

of a group of villages within a certain radius rather than the population of a single village for providing P.C.Os/ C.Os. in hilly and backward areas, as in the case of tribal areas;

(b) if so, the date with effect from which the decision has been taken; and

(c) the exact radius or which the population of a group of villages would be considered for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) and (c), Question does not arise.

Bringing down Expenditure on account of Transmission Losses and overhead Charges

2223. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government/R.E.C. have taken into account the transmission losses/expenditure or administration overheads while distributing funds for rural electrification for the various State Electricity Boards in the country;

(b) if so, the nature of (i) expenses on account of overhead charges (ii) the percentage of transmission losses in each one of the States of the North Western Region; and

(c) whether any effort is proposed to be made to bring down the expenditure on these two scores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Funds for rural electrification for the various SEBs in the country are decided by the Planning Commission and channelised through the Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. The funds are decided according to the level of electrification achieved and the extent of programme drawn up for the year. The extent of transmission losses and expenditure on administration overheads are consi-

dered by the Planning Commission at the time of finalising the resources for the State and Annual Plan for the year.

REC will sanction schemes after due appraisal and release funds to the SEBs or implementing the rural electrification programme.

(b) The details of expenses on overhead charges specific to rural electrification programmes is not available. The percentage of transmission losses during 1979-80 in each of the States of North-Western Region is as follows:—

1. Himachal Pradesh	19.62%
2. Haryana	28.35%
3. Punjab	19.49%
4. Rajasthan	28.64%
5. Jammu & Kashmir	46.01%

(c) The SEBs which are autonomous organisations functioning under the control of the State Governments are required to carry out the necessary exercises to reduce the administration and overhead expenses. Detailed discussions are held between SEBs and CEA on the steps to be taken to reduce the transmission losses. Substantial allocation for investment in the transmission system has been made in the Sixth Plan. This should bring about reduction in transmission losses. The SEBs have been requested to carry out necessary system studies in this direction.

Power generation by states vis-a-vis Demand

2224. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the production and demand of electric energy throughout the country State-wise in different important sectors for the last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the States are deficit States in produc-

tion of such energy as compared to their demands including Bihar State;

(c) what steps Government are taking to make all the deficit States self-sufficient in Electricity production and within what period; and

(d) have Government any scheme to sanction Thermal Power Station either in Nalanda District or in Patna district in the State of Bihar to feed the growing demands of electricity in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) Power supply position in many States is by and large satisfactory. There is however, shortage of power in some States including Bihar.

(c) A number of measures have been taken to improve the availability of power in the country. These measures include:

(i) an additional generating capacity of 19666 MW is programmed to be added during the period of 1980-85. Detailed monitoring of the construction schedules of all the on-going projects is being undertaken to ensure expeditious completion of the projects;

(ii) number of steps have been taken to improve operation and maintenance of existing thermal power plants with a view to maximising generation from the existing installed capacity;

(iii) proper management of the load demand by staggering of load etc.

(d) No project report for setting up thermal power station in Nalanda or Patna Districts of Bihar has been received in the Central Electricity Authority.

Carbonization Plant at Dankuni

2325. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the details of the progress made for setting up low temperature carbonisation plant at Dankuni in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): Land for the factory premises, railway siding, township has been handed over to the Dankuni project authorities. Preliminary work like filling up the site, approach road, power supply, drinking water, temporary offices is going on. Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., the prime contractor, has initiated necessary action for procuring process technology, survey of the plant site and railway siding posting of officers for the project etc.

Suggestions regarding Programmes in Sindhi language on T.V./Radio

2326. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision/ various suggestions regarding programmes in Sindhi language on T.V./Radio;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c): Government have received various suggestions regarding introduction of more programmes in Sindhi language from A.I.R. and Doordarshan. So far as A.I.R. is concerned, even though the normal policy is to put out programmes in a particular language, if at least 5 per cent of the people in the service area of the concerned Station speak that language, special consideration has been given to the Sindhi language. Sindhi programmes are broadcast from the following stations of A.I.R. or the