

Electrification Corporation has been referred to the Orissa Government for further revision;

(b) whether the further revised scheme from Orissa has been sent back to the Electrification Corporation;

(c) the total loan outlay involved in this scheme;

(d) when such Khalikote-Ganjam Rural Electrification Scheme will be implemented;

(e) the number of villages to be electrified on the implementation of this scheme; and

(f) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme, which is to be revised by the Orissa State Electricity Board, has not yet been received in the Rural Electrification Corporation.

(c) The total cost of the original scheme, as received from the State Electricity Board, was Rs. 28.684 lakhs, against which the loan assistance sought from the Corporation was Rs. 26.487 lakhs.

(d) The revised scheme, when received in Rural Electrification Corporation, will be considered for sanction of financial assistance if the scheme is found to be technically feasible and financially viable, subject to availability of funds. The implementation of the scheme rests with the State Electricity Board.

(e) The original scheme covering Khalikote-Ganjam Block, on completion, envisaged electrification of 96 villages.

(f) The scheme also envisaged energisation of 63 agricultural pumpsets and 49 small industries and also provision of electricity for 1,109 domestic commercial connections and 188 street lights.

Increase in Coal Production

10. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to increase the coal output in the country;

(b) what plans have been formulated for maintaining a high level of stocks at the pitheads for a long time; and

(c) what steps have been or propose to be taken to remove the transport bottlenecks and cut down costs at various levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Number of steps have been taken to improve the output of coal in the country which include interalia.

(i) Supply of power to the coal-mines has been accorded a higher priority and the distribution system in the coalfields is being streamlined to improve its reliability. A decision has been taken to instal Gas Turbines in mining areas suffering from a chronic power shortage and proposal to instal captive thermal stations of small capacity in the coal fields is presently under consideration. Apart from this generation of power from the existing captive diesel sets is being maximised and commissioning of the sets under installation is being expedited.

(ii) The acquisition of land for mining purposes is being expedited in consultation with and the assistance of concerned State Governments and in particular in Bihar and Bengal.

(iii) Maintaining a close liaison with the State Government concerned to improve the law and order and industrial relation situation in the coalfields areas.

(iv) Collaboration from foreign countries is obtained to improve the

mining technology in the mines with a view to improve the production, productivity and conservation of coal.

(b) With the increase in coal production the pithead stocks of coal have already reached a record level of 15 million tonnes as on 1-2-1981. It is proposed to maintain only a reasonable level of coal stocks at the pitheads to ensure uninterrupted loading of wagons and to meet any exigencies of situation. With the production plans it would be possible to maintain a reasonable level of coal stocks at the pitheads.

(c) Discussions are being held constantly with the Railway Ministry to improve the availability of wagons for coal loading. An improvement in the supply of wagons has already taken place.

TV Functions attended by State Ministers

11. SHRI D.S.A. SIVAPRAKASAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) was it a fact that some misunderstanding arose between the Government of Tamil Nadu and Madras Television Centre last year regarding telecasting functions attended by the Ministers of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what were the causes for the misunderstanding and how was it settled?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD BEN JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Partial coverage and non-coverage of certain functions by Doordarshan Kendra Madras appear to be the reasons for the misunderstanding. The Director of the Kendra met the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and explained the position to him. The

misunderstanding has since been resolved.

Electrification of Harijan Bastis

12. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rural Electrification Corporation has taken up electrification work in the Harijan bastis in a large scale;

(b) if so, the number of Harijan bastis and villages electrified in Orissa during 1979-80 and 1980-81;

(c) the number of Harijan villages in Cuttack district electrified by the R.E.C. or by the State Government to bring under rural electrification programme during the current financial year; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Rural Electrification Corporation has been advancing loans to the State Electricity Boards for electrification of Harijan Bastis, which had earlier been left out while electrifying the main villages for general purposes. The present practice is that the Corporation ensures that in all schemes of rural electrification sponsored to it for financial assistance by the various States, wherever provision is made for street lights in the main villages, the adjoining Harijan Bastis are simultaneously covered.

(b) According to the latest report received from Orissa State Electricity Board, 138 Harijan Bastis and 2,982 villages had been electrified in Orissa during the years 1979-80 and 1980-81.

(c) and (d). In Cuttack district, 3,602 villages had been electrified up to 31st March, 1980. The State Electricity Board has tentatively programmed to electrify additional 150 villages during 1980-81. The number of