

Allocations for Hilly and Backward Areas in Fifth Plan

378. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to earmark adequate allocations for the hilly and backward areas in the revised Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, allocation being made for Himachal Pradesh year-wise in the revised Plan, and the demand made by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Adequate allocations have been earmarked for the hilly areas in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Regarding backward areas, investment subsidy and concessional finance are made available to the areas declared industrially backward.

(b) The allocations for the hilly areas cover cases where part of a State is hilly. In the case of Himachal, the entire State is a Hilly State. The allocations are, therefore, made to the State as a whole keeping in view its special problems and the need for its accelerated development. The proposal of the Government of Himachal Pradesh in respect of the Annual Plans since the commencement of the Fifth Plan, and the approved outlays are indicated in the following table:

(Rs. crores)

	Proposals of State Govt.	Outlays approved
1974-75 . . .	32.40	30.66
1975-76 . . .	37.40	32.58
1976-77 . . .	53.90	37.84
1977-78 . . .	65.04	56.35

Formation of a National Power Grid

379. SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARKATAKI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the progress made in the formation of a national power grid; and

(b) if not, the reasons for unsatisfactory progress?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The essential pre-requisites for developing a national power grid are a strong network of transmission lines interconnecting the generation sources with the load centres backed by load despatching facilities not only at the State and regional levels but also ultimately at the National level with requisite control and communication facilities.

The establishment of such an integrated power grid on an all-India basis can only be achieved in a phased manner.

The essential steps for integrating the regional systems by the construction of inter-State lines as well as by setting up State and Regional Load Despatching arrangements have already been undertaken.

Further strengthening of the transmission network as well as setting up more sophisticated and systematic communication facilities for load despatch has yet to be implemented in a phased manner.

Andaman Special Allowance

381. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government employees in Andaman and Nicobar Administration who are not getting Andaman Special Allowance;