

Government. They only come with the proposal for finalising the PPA.

Sir, as far as review of the projects are concerned, I would like to mention here that after the change of Government in Maharashtra, the Government of Maharashtra had constituted a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet to review the project on 3.5.95. On the basis of the recommendation of the sub-committee, the Government of Maharashtra on 3.8.95 repudiated Phase-I and cancelled Phase-II of the project on the following grounds, namely, (1) No competitive bidding was resorted to, (2) Transactions with DPC were floated in secrecy and there was no transparency, (3) Environmental factors, (4) Unrealistic capital cost, and (5) High tariff.

These were the reasons due to which they wanted to review the project. After reviewing the project, they constituted one Negotiation Group. That Negotiation Group, after discussions, cleared the Phase-I and Phase-II of the Dabhol Project.

As far as reasons for suspension are concerned, after the recommendation of the High-powered Committee only, they have resorted to this method. In that high-powered Committee, the technical personnel were also there.

They cleared it only after discussing with the experts. After negotiations in the Committee they came to the reasons for review, reduction in the capital cost, reduction in tariff and as I told you earlier, the use of the LNAG etc. as an alternative fuel. As far as foreign exchange is concerned, 30 per cent of it has been allocated to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board as its nominee. They also look after the environmental safeguards, equity participation by the State Government as its nominee, including incentives to Dhabol. With these reasons they reviewed the project and sent it to the Central Government for counter guarantee.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know as to what was the participation of the Maharashtra Electricity Board in the earlier agreement with Enron project and what is the percentage of participation in the revised agreement? Who were the persons responsible for earlier agreement when the tariff was higher?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, as I told you earlier, it was the responsibility of the State Govt. of Maharashtra and the Central Govt. is not concerned with this.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Central Govt. has given counter guarantee to the earlier agreement, therefore Central Govt. is responsible for this?

[English]

I.R.D.P.

\*283. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :  
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan/concessions are granted to the tribals of Assam under Integrated Rural Development Programmes;

(b) if so, whether all the districts of the state come under the purview of this programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). IRDP is a centrally sponsored scheme under which loan and subsidy is provided to families below poverty line in Rural Areas for acquiring income generating assets.

During 1995-96, total funds amounting to Rs. 3186.62 lakhs (Central & State Share) were given to all the Districts of Assam for subsidy under IRDP. Credit to the tune of Rs.4117.79 lakhs was also provided by the Banks.

A total No. of 59030 families of beneficiaries were assisted out of which 14201 were Scheduled Tribe families.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is an accepted fact that the entire rural population of the North-Eastern India is very poor and the majority of the tribal and Scheduled Caste population of that area is below poverty line. The very object of this Integrated Rural Development Programme was to uplift them and improve their condition by providing some income generating assets to them.

I want to know from the hon. Minister what kind of income generating assets have so far been provided in the districts of Dhemaji, Dibrugarh and Lakhimpur which are inhabited by the tribal population in Assam.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a major credit linked self-employment programme for rural poverty alleviation. So far, last year, in 1995-96, 59,926 families were given IRDP loans.

The North-Eastern States have some problems in implementing this IRDP Scheme. In some states, in the district headquarters, there are no banking facilities. In those particular non-banking blocks we are giving a subsidy portion for implementing the IRDP. Last year, in that State, 14,201 families were identified as beneficiaries and were given the IRDP subsidy and credit loans from the banks.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Sir, the hon. Minister has sated that out of 59,000 families, 14,000 tribal families were the beneficiaries of the scheme. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the tribal beneficiary families are less as compared to the Scheduled Caste population. I also want to know from the hon. Minister the district-wise break-up of these beneficiaries in the State of Assam.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERANNAIDU : In the State of Assam, certainly the tribal population is more when compared to Scheduled Tribes.

Last year we had given assistance to 8,000 Scheduled Caste and 14,000 Scheduled Tribe people. This year also in 1996-97, the total allocation made under this programme is Rs. 2,743 lakh by way of State and Central subsidies. Tribal population is more. Our first priority is given only to the tribals. Many tribals have come forward without any banking blocks. We are giving subsidy portion for the implementation of this IRDP especially to the tribal people in those particular Districts.

SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Integrated Rural Development Programme is going well in helpin the rural poor. The hon. Minister, in his reply among other things, has stated that a sum of Rs. 3,186.62 lakhs were allotted to Assam during the year 1995-96. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what was the Central share and what was the States' share.

The banks also provide credit facility under this scheme. I would like to know whether complaints that some of the banks were not cooperating and causing harassment to the rural poor have been received or not and if so, the steps that are being taken by the Government so that the people can get their loans under this Integrated Rural Development Programme without any problem.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, during the last year, 1995-96, total funds amounting to Rs. 41,86,00,000 had been given and the share of the Central Government and the State Governments was on 50:50 basis. Out of this amount of Rs.41,00,00,000, fifty per cent was borne by the State Government and the reaming 50 per cent by the Centre.

Some problems are there in regard to the implementation of the IRDP, in particular the North-Eastern States. Lack of banking facilities, insurgency, Back of communication facilities—these are the problems in the North-Eastern States. We are thinking to do something in those particular blocks where there are no banking facilities. We are giving subsidy portion under the IRDP particularly to the weaker sections, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and communities.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : What were the physical and economic targets under IRDP for Assam in the year 1994-95 and what were the actual results

achieved? is there any machinery to monitor that the subsidy or loan given under IRDP generates income and employment? If so, the number of persons covered under the above survey and what has been the improvement in their standard of living?

11.53 hrs.

*At this stage, some shouting from the Public Gallery was heard*

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is major credit linked self employment programme for poverty alleviation, Surveys are conducted. There is a lot of improvement. So many beneficiaries could cross the poverty line ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I had asked a simple question. What were economic and physical targets and what were the results achieved? Is there any mechinary under the Govt. to monitor the improvement in the living standards of the beneficiaries?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, last year 1995-96, Assam State had achieved 93.81 per cent. They achieved nearly 100 per cent.

Regarding the IRDP beneficiaries, the Ministry undertakes regular concurrent evaluation surveys to assess the strength and the weakness of the Programme for taking concrete action. And 50.4 per cent of the families were able to cross the poverty line of Rs.6,400 per annum in the fourth round as opposed to 28 per cent of the families who could cross this line during 1989.

Particularly in Assam State, they achieved hundred per cent target. This year also we are giving more funds for implementation. They are spending everything within that particular year.

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, I want to know about the number of beneficiaries who have been benefited by livestock projects through I.R.D.P. This is Parts A, Part B of the question relate to total employment created through livestock projects. I want to have a categorical answer from the hon. Minister.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : From 1980-81 onwards, so far, 490 lakhs beneficiaries have got the benefit under I.R.D.P... (Interruptions).

DR. ASIM BALA : I want to know about the beneficiaries through the livestock.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : 25 per cent of the beneficiaries are getting the benefit under the animal husbandry sector.

[Translation]

#### Renewable Energy in Rural Areas

\*284. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage non-conventional energy sources in rural areas by providing subsidy;

(b) if so, the percentage of success achieved in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). The Government has been encouraging the installation and use of non-conventional energy sources in the rural areas by providing various incentives, such as subsidies, soft loans and tax incentives.

Considerable success has been achieved in the field of decentralised rural energy systems. A total of about 24 lakh family-size biogas plants, 1600 community/institutional. Night soil based biogas plants, 225 lakh improved chulhas, 37,000 solar home lighting units, 81,000 solar lanterns and 1500 solar photovoltaic water pumping systems have been installed so far. With an installed capacity of 740MW, significant success has also been achieved in the installation of wind farms which are located in remote rural areas. The Eighth Plan targets for major programmes have already been achieved.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister the number of villages covered under Non conventional Energy programmes and the number of villages, benefited therefrom?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, nowadays, Uttar Pradesh is leading in solar PV lanterns and fixed lights. There are over 25 per cent lanterns in Uttar Pradesh as against the all India percentage, fixed lights over 75 per cent, biogas plants about 13 per cent, improved chulhas about 12 per cent. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have proposed electrification of 286 hilly and inaccessible villages with solar lights with the cost being shared between the Ministry of Non-Conventional

Energy Sources and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. This is under the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : I wanted to know the number of districts covered under this scheme in Uttar Pradesh?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Eighty eight blocks have been benefited.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : I wanted to know the number of villages covered under non conventional Energy programme in Jhansi division of Uttar Pradesh; the amount of subsidy given to this division and the number of scheduled caste families benefited under this programme?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, almost all the districts of the States are getting the benefits.

As far as Jhansi is concerned I will provide the information to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : I want to know from the hon. Minister if the programmes to encourage non conventional energy sources have been sponsored by the Govt. or some villages are covered under this programme as per the recommendations of some of the hon. Members? I come from Bihar. We had taken up this issue in tenth Lok Sabha also. Our proposal to include some villages under this programme has not been implemented to this day. I want to know from the hon. Minister by what time this programme of covering villages under non conventional energy programme as per the recommendations of the hon. Members would come into force?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : As far as Bihar is concerned, we may consider it from this year.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : My question is with regard to the renewal sources of energy in Ladakh. Out of 365 days in a year, 320 days are fully sunny in Ladakh. What projects have been undertaken to utilise that natural resource to augment power in that area? If that power is available, tourism in Ladakh will get a big fillip. It is easily available because of the high altitude. Sun rays are there and there is equipment available by which you can get the solar energy in that area.

In fact, all over the world, Ladakh is considered to be the most suitable area for getting the solar energy. I would like to know what action has been taken by the Government of India to tap that resource without which cost.