

Appointment of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of Central Water and Power Commission.

2822. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed for the appointment of the Chairman and Members of the Central Water and Power Commission ; and

(b) the reasons for appointing a Civil Engineer as Chairman of Central Water and Power Commission ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Service Rules, recruitment to the posts of Chairman and Members in the Central water and Power Commission is made by selection through the Union Public Service Commission from a composite field consisting of senior Irrigation and Power engineers employed under the Central Government, the State Governments, State Electricity Boards and Semi-Government Organisations.

While both Irrigation and Power engineers are considered by the Union Public Service Commission for the post of Chairman, Central Water and Power Commission, the field of consideration for the post of Member is restricted to Irrigation or Power engineers depending on whether recruitment is to be made in the Water Wing of the Central Water and Power Commission.

If the post of Chairman is held by an Irrigation Engineer, the seniormost member in the Power Wing of the Central Water and Power Wing of the Central Water and Power Commission is designated as Vice-Chairman, Central Water and Power Commission (Power-Wing). Likewise, the seniormost member in the Water Wing would be designated as Vice-Chairman, Central Water and Power Commission (Water Wing) in the event of the post of Chairman being held by a Power engineer.

(b) Recruitment to the post of Chairman, Central Water and Power Commission, was made on the recommendation of the Union

Public Service Commission in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Rural Electrification.

2824. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to states :

(a) the number of villages proposed to be electrified in Assam during the Fourth Plan period ;

(b) the total number of villages so far electrified in the State during the Fourth Plan period so far ; and

(c) the reason for the slow progress in rural electrification in the States.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) : 905 villages are targetted to be electrified in Assam during the Fourth Plan period.

(b) 304 villages have been electrified in the First two year (ending 31st March, 1971) of the Plan.

(c) The progress of rural electrification in Assam is very slow mainly because of constraint of financial resources for developing the transmission and distribution network in the State. Rural electrification schemes with a bias towards energisation of pumpsets are being accelerated during the Fourth Plan with additional finances including those provided by the Rural Electrification Corporation. As against only 55 pumpset energised and 380 villages electrified before the commencement of the Fourth Plan, it is proposed to energise 3200 pumpset and electrify 905 villages during the Fourth Plan.

Requirements of Power in Calcutta Metropolitan Area

2825. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the expected requirements of Power in Calcutta Metropolitan Area during the next five years ; and