

Financial Assistance by R.E.C. to the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board

906. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of financial assistance given by the R.E.C. to the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board during the past three years, including the current financial year;

(b) whether it has been ensured that the amount so given has already been spent for the electrification of the villages;

(c) if so, the authority responsible for the verification and the report for each year in this regard;

(d) if not, the main heads, other than electrification on which the amount has been spent; and

(e) the reasons for this diversion and whether the R.E.C. has taken any action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a). Rural Electrification Corporation has disbursed financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 6.16 crores to the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board during the years 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80 (upto 29-2-80) for rural electrification.

(b) Reports on utilisation of funds given by the R. E.C. have been received by them from the State Electricity Board for the period upto 31-3-1979. By that date they had already spent Rs 10.54 crores out of Rs. 13.91 crores disbursed to them by R. E. C. so far.

(c) The R. E. C. has been following a regular system of monitoring of schemes under which their officers undertake field visits to see physical and financial progress in implementation in addition to receiving half-yearly reports from the Electricity Boards

(d) and (e). No reports have been received regarding diversion of funds provided by the R. E. C., to the purposes other than that for which they were given to the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board.

Electrification of Harijan Basties/Hutments in various States particularly in Himachal Pradesh

907. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been drawn up by the R.E.C to accelerate the process of electrification of the Harijan Basties/hutments in the various States in general and the State of Himachal Pradesh in particular;

(b) if so, an outline of the plan for this purpose alongwith the date(s) on which the plan was first drawn up;

(c) whether the progress in this direction has been satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for obtaining satisfactory results?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL, (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) and (b). During the Fourth Five Year Plan, Rs 4.50 crores was provided to the Rural Electrification Corporation for disbursement to the State Electricity Board for extension of the electricity to the Harijan Basties adjoining the already electrified villages. During the Fifth five Year Plan, the Corporation ensured that all schemes for rural electrification proposed by the SEB included coverage for the Harijan Basties of the respective villages also. To activate the electrification of Harijan Basties Rs. 5 crores have been provided in the draft Sixth Plan, to be released for electrification of Harijan

Basties, in the various States on scheme-wise basis. So far, R.E.C. have sanctioned 50 Harijan Basties proposals involving a loan assistance of Rs. 2.05 crores covering 2,766 Harijan Basties. In the last week of February 1980, one Harijan Basti proposal covering 81 Harijan Basties in Nur-Tehsil of Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh involving a loan outlay of Rs. 8,577 lakhs, was received by R.E.C. The Harijans Basties involved are already covered by regular area electrification schemes sanctioned by the Corporation earlier in the Nurpur Tehsil, and no fresh sanction is necessary.

(c) Yes, Out of 10,460 Harijan Basties envisaged to be electrified under 109 approved schemes, 9073 have been electrified.

(d) The progress achieved has been satisfactory.

Participation of Panchayats in the Process of Rural Electrification

908. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has evolved any plan for ensuring the cooperation/participation of the Panchayats in the process of rural electrification;

(b) if so, the main outlines of the plan and a resume of the achievements so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY) (a) to (c): Rural Electrification Corporation provides financial assistance for rural electrification schemes of State Electricity Boards and Rural Electric Co-operative Societies. In the States, where there are no Electricity Boards, the Corporation provides financial assistance for the rural electrification schemes of the State Governments. The Corporation has

been stressing the need for effective coordination of rural electrification programmes with other developmental programmes and active involvement of local agencies therein. The Corporation has suggested setting up of Block level Committees which could advise the Electricity Boards in formulation and implementation of rural electrification schemes, collect required data from Panchayat Samities for project formulation and suggest ways and means of promoting agricultural and industrial load development.

Installation of Gas Turbines in West Bengal

910. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of West Bengal have recently sought the sanction of the Centre for installing more Gas Turbines to tide over severe power crisis as a short term measure; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY) (a): Yes, Sir. A proposal for installation of an additional 1x20 MW Gas Turbine generating unit has been submitted by West Bengal State Electricity Board to the Central Electricity Authority in January, 1980 in connection with meeting the power demands of the Haldia Fertilizer Plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation.

(b): A decision on the project can be taken only after is techno-economically appraised by the Central Electricity Authority, who have sought information on the operating performance and the cost of the gas turbine generating units recently installed in West Bengal and also confirmation on fuel availability.