

has mentioned about the Ministry of Petroleum also. One of the components for the pollution around Agra, which was decided by one of the committees in 1991-92, was the emission from the Mathura Refinery and one of the effects of this emission is that the white marble stone of the Taj Mahal is turning into yellow. May I know from the hon. Minister specifically, since he has mentioned so many things, as to what measures they are going to take to see that the emission from the Mathura Refinery does not affect the Taj Mahal and its white marble stone does not turn yellow ?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, it is a very interesting question, but it is also based on some misconception. The Mathura Refinery is in no way contributing to the pollution of the Taj Mahal monument. As a matter of fact, we have set up one of the most stringent conditions on the Mathura Refinery. Those conditions are so stringent that they are the worst in the world, or rather the best in the world. As a result of these, the Mathura Refinery is now performing in such a way that their emission norms, particularly of sulphur dioxide, which can possibly cause such yellowishness on the Agra monuments.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Sir, one of his predecessors, while replying to one of the Supplementary Questions in this House, said that this is one of the reasons.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Ambedkar, let him complete his answer.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, the air monitoring system of the Mathura Refinery is monitoring it on day to day basis. The emission of the Mathura Refinery is the lowest in that region. In fact, the Mathura Refinery has received an award from the World Environment Forum for their performance of that kind, and I really congratulate my colleague, the Petroleum Minister for coming out with performance like this.

#### Hydel Power Generation from Small Projects

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\*262. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :  
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to enhance the power generation from the small hydro power projects ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether all hydel projects up to 25 MW have been shifted from the Ministry of Power;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor; and

(e) the estimated power likely to be generated from the hydel projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is implementing schemes for power generation from small hydel projects. These include assistance for survey and investigation of small hydro sites, preparation of detailed project reports, interest subsidy for projects in the private sector, capital grants in the North-East in the State sector, renovation and modernisation of old stations and development and up-gradation of water mills.

(c) to (e) In order to provide greater thrust to small hydro power development, the Ministry of Power, while announcing the Policy for Hydro Power Development, has proposed the transfer of the subject of small hydro power between 3 and 25 MW to the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources. The estimated potential of small hydro power projects will be over 10,000 MW.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have read a report and as per this report, so far 80 thousand villages could not be provided with the facility of electricity. We are formulating big plans for generating electricity but 18 thousands villages have not yet been provided with electricity facility. The Government have encouraged power generation by providing assistance to small villages and hilly tracks for setting up small hydro-electric projects. I would like to know the names of the villages where survey has been conducted by the Government and the extent of power likely to be generated by these ?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the small hydro power projects of 3 MW are concerned, I would like to tell that as on date, 183 such projects have been installed and 148 such projects are under installation. I have inquired into it and as per my information, about 3350 such sites have been identified and their total capacity come about 2852 MW. In case of Maharashtra, I would like to say that small hydro project with capacity of less than 3 MW have been set up there at 66 places and these will generate 75 MW electricity. As far as the policy regarding Public Sector Participation is concerned, it has not changed at all. People can participate in private sector. In context of power projects with the capacity of 3 to 25 MW, I would like to state that 12 such sites have been identified in Maharashtra which have power potential upto 120 MW. Six projects of Maharashtra are generating 7 MW. power and 3 MW. power projects are under construction which would have a potential of generating 7.25 MW. power.

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any proposal to transfer the small hydro power projects with a capacity of less than 25 mw. If so, by when these would be transferred ?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : So far the issue of transfer of small non-conventional power projects with a capacity of 3 to 25 mw is concerned, I would like to tell that the government has taken a decision in the cabinet to this affect and business rules in this regard would be issued soon.

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the cost of setting up a 25 mw power project alongwith the per megawatt cost of power generation.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : So far the issue of the cost of setting up 25 mw power project is concerned, I would like to state that only an estimate could be made in this regard because cost of one power project may differ from that of the other Project. This issue relates to the site of hydro project. One megawatt power generation costs about Rs.4-5 crore. As regards the issue of setting up a power project in hilly, north-eastern states and in Andman -Nicobar Islands is concerned, I would say that the Government provides 50 percent or subsidy upto Rs. 2.5 crore.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : When the hon. Railway Minister was laying the Status Report on the Railways in this august House, at that time, the power Minister said that, in the next Session, the Power Ministry will also lay on the Table a Status Report about the problems faced by the Department concerned and its future plans. I would like to know from the Minister concerned as to when he is going to lay the Status Report on the entire issue of power supply on the table.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I am at the moment standing here in my capacity as the Minister of Non-conventional Energy Sources. The Member has asked a question with regard to power. We have already come out with a programme as to what is our vision in the Power Ministry for 2000-2012. It is available in the library. If necessary, I shall send a copy to my good friend.

SHRI C. GOPAL : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy sources has implemented schemes for generation of power by small hydro-electric projects. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if there is any such scheme to be implemented in Tamil Nadu, and if so, the details thereof. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that there is a power cut in Tamil Nadu which has been going on for two days. Students and labourers are suffering a lot because of this. Tamil Nadu is in total darkness. I therefore, want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any such scheme for implementation in Tamil Nadu in future. I want a detailed answer for this.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I shall send him the details of Tamil Nadu. There are four projects now being supported by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The capacity in Tamil Nadu is not too little, it is reasonably high. The details are – 131 projects are identified with a potential of 141.92 MW; three projects are set up with a capacity of 4.75 MW; four projects are under construction with a capacity of 6.4 MW.

Sites which we have offered to the private sector is only one of .65 MW. Four of our subsidy schemes of 6.45 MW are under operation. Under MES DPR scheme where DPR preparation is financed by us, six projects of 1 MW are going on. Under the DSI scheme, there is one project of 1 MW. If the Member wants the details, I can send them to him.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The Member has asked about the black out in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, with your permission I would just complete my answer.

MR. SPEAKER : You can send the information to the Member.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Minister is giving a wrong picture. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

.....(Interruptions) \*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, a large number of small hydro-electric projects installed in our country are at optimum generation level. They are even non-functional due to ageing, obsolescent technology, poor maintenance, etc. If not attended to in time, their condition would further deteriorate resulting in further loss of generation. Some of them may deteriorate beyond economic renovation and repair. An allocation of Rs. 147 crore has been made for small hydro-electric programmes during the Ninth Five Plan. May I know from the Minister the amount earmarked for renovation and modernisation of these old hydro-electric projects which are non-functional and which have become obsolete and deteriorated ?

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, on renovation and modernisation front the situation is not so bad as Basu-da is trying to make out. For renovation and modernisation of old projects, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy has given Rs. 2. crore per megawatt. We have an allocation of Rs. 5 crore this year. In fact, there is hardly any case coming up to us. About 50 to 60 MW, the capacity is below optimal but not so bad as we see often in many thermal plants which are there, for example, in Bihar.

\* Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not understand the reply given by the hon'ble Minister. Hon'ble Minister is replying to the questions enthusiastically but I think the precious time of the House is being wasted. Hon'ble Minister has stated .....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Laluji you have got your hair cut. ....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I have got my hair cut because Bhandarji has been recalled .....(*Interruptions*) Bhandarji was called back by you so I have got my hair cut. Mr. Speaker, Sir the department of power is not working properly. Hon'ble Minister has stated that as per the policy of the Government, assistance would be given for setting up 25 mw hydel power projects. I would like to know the extent of assistance to be given. Whether any survey has been conducted in states. How much funds have been allocated in the budget for this purpose. It has been stated that project will be formulated in the field of Conventional energy. The useful water of rivers originating from mountains is wasted away in rainy season. Whether any survey has been conducted by the Department of Energy, Government of India or you are making a guess that assistance will be given in setting up power projects having capacity 3 to 25 mw. It was the policy of the Government that areas of coal pit – .....(*Interruptions*)

I am coming to the question. Please listen to me. Please understand, your party's Government is going to fall. Mr. Speaker the whole country has a right to know this and through you I would like to know whether any survey has been conducted and how much funds have been allocated in this budget for this purpose. Whether the State Governments have to make contribution or cent percent work is to be executed by the Central Government. I would like to know how many projects pertaining to small areas and for utilizing the water of rivers originating from mountains which is being wasted at present have been taken up or will be taken up in the coming years. I would like to seek a categorical reply to this question. Whatever has been given to the hydel sector in Bihar has been withdrawn. Koel Karo project was withdrawn and it is not known the project with what capacity was sanctioned later on. Please clarify whether it is mere a guess so that Hon'ble members should know as to what is being done in their region in their states.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell hon'ble Laluji that I do not make tall claims and make factual statements. The potential of ten thousand Megawatt was identified only after carrying out detailed study by Central Electricity Authority. The figures given by me here have been prepared both by State Electricity Board and Central Electricity Authority. The power projects have been set up on the basis of identified potential.

The total capacity of small hydro power projects with capacity of less than 3 mw comes to 245 MW and their number is 149. People are being offered to take up projects hav-

ing capacity of 861 mw under the private sector. 82 projects are working under subsidy scheme and their capacity is about 100 mw. He is very well aware of the fact that Koel Karo project was closed down by the earlier government of his allies parties. We have revived this project.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, instead of blaming this government, he should be thankful to us. There should be no dispute in matters of increasing power generation. We all should work together for progress of the country.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that such small hydel power projects can work efficiently particularly in the hilly states and these are very much required in these states. Electricity is an object of dream only in Paddar and Marwa – Dachan area under my constituency. People are not even familiar with the lanterns. There people have to burn wood to get light. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to which hydel power projects have been formulated for Jammu and Kashmir especially for Bani, Thathri, Paddar, Marwa – Dachan and Poonchh area which have enough scope for setting up mini hydel projects. I would like to get detailed information as to whether these areas have been identified or not for this purpose and whether work is on in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I have to search for the List now.

MR. SPEAKER : Otherwise, you can send the information to the hon. Member.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I have not got the papers with me immediately. But I have replied earlier to Q.No. 3765. This question has been replied to earlier in the Lok Sabha itself. The on-going small hydro projects in hilly areas are Haftal, Sarkali, and Marpechoo in Ladakh province, and Sanjak in Kargil, and Igomarcllong and Dunkar in Leh.

MR. SPEAKER : You can send the information to the hon. Member.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The hydro-projects in Kashmir are Pahalgam, Matchil and Asthannallah. Restoration work is going on in Mohra. I am talking about projects under execution in Jammu & Kashmir.

In Jammu province, there are Sewa Hydroelectric Project Phase III Chennai-3 project. Remodelling of Bhandarwah Power House is going on.

I can also give you the present stage of each project. There are enough details. I will send them to the hon. Member.

I wish to assure the hon. Member that we are aware of the fact that hilly area is the place where hydro potential is there. That is why, the policy provides for subsidy in hilly areas in the North-East and in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Darjeeling is a hill district in West Bengal where there is Rammam hydel power project and at the time of Gorkhaland movement in Darjeeling district, this project was badly affected. There are four units of 12.75 MW each, the total of which comes to 51 MW. Recently the Government of West Bengal have decided to hand over this hill area project to joint sector in order to run this project smoothly. It is a project by which the total hilly area can be provided with power. I want to know whether Central Government has any proposal to make financial assistance to this project so that it cannot be handed over to joint sector by the State Government and whether Central Government can take up this project on their own.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, this actually is a State Government project. I am sorry to say that the Central Government does not get any jurisdiction until they voluntarily and willingly hand it over. If they do so, I can assure the hon. Member that we will not only finance it but we will complete the project and run the project as well.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Thank you very much.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The hon. Minister has informed this House that the hydel potential of this country is 10,000 MW. I would like to know from him what percentage of it has been tapped and what percentage of it would he like to tap during the current plan.

There was a subsidy and there is a subsidy at present. What is the policy of the Government with regard to this subsidy? Would he continue it or is there a proposal to do away with this subsidy?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, may I just point out that there is no proposal to do away with the subsidy. On the contrary, I would like the help of the hon. Chief Whip of the Opposition, Shri Kurien to campaign with me to improve the subsidy a bit.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I support you in that.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The percentage that we have achieved is rather small. Only 1,200 MW have been set up. I would like to achieve all the 10,000 MW because small hydros are really valuable the day the debt is paid back. Then it becomes a cheaper source of power because operation and maintenance is very low.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : What is the target for this year in the current Plan?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Unfortunately, the cost of construction in most of these projects are non-viable in the sense that till the debt is paid back the cost of power is very high. Therefore, the private sector is often reluctant to come into it without enough subsidy being provided. A scheme of subsidy is there but the amount of money that we get has always not been enough over the years to achieve

the objective which we want and I am sure that the hon. Member would help me at the appropriate time.

### Conservation Area Surveys

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\*263. SHRI KAMAL NATH :  
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Conservation Area Surveys and/or flora and fauna surveys have been conducted in various National parks and Sanctuaries in the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof, park/sanctuary-wise;

(c) whether about fifty exotic species of weeds are threatening the flora at the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve and also Rajaji National Park to the West of tiger reserve;

(d) if so, whether the State Forest officials have expressed their inability to tackle this problem owing to money and man power constraints; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to help fight this menace?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) and (b) Forest Survey of India has completed forest cover mapping in 18 tiger reserves using the satellite data and the findings were published in a report "State of Forest Cover in Project Tiger Reserves in 1993". List of these tiger reserves is at Annexure-I to this statement. Forest Survey of India has also published reports regarding forest cover in 2 national parks and 8 sanctuaries. The details are given at Annexure-II to this statement.

Botanical Survey of India has also conducted floral survey around the 18 tiger reserves. 1 national park and 4 sanctuaries, the list of which is given at Annexure-III of this statement,

Zoological Survey of India has carried out faunal survey in respect of 11 tiger reserves. 3 national parks and 10 sanctuaries. The list of the areas is given at Annexure-IV of this statement.

(c) Intensive infestation by weeds like *Lantana*, *Parthenium* and *water hyacinth* does affect the flora and fauna in certain areas of the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve and Rajaji National Park.

(d) and (e) Uttar Pradesh Government have submitted a proposal for weed eradication in Corbett and Rajaji National