

(b) There are 13 Sub-divisions, 4 Divisions and 1 Circle on the Works side under the Chief Electrical Engineer.

(c) to (e). The Chief Electrical Engineer is required by an executive order to inspect the Circle Office once every two years and each Divisional Office once every three years. In pursuance of this order, inspections were carried out as follows:

Patna Circle	14-2-1969
Patna Division	20-5-1969
Ranchi Division	12-9-1969 & 13-9-1969
Bhagalpur Division	24-3-1969 & 25-3-1969
Muzaffarpur Division	2-6-1969

Copies of the inspection reports were sent to officers concerned and the Secretary to the Government. In addition, the Chief Electrical Engineer pointed out technical and other defects some of which were serious relating to irregularities in purchase of materials by the Electrical Engineer, Works, Muzaffarpur, on 18-9-1965. He further detected irregularities in the Sectional Office, Monghyr and serious irregularities in the system of purchase in the office of the Electrical Works Division in May, 1967. On the basis of reports submitted by him, an Electrical Superintending Engineer and three Electrical Engineers have been suspended.

PURCHASE OF STORES IN THE WORKS DIVISION OF THE BIHAR ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

4846. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Additional Engineer and Superintendent were issuing orders regarding purchase of stores in the Works Division of the Bihar Electricity Department between 1957 and 1967 ;

(b) whether this fact had not come to the notice of the Chief Electrical Engineer during his inspections between 1964 and 1967;

(c) if so, whether he has issued by orders in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Chief Electrical Engineer was aware of the fact that the Additional Engineer and the Superintendent had been violating the rules in stores purchase?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESWAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e). As there is no post of Additional Engineer in the Electricity Department of the State Government of Bihar, the reference is presumably to the Electrical Superintending Engineer. The Electrical Superintending Engineer normally is not required to acquire stores because the value of most of the purchases is within the competence of the Executive Engineers. He may, however, acquire stores in the interest of work. The system of purchase of stores was investigated by the Chief Electrical Engineer and irregularities were noticed by him in May, 1967 and reported to Government. Instructions not to acquire any stores without the prior approval of the Chief Engineer were issued on 20-5-1967. During a major part of the period from November, 1964, when he assumed charge to May, 1967, when the irregularities were detected, the Chief Electrical Engineer could not devote his whole-time attention to the Electrical Department as he held charge of it in addition to the charge of Chief Electrical Engineer of the Electricity Board. The Superintending Engineer has been suspended for the irregularities.

AUDIT OF GAYA AND BHAGALPUR CIRCLE OF BIHAR STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD AND ELECTRICAL WORKS DIVISION

4847. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the expenditure for the year 1966-67 of Gaya and Bhagalpur Circle of Bihar State Electricity Board and Electrical Works Division Patna of Electricity Department were specially audited because of serious irregularities found in the Accounts;

(b) the comparative results of the audit of the circles of Bihar State Electricity Board with Patna Electrical Works Division; and