

(c) LPG distributors are under instructions from the oil companies to supply refills within 48 hours of receipt of request for a customer.

**Power shortage in Karnataka and Gujarat States**

268. SHRI K. V. SHANKARA GOWDA :

SHRI B.V. DESAI :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have taken various steps to help Karnataka and Gujarat States which are facing severe power shortage ;

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken to help these States ;

(c) whether he had directed the Maharashtra Government to rush power to both the States ;

(d) whether the Chief Minister of Karnataka met him on 14 January, 1986 and apprised him of the grave situation that the State has been facing due to power shortage for the last three years ;

(e) what help and assistance Union Government has provided to the State after the Chief Minister's meeting ; and

(f) the points raised by the Chief Minister during the meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c). Karnataka has been facing power shortage due to reduced hydel generation. Power shortage conditions developed in Gujarat during the mid of January, 1986 for about a week due to multiple outages of thermal units. Maharashtra Government was requested to render maximum assistance to these States to mitigate the power shortage conditions. Gujarat is now, by and large, meeting its energy requirements fully.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of

Karnataka met the Minister of Energy on 13th January, 1986.

(e) Maharashtra was requested to supply surplus power to the extent possible to Karnataka.

(f) Chief Minister, Karnataka discussed matters relating to power sector in Karnataka including the problem of power shortage.

**Central Assistance to Bihar Government for Augmenting power resources**

269. DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar Government has sought from the Centre 'liberal assistance' for augmenting its power resources recently ;

(b) If so, full details thereof in this regard and whether the Union Government have provided/propose to provide any assistance to the Bihar State ;

(c) whether the Union Government have also reviewed the position of power availability in Bihar recently ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) & (b). According to the available information, no such request has recently been received from the Government of Bihar. The annual plan for 1986-87 for Bihar was finalised on 7-2-86 in the Planning Commission. Central assistance is given to the States in the form of block loans and block grants. It is not related to any specific programme/project.

(c) & (d). The power position of Eastern Region was recently reviewed in a meeting at Calcutta. The need for early completion of power projects, stabilisation of generating units, training of adequate manpower for operation and maintenance etc. was impressed upon Bihar authorities.