

however, through Rural Electrification Corporation, sponsored a pilot programme of electrical energy conservation in agriculture sector. Under this, the REC has sanctioned schemes for rectification of a total of 23,750 agricultural pumpsets in Six States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for financial assistance @ Rs. 1000 per pumpset. The schemes are under implementation and the results received so far reveal that after rectification, the consumption of energy for lifting the same amount of water has been reduced by about 20%. REC has worked out standards and specifications of the materials to be used in regard to rectification of the pumpsets, issued guidelines for formulation of schemes, and organised training programmes to cover the procedures necessary for implementation.

In addition to the pumpset rectification schemes, the pilot programme also covers schemes for conservation of energy in system network in rural areas by reducing line losses. Four such schemes have been sanctioned by REC in Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh for a total financial assistance of Rs. 50.30 lakhs. REC has worked out the specifications in respect of the gadgets to be used for reduction of line losses such as switched capacitors, automatic voltage boosters and transformer disconnection switches, and issued detailed guidelines for formulation of the schemes by State Electricity Boards.

STD Service from Delhi to Towns in Orissa

4377. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties in getting several important cities of Orissa from Delhi on STD lines;

(b) if so, the reasons for the difficulties in getting STD lines to towns in Orissa from New Delhi/Delhi; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) STD facility from Delhi provided via Calcutta Trunk Automatic Exchange to Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Rourkela is satisfactory.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) For further improving the STD service, additional lines have been planned from Calcutta Trunk Automatic Exchange to Rourkela and Cuttack and a digital Trunk Automatic Exchange at Cuttack has been planned during 7th Five-Year Plan.

Bench of Calcutta High Court at Port Blair

4378. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representation for having a single member permanent bench of Calcutta High Court at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). A representation was received in 1981 for establishing a permanent Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Port Blair.

At the instance of the Government, the Calcutta High Court agreed that its Circuit Bench would sit in Port Blair for a longer duration and more frequently with a view to solving the difficulties of the people of the Islands. The High Court also amended its Rules in 1982 to permit transfer of the writ petitions pending in Calcutta to the Circuit Bench at Port Blair, and to provide for prior notice before issue of interim orders.

Having regard to the workload, a permanent Bench of the High Court at Port Blair is not considered justified.