

Rural Electrification Scheme in Uttar Pradesh

2319. SHRI JANARDHAN MISHRA:
SHIR SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the Rural Electrification Scheme to more areas;

(b) if so, the target fixed for such expansion in Uttar Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the amount likely to be spent for this purpose;

(d) the average rural electrification in Uttar Pradesh as compared to the national level; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to bring the average at par with national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e). A provision of Rs. 500 crores has been made in the Eighth Plan for implementation of rural electrification in Uttar Pradesh, including State Plan. For the first year of the Eighth Plan viz. 1992-93, Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 72 crores for electrifying 480 villages and energising 11500 pumpsets under REC financed Scheme. In addition to this, under State Plan, Rs. 15 crores have been allocated for electrification of 500 villages and energisation of 700 pumpsets. As on 31.3.92, 74% of the villages in the State had been electrified as against the national average of 84%. Subject to availability of resources, efforts

will be continued to speed up the programme in the State.

[English]

Export of Iron Ore

2320. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are exporting iron ore pellets to Australia in exchange of import of coking coal; and

(b) if so, whether such export is being done at the cost of internal steel production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is importing some coking coal from M/s. BHP-Australia. One of the conditions of the contract is that the supplier of coal (M/s. BHP) would buy iron ore pellets from Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) of a certain percentage by value of coal supply to SAIL, subject to supply of a minimum 3 lakh tonnes per annum of pellets by KIOCL. Under this arrangement, KIOCL is supplying iron ore pellets to Australia.

(b) Iron ore pellets are not used by integrated steel plants in the country. However, pellets of suitable grade are used as feed material production of Sponge Iron through the gas-based route. There have been no reports of shortage of pellets for the Sponge Iron Industry.

11.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned time fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock