

Bihar is one of the States where the percentage of villages electrified is below the All-India average. The main reason for the comparatively slow progress of rural electrification in Bihar is the constraint of financial resources for extending the transmission and distribution networks to rural areas. The Rural Electrification Corporation which provides finances to rural electrification schemes in addition to State Plan outlays, has been giving priority to sanctioning schemes of States like Bihar where the progress of rural electrification has been relatively slow. So far the Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned 12 schemes of Bihar envisaging a total outlay of Rs. 642.30 lakhs for the electrification of 1,387 villages and energisation of 19,542 pump-sets. Provision of Rs. 36 crores has been made in the Fourth Plan of Bihar State as compared with a provision of Rs. 2.57 lakhs in the Third Plan, for rural electrification schemes.

High Price charged by UAR for Egyptian Cotton

230. SHRI P. K. DIO : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report in the *Economic Times* of the 31st August, 1971 stating that the United Arab Republic was charging high prices from India for Egyptian cotton;

(b) whether Government have compared prices of Egyptian cotton *vis-a-vis* cotton coming from various other countries; and

(c) if so, the difference in prices and whether Government propose to establish contacts with UAR authorities to bring down prices of Egyptian cotton in line with international prices ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir, but the report is not correct. The cotton sale in UAR is canalised through the Egyptian cotton General Organisation, a Government organisation. The sale is affected to all countries including India at prices of

different varieties as announced by ECGO from time to time.

(b) Due to difference in quality of cotton originating from different countries, comparison of prices is not feasible.

(c) The question does not arise.

Double Railway Line from Khurda to Puri in Orissa

231. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to have double line from Khurda to Puri in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Electrification of Kharagpur-Adra Railway Line

232. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have any scheme for electrification of the line from Kharagpur to Adra; and

(b) if so, when the work will be started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rail Link for Ghatal Sub-Division in Midnapur Town

233. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS