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	62.20	0.00
4.	Bihar	2503.00	548.00
5.	Gujarat	7443.11	0.00
6.	Haryana	3765.00	297.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	45.00	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	168.00	148.00
9.	Karnataka	4792.68	84.20
10.	Kerala	263.67	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2555.81	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	8688.09	190.47
13.	Manipur	6.20	0.00
14.	Meghalaya	1.50	0.00
15.	Mizoram	0.09	0.00
16.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	400.00	0.00
18.	Punjab	6583.00	0.00
19.	Rajasthan	4397.00	67.00
20.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	4384.45	0.00
22.	Tripura	24.22	0.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	9184.00	640.00
24.	West Bengal	571.25	0.00
25.	Delhi	36.00	0.00
26.	Goa	16.00	0.00
Union Territories			
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00
28.	Dadara & Nagar Haveli	0.57	0.00
29.	Daman & Diu	1.27	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	2.20	0.00
31.	Pondicherry	75.84	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00
Total		63485.00	2075.00

ANNEXURE-III

Statewise Plan allocation for Rural Electrification during 1994-95

S.No. States	REC	(Rs. in crores)	
		State Plan	Grand total
1. Andhra Pradesh	73.73	20.00	93.73
2. Arunachal Pradesh	5.50	9.00	14.50
3. Assam	7.25	6.00	13.25
4. Bihar	4.75	1.50	6.25
5. Delhi	1.00	0.00	1.00
6. Goa	0.25	0.20	0.45
7. Gujarat	43.82	17.00	60.82
8. Haryana	14.16	19.00	33.16
9. Himachal Pradesh	6.00	3.00	9.00
10. Jammu & Kashmir	4.00	4.00	8.00
11. Karnataka	15.00	51.46	66.46
12. Kerala	8.00	7.00	15.00
13. Madhya Pradesh	53.00	5.00	58.00
14. Maharashtra	62.54	100.00	162.54
15. Manipur	10.40	0.45	10.85
16. Meghalaya	6.25	0.00	6.25
17. Mizoram	7.70	0.00	7.70
18. Nagaland	1.50	0.00	1.50
19. Orissa	25.00	2.00	27.00
20. Punjab	14.00	20.00	34.00
21. Rajasthan	64.93	41.00	105.93
22. Sikkim	1.00	2.00	3.00
23. Tamil Nadu	52.82	4.50	57.32
24. Tripura	11.25	2.00	13.25
25. Uttar Pradesh	108.00	23.00	131.00
26. West Bengal	21.00	4.00	25.00
27. Coop/NMH	32.00	0.00	32.00
Sub-total	654.85	342.11	996.96
Grant for Kutirjyoti Programme	5.00		5.00
Grand Total	659.85		1001.96

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : As per the information available, cumulatively about five lakh villages have been electrified, out of which 2,62,000 Harijan villages also have been electrified and out of 1,11,886 tribal villages, 77,000 tribal villages have been electrified.

My pertinent question on this information is that though Government have declared that so many villages have been electrified, but once you visit the villages, you will find that most of the villages are not electrified in appropriate manner.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether when the entire village is electrified, it is declared electrified or if only in one house in a particular village electricity is received, they declare the entire village has been electrified.

I would also like to know what is the part played by the Central Government in this regard because the State Electricity Boards are particularly responsible for the rural electrification. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the Central Government's role in rural electrification. Is it only there to provide grants to State Electricity Boards or are they also monitoring? I would like to know whether the work is done by the Central Government in real terms or not.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Rural electrification is the State programme and it has to be carried out by the State alone. Rural Finance Corporation gives technical assistance and financial support to some extent.

Regarding the villages electrified, if a line is there and if in a rural village, a house is given one electricity point, then it is considered electrified.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Is it the whole village?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : No, it is not a whole village. The definition is that a village should be classified as electrified if electricity has been used within its revenue area for any purpose whatsoever.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though I am not favoured by the hon. Minister through the replies to what I wanted to say, anyhow I am going in for my second supplementary.

The Minister has already agreed that the majority of the remaining unelectrified villages are located in remote, inaccessible and difficult areas requiring heavy capital investment for their electrification. Also, in the last paragraph of the reply, they have set a target of 50,000 villages, including 10,000 remote villages to be electrified through Non-conventional Energy Sources. I would like to state that as far as Non-conventional Energy Sources are concerned, only in the developed areas they can work. Through my personal experience in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, I have seen it that where the solar energy system has been introduced, the power is kept in the batteries. Then, once the battery goes out of order, it has to be sent from there to Bangalore for repairing and then, it will come back from Bangalore. In the process, it takes three months' time. By that time, there is no electricity available in the villages. so, in view of that, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has gone through all the pros and cons, whether in these inaccessible areas, whether nothing is available and capital investment is more, what arrangement of electricity he is going to provide for regular electricity supply.

Then there is another point in regard to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I have seen in Annexure-III that no money has been earmarked for this year in respect of the Union Territories. They have said this. Only the States have been provided money. What is the reason for this? Why has the grant not been provided to the Union Territories also? That is number one.

MR. SPEAKER : By putting too many questions, you do not get the reply.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : With one sentence, I complete my question. In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the work is done by the casual labourers. People of ten years and 12 years of age are working. I would like to know from the Minister whether he has received the proposal for creation of 1200 posts in Group 'D' category. If it is so, what action has been taken in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : Well, this is all a jumble, going in all directions. I do not know how to get the reply.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Sir, this solar Photovoltaic Programme is a new Programme. We have only taken it up on a trial basis. As the hon. Member has put it, there are problems and difficulties when that instrument has to be repaired. I think with proper training and with the advance of time in the development of this technology, we will be able to give better results.

About the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the allocation is finalised by the Planning Commission. So, I do not have anything to comment on that.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : All these are also finalised by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after 47 years of India's independence, 85,750 villages have not been electrified so far. India is a country of villages. The Government neither have any intention nor a sound policy about the rural electrification. Whenever this issue is raised, the responsibility is shifted to the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER : According to the constitutional provision, this question cannot be asked as to who is responsible for rural electrification.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that the villages already electrified remain without electricity for weeks together as a result of which the farmers and the general public face a lot of difficulty. Mr. Speaker, Sir, initially, the target of power generation was set at 30,000 megawatts during the Eighth Five Year Plan but later on, it was scaled down to 20,000 megawatts. I would like to know the reasons for it and what impact it would have on the rural electrification?

[English]

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : The electricity is in the Concurrent List. So it is the responsibility of the States to generate and transfer the electricity.

MR. SPEAKER : Now Madam, on this, I would be on the side of the Member. As far as electrifying the villages is concerned, it is the responsibility of the State Government. But as far as production of the entire electricity for the nation is concerned, you have a bigger role to play.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Yes, Sir, I accept that. But due to financial constraints, the target of 30,000 MW had to be reduced and it has now come to 20,000 MW. We are trying to cope up with this.

Regarding the question of Andaman and Nicobar, I have got the figures now. In Andaman and Nicobar, there are 491 villages and they are all electrified. So there is no provision made for this year.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : The target of power generation has been reduced to 20,000 megawatts. Would it not adversely affect the target of rural electrification?

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know whether the reduction in the power generation will affect the rural electrification?

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : What steps are being taken for mobilising the financial resources? Power is being produced from waste material in many countries of the world. The power from the waste material is cheaper and convenient. Whether the Government of India also propose to consider on this aspect?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a non-conventional energy source.

[English]

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : This is also a new technology and we are trying to introduce this in our country. But as far as I know, the power from the waste is costlier than that from the conventional energy sources. That is why, there are some problems.

MR. SPEAKER : We are doing it also for the gas-based power electricity.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am very grateful to you for your saying that you agree with the hon. Member. That is correct. One of the Ministers has said that it is the responsibility of the State Governments to provide electrification in the rural areas. Then the Minister has said that this subject is in the Concurrent List. You will appreciate that the Central Government has got a Corporation through which they can even help the States. Though it is the duty of the State Government, yet there is the problem of constraint of

money with the State Governments. Some States have already completed the target of full electrification like Maharashtra. But some States have not completed the target fully. They have completed about 70 to 80 per cent of the target. you will be surprised to know that according to the Government Report, the target has been achieved in every State. But in my State, in my constituency, which is adjacent to Calcutta, I have not seen the villages being electrified. That is why, I want to know from the hon. Minister which are the States in which rural electrification has not improved at all. Will the Minister take up the matter with the State Government so that he can finance the State Government for electrifying the areas as early as possible?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Yes, Sir. There are 82 per cent of the remaining unelectrified villages. They are concentrated in the four major States—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. These States are facing serious financial problems and are not eager to extend their remunerative programme for village electrification. These States are heavily defaulting in paying of the REC dues. That makes it more difficult for the Corporation to release further funds.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Government is giving priority to the private sector in this field. I would like to know the percentage of electricity proposed to be given to the villages out of the power generated in the public as well as in the private sector? Several States, including the State of Gujarat, have stated that 50% of the power generated in these new power schemes will be provided to the rural areas. Whether the private sector would be given special subsidy for encouraging them to generate power from the non-conventional energy sources, including the photo-voltaic or other sources in the rural areas, particularly in the Andaman Islands and North East Areas so that the villages may get the facility soon?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : The suggestion given by the hon. Member is very good. We would definitely consider it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : May I caution the Minister that it becomes an assurance?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : But due to financial constraints, we have to limit our programme.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, out of 25 States in the country, some villages in 14 States are yet to be electrified. In Annexure-I, what has been supplied by the hon. Minister in reply is in comparison to Annexure-II where the State-wise allotment has also been shown. Here, you will find, Sir, that these States have completed REC programme. I would like to know in what manner. Whether it starts with villages, if not all

the villages, but the States has completed REC programme and it has been shown in the list but allotment of funds has been shown in respect of those States where it has already been completed. I want to know what are the criteria for allotment of funds to REC scheme in several States. I would like to know whether the Government is considering cases of yet to be electrified villages of several States on priority basis for some allotment, either from loan assistance or from Central Budget.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Sir, I have already answered that if one point is given, then the village is considered to be electrified. That is decided by the Planning Commission and the selection of the villages also is with the Planning Commission, not with the Department.

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know the criteria on which the funds are given by the Central Government to the State Governments.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : That is decided by the Planning Commission.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Sir, it has not been properly answered... (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find that - it is admitted also by the hon. Minister - Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, among them, have nearly 80 per cent of the total number of unelectrified villages. Bihar has roughly 25 per cent of the total; Orissa has roughly 15 per cent of the total; Uttar Pradesh has about 35 per cent of the total; and West Bengal has about 10 per cent of the total. Now, Sir, I notice a very obvious disparity in the allocation. Bihar is getting against 25 per cent, 0.6 per cent of the allocation; Orissa against 15 per cent of the number of unelectrified villages of the country is getting only 2.7 per cent of the allocation; similarly Uttar Pradesh against about 35 per cent of the total number of unelectrified villages in the country is getting 13 per cent of the allocation; and West Bengal against 10 per cent is getting only 2.5 per cent. My point is that one of the basic objectives of planning is to reduce the level of disparity between one region and the other and even within the same State between one district to the other. That is an accepted objective of the National development planning.

Therefore, Sir, in terms of allocation of resources, which are obviously limited, one has to follow a universal policy - States which have a larger number of unelectrified villages should receive a higher share of Central allocation - so that over a period of time the disparity in the level of rural electrification in the entire country goes down. It is of course true that the States themselves play a role but as you can see, Sir, from the figures given here, that more than two-thirds of the resource allocation comes through the Central Government.

Only one-third is derived from the State Governments. Therefore I would request an indication from the hon. Minister whether they are prepared to re-evaluate and review the allocation policy so that those States which have a larger degree of non-electrification should receive a higher degree of the Central funds that are available.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : The allocation of funds is according to the demands of the States. The State Governments finalise their plan and discuss with the Planning Commission and the allocation is made on that line. Discrepancies are there and there are some States which are not so keen to take it up and continue this programme. So, you will see the figures that year by year their demand is decreasing. That is also a problem with us. We are trying to convince, negotiate with them and discuss with them the problems and issues and find out a solution.

SHRI A. CHARLES : The answer given to this question does not reflect the real problem of shortage of electricity faced either by the villagers or by the people of the State. Kerala is said to be one of the States fully covered. But Kerala is under the acute shortage of electricity. For several months there is load-shedding. Small industries are not getting the electricity. The voltage is so low...

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing power generation. We are discussing electrification of villages.

SHRI A. CHARLES : The main question is whether a separate study has been made to assess the power requirement and the answer is, no study has been made. That is very unfortunate. May I know from the hon. Minister whether a real study will be made to assess the power requirements. Technically speaking, a village is electrified means there will be only one point. That is not enough. The actual requirement may be assessed and the Electricity Boards may be coordinated with a time-bound programme be made to remove the shortage of electricity.

MR. SPEAKER : Why is the assessment of the requirement of the electricity for rural electrification not done?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : With regard to any study having been made for power requirements in the rural areas, we have checked the position with the Planning Commission...

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. We are not accepting this stand.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : The Minister of Non Conventional Energy Sources

MR. SPEAKER : No, Madam. The Power Ministry is expected to find out what is the electricity required for rural electrification.

Yes, the Minister wants to supplement.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : I want to supplement what my colleague has said. It is true that the entire rural electrification programme is far from satisfactory. But it has to be appreciated that so far as our role is concerned, it is very marginal. We have some funds allocated to us which we are supposed to give at concessional rate of interest for rural electrification.

MR. SPEAKER : No, Mr. Minister.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : If you want me to answer the question about the study, the study part, unfortunate it may be, but it is true that no specific study of the rural areas has been undertaken by any of these energy bodies above, including the Ministry of Power. That is my submission...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. CHARLES : We want a study.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : If the power is not adequate in Kerala in the rural areas, it is a manifestation of the shortage that is there in the States. Southern Indian States are writhing in shortages also.

MR. SPEAKER : The Members and the House would be well within their rights to understand what is the requirement of the electricity for rural electrification.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Such a study has not been made.

MR. SPEAKER : Why?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : But we will take it up.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the amendment in the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, the State Governments cannot undertake electrification of the forest villages. As you know, the forest village are inhibited by the tribal population and the Forest Departments have built stop dams on the rivers and streams at many points but due to non-availability of power, the forest villages are neither able to irrigate their fields nor the lightning in their homes. Whether the Central Government propose to amend the Forest Conservation Act with a view to electrify the forest villages?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that is a difficulty. If you want to reply, I have no objection.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : I think, there is no difficulty in implementing the suggestion. We will take it up.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Sir, I am sorry to say that the Government's whole approach about the power generation and electrification of villages is a matter of concern. Mr. Speaker, as you have rightly said, it is the national responsibility of the Planning Commission, the Government of India and the States altogether to see that the rural India gets the required

electricity. Unfortunately after 48 years of Independence, even the survey has not been made. This shows the thinking of the Government. And the Power Department's Report on the only survey that has been conducted has made only a limited reference about the requirement of electricity for pump-sets, tube-wells and lift irrigation. But No survey has been made on the total requirement for rural electrification. I would now ask a very specific question. Taking into account that in certain States more than 50 per cent of the villages are not electrified, - it is not a question of remote or inaccessable areas - and that general rural electrification has not taken place on a large scale, will the Minister give top priority and sit with the State Chief Ministers and the Planning Commission to work out a time-bound programme for rural electrification?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, so far as the first part of the question is concerned, I have already answered that kind of a study should be undertaken. We will endeavour our best to see that such a study is undertaken.

So far as the second part is concerned, my colleague has already pointed out our serious limitations. We have only routed the funds which come to us from the Government of India and which we borrow. We give it to the States. And if the States do not return the money to us, moneys are not available with us. I am not trying to palm off the blame on the States, but I am pointing out the basic institutional difficulties which we are facing. The Planning Commission formulates the plans and the States implement them on all concurrent subject. We have very little to do with them at the ground level, except monitoring. We are only financing. That is the reality.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : That is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER : The Planning Commission will plan on the suggestions given by the Power Ministry.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I bow down to what you say ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That is not enough. I am sorry. When we are discussing these things let us be clear on that point please.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : That is the limitation of the system under which we working.

MR. SPEAKER : No. That is not a limitation. It may be the limitation of the individual but that is not the limitation of the system.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I want to answer the question to your satisfaction, Sir. Maybe, the system is not satisfactory. If our role in the whole system is purely to give finances...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, that could have been done by the Finance Ministry also, if it were so.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : But that is how we are working. That is the system I am working under.

MR. SPEAKER : I know that you are working under a lot of pressure and paucity of funds but that is not the system.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Sir, According to the answer given, there are 84.00 and odd villages which have not yet been electrified. It is true that the power generation is short and the funds are also lacking for generation of power. In view of this, the Government has started privatisation of power generation. The Government has received from various States, to the extent of 50,000 MW, MoUs with various parties in the private sector, out of which 23,000 are from Andhra Pradesh, 50 and odd from Karnataka and the rest from the other States. The Government have put a condition that it should be before the 18th February, 1995 that these MoUs should be signed and sent to the Central Electricity Authority. What happened to these MoUs? When is the CEA going to give consent to the MoUs with the private parties, sent by the State Governments to start this project? Is it the only procedure the Government is going to adopt? Or, is it going to allow the signing of the MOUs even after the 18th February, 1995?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that this comes out of the main question. But if the hon. Minister wants to reply, I have no objection.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the small projects are either in the hill areas of are in the tribal areas in the country as there are a large number of streams flowing there. It has been observed that in other countries a large number of mini power projects are undertaken. Whether there is any proposal to have mini power projects in our country also and whether any survey has been conducted in this regard? Keeping in view the power requirements of the country, whether Government propose to consider applications from the private parties for mini power projects cost Rs. 60 thousand to Rs. 1 lakh on each project?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Mini Power Projects costing less than 1 crore of rupees can be undertaken by the State Governments themselves.

[English]

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA : Sir, there are 50 lakh villages in India and there are 25 States in India, shall I call them 'Provinces'? There are so many villages in the rural areas and also in the urban areas. Those people who are living there are Tirbals and harijans. I understand that in the previous years, they have got some subsidy; but nowadays they are deprived of it. Why is it so? How is the policy changing day by day? Why are the Adivasi people not being given facilities in their villages? They are still not helping them. I am very sorry to say that they are suffering like anything. Even these Adivasi villages are included in the urban areas and also in the rural areas. May I know

as to how many Adivasi villages have been electrified all over India, specially in Orissa? May I know this from the Government?

MR. SPEAKER : If you have the information give it or you can send it later on also.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : I have no information just now about the Adivasi villages. I will certainly promise to provide that information.

MR. SPEAKER : I am inclined to give more time to this question because we did not take up the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Power. You can be rest assured that you will get the opportunity, provided the question are relevant.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BABU RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the information made available by the hon. Minister, about 4 lakh villages have already been electrified. Bihar is very backward State where 75 per cent of population is dependent on agriculture and electricity is an important ingredient for ensuring agricultural development. During the year 1984-85, the Congress Party was in power in the State as well as at the Centre. From that year till date, rural electrification in our villages is limited to only installation of electric poles and no wiring has been done. An incorrect report has been sent to the Central Government about electrification... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is the concern of the State Government.

SHRI LAL BABU RAI : Kindly listen to my submission, Sir.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the question directly.

[Translation]

SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Of course, the State Government awards the contracts. But will the hon. Minister ensure the proper electrification of these villages and propose to provide additional assistance to the Bihar Government for the purpose?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has already stated that the allocation of funds is being made according to the demands of the State.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not waste the time.

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : In Maharashtra, electrification for most of the villages are completed but when they declare a village as electrified, the *wadis* are not covered in it. Half of the population stays in *wadis* and I can quote many *wadis* like that. One village consists of ten to twelve *wadis* also. Now, when they declare a village as electrified, the *wadis* are not covered. So, I would like to know whether they will give special priority to *wadis* and give guidelines to the State Governments to get these *wadis* also completed.

Secondly, Sir, they have included 10,000 remote villages in 50,000 villages which are going to be electrified in the Eighth Five Year plan. I would like to know the number of villages left out and whether the Government is giving any priority to these remote villages and give some more funds to them?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, have you followed?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : If the Member can repeat his question, it will be helpful.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please briefly repeat the question?

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Sir, you also know what I was telling. Even then I will repeat the question very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER : No. I really did not follow it. Probably, there is something wrong with the sound system.

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Sir, *wadi* is such a place where most of the population coming from the village stays.

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing to electrify these *wadis* i.e., the hamlets?

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : They declare that a village is electrified but *wadis* are not at all electrified. I want to know whether they are going to give priority to this sector and give some more funds.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you have the villages and you have the hamlets. Hamlets are not electrified. Are you going to do something to electrify the hamlets also?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Sir, about 2,62,960 hamlets - Harijan *bastis* - are electrified. It is for the State Government to decide which *basti* should be electrified or otherwise.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, in part (e) of the reply, it is stated by the Minister as :

"The majority of the remaining unelectrified villages are located in remote, inaccessible and difficult areas requiring heavy capital investment for their electrification. The State Governments and State Electricity Boards have been requested to accord higher priority and prepare necessary action plans for completing electrification of the remaining villages."

Once the State Government prepares the Action Plan, I would like to know whether the Government assures this House that ...

MR. SPEAKER : No. That kind of an assurance cannot be given. It depends on the Plan. Let us please come to the right question. I am giving you the time to ask the right question.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : My question is this. Once the Action Plan is prepared, will the Government of India make available the funds required for the State Government?

MR. SPEAKER : They cannot give an assurance like this.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Otherwise, what is the good of asking them to prepare the Plan, unless the funds are allocated?

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India lives in villages and the progress of the country will be possible only if the villages are electrified. I can give examples of a large number of villages in Bihar from where electric lines are passing but those villages have not been electrified. Whether the hon. Minister would enquire into it and take any action against the officials responsible for providing wrong information?

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is the responsibility of the State Government.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cost of rural electrification is very high. That is why the rural areas do not get this facility. With the privatisation of power generation, whether the private sector would be pressurised to provide electricity to the rural areas and..

MR. SPEAKER : You have asked a very good question but do not make it lengthy.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I entirely agree by hon. Member. Though the cost of rural electrification is very high, still the rural areas have to be electrified. But the planning has to be done by the State Governments. In case, the proposals for private projects are received, we will see what can be done on this aspect.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir..

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. you were given the chance. Please do not misuse it.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, the REC gives funds for the State Governments purely as per their village electrification with standardisation of works. Have the Minister of Power, Government of India received any complaint? I would like to know whether the funds intended for the village electrification have been diverted as a result of which the inferior electrification was being done and the farmers are suffering because of the non-standard work done.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Sir, no such complaints have been received by us.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated by the hon. Minister in her reply to the question that the heavy investment is required for the electrification of villages located in difficult hill areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the practice is that if a pole is installed on the outskirts of a village located particularly in a hill area, it

is declared an electrified village? Whether the hon. Minister is aware of this position and if so, what she proposes to do in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : She has already stated that it relates to the revenue area.

[English]

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the question of assurance on the question raised by the hon. Member, Shri Chandrajit Yadav, I thought this question was with reference to a separate survey to assess the requirement of the rural areas. That, we have not taken up. But in answer to (b) and (c), we have clearly stated further that the Central Electricity Authority made an estimate of the energy consumption for pump-sets, tubewells and Lift Irrigation Scheme for each State and Union Territory.

Sir, the assurance I gave was that a separate survey is not being made to assess the power requirement of the rural areas as a whole. Therefore, I wanted to clarify this that the other estimates are available. (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, I am only clarifying what I have assured the hon. House that the answer is already there. So far as the requirement of consumption of energy of pump-sets, tubewells and the Lift Irrigation Scheme, etc. upto 1994-95 is concerned, the CEA has already made the estimates. But we have already stated that separate survey is not being made to assess the power requirement of the rural areas as a whole. This is the reference with which I said that we will try to undertake this work.

That is all, we want to clarify. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Should we not know what is the requirement?

SHRI A. CHARLES : Yes, yes. This is a question. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Sir, we may add that the 14th Electric Power Survey has already been done and the 15th EPS is now being done.

Revival of HFC and FCI

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*642. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken into consideration the recommendations made by the Purohit Committee, while preparing a revival plan for the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to seek commercial assistance from foreign and domestic financing agencies in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the retrenched workers will be re-employed after the revival of these units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) :

(a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (f). As per its terms of reference the Purohit Committee was not required to make any recommendations in respect of FCI. It was merely required to examine whether Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup-I and II units of HFC could be operated with some investment on renewal/replacement of the problematic equipments. This Committee had, *inter alia*, identified trouble-prone equipments and weak areas of the above units for replacement/repairs/modifications, alongwith other remedial measures essential to continue the operations of the aforesaid units, at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 263.18 crores.

Based on the recommendations of the Purohit Committee, as also taking into account other relevant factors, the Government has recently prepared a revival plan for HFC which, in principle, envisages rehabilitation of its Barauni, Durgapur and Namrup units through revamp, and hiving off of Haldia Fertilizer Project in view of the fact that revamp of this project was not feasible. The revival plan envisages fresh investment of the order of Rs. 464.93 crores apart from capital restructuring and other financial reliefs. The funds for revival of these units including funding through participation of Financial Institutions have not been tied up so far. Since HFC and FCI were declared as sick companies by the BIFR, any decision on their long term future of rationalisation of their manpower would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has stated that the HFC and FCI have been declared as sick companies by the BIFR. Government has also stated that the Haldia unit cannot be revived and Barauni, Durgapur and Namrup are sick units, which need to be revived. I want to know from the Government as to the amount of capital invested in setting up both these units what was their production target and what is the actual production being done and the loss suffered as well as the causes for it. First the BIFR declared that these three units were sick and it has been stated in the answer to the question that Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup fertilizer units are required to be revived and an amount of Rs. 464.93 crores would be required for their revival. It was also stated in the same answer that the revival of the Haldia unit is not pragmatic. I want to know from the Government about the capital invested in all these units, the production targets envisaged and the loss suffered and the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the production targets in future? Also how do you want to solve the