

(a) whether Government of Punjab have approached the Central Government to set up oil depot at Ludhiana; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is already a big POL storage depot nearby at Jullundur. Another depot at Ludhiana is not therefore considered necessary.

Financial Assistance Sought by Bihar for Rural Electrification Schemes during 1973-74

4525. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the financial help asked for by the State Government of Bihar for the implementation of the rural electrification schemes in the State during the year 1973-74; and

(b) how far the demand has been accepted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The progress of rural electrification is formulated and implemented by the State Government/State Electricity Boards out of their State Plan Outlays. Additional loan assistance for various rural electrification schemes is however, being provided by the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.

During the year 1973-74, 24 schemes were sponsored by the Bihar State Electricity Board to the Rural Electrification Corporation. Out of these 11 schemes involving loan assistance of Rs. 629.49 lakhs have been sanctioned. Out of the balance 13 schemes, 12 schemes costing Rs. 710.07 lakhs, have been returned to the State Electricity Board for revision in ac-

cordance with the norms and guidelines prescribed by the Corporation. One scheme involving financial outlay of Rs. 60.77 lakhs is under consideration.

States which have not achieved target fixed for Rural Electrification in Fourth Plan

4526. SHRI MARTAND SINGH. Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where targets fixed for rural electrification under the Fourth Five Year Plan have not yet been achieved and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to complete the remaining work before the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) During the Fourth Plan, a target had been fixed for energisation of pumpsets. This target was 15 lakh pumpsets. Upto the end of January 1974, 12.84 lakh pumpsets had been energised. The main reasons for shortfall in the targets are:—

(i) Inadequate development in the power sector;

(ii) Lack of adequate transmission and distribution system;

(iii) Constraint on financial resources. Final figures regarding the shortfall in pumpset energisation will be available after the end of the plan period.

The electrification of villages is incidental to energisation of pumpsets. It was expected that 50,000 villages would be electrified. This expectation has, however, been exceeded and 75,716 villages have been electrified upto January, 1974

(b) All possible efforts have been made to achieve the targets of this programme