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April and May, 1997

1. Energy cut of 50% on EHT, HT and LT non-domestic consumers having than 100 KVA load from 18.3.1997.

2. Energy cut of 50% on LT industrial consumers having connected load above 10 KW from 18.3.1997.

June, 1997

1. Energy cut of 30% on EHT and LT non-domestic and commercial consumers having more than 100 KVA load upto 8.6.1996.

2. Energy cut of 100% on EHT, HT and LT consumers having connected load above 10 KW from 9.6.1997 which has reduced to 75% on HT and LT consumers from 17.6.1997 and to 70% on all EHT industries from 1.7.1997.

Linking of International Airports with Railway Stations

281. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has decided to link the International Airports of all the major cities with the nearest railway station;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are planning to open booking offices at the Airports in order to mitigate the inconvenience being faced by the foreign tourists;

(c) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Railways have special quota for passengers paying in hard currency and the country's airports are expected to aid optimum utilisation of berths set aside for foreign tourists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Computerised reservation counters are available at the Delhi and Madras airports. Manual reservation facilities alongwith quotas in some selected trains have been provided at Calcutta airport. There is no other proposal under consideration.

(d) and (e) Depending upon the requirement, a few berths in various trains have been earmarked as Foreign Tourist Quota which is allotted to foreign tourists paying

in hard currency. With the provision of computerised reservation facility at airports, the utilisation of this quota is likely to pick up.

Installation of Heating System at AIR, Leh

282. SHRI P. NAMGAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the time by when the heating system of AIR, Leh was installed and the name of the Company to whom the contract was awarded;

(b) whether the system was non-functional from the day when it was supposed to be made functional;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the contractor was paid amount without commissioning the heating system;

(e) if so, the details of the payment made therefor, and the officer held responsible for making full payment to contractor; and

(f) the action taken against the guilty officials ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The heating system of AIR, Leh Transmitter was installed in October, 1991. The equipment of Heating Plant was supplied by M/s Delta T. Systems.

The Heating system at studios of AIR, Leh was installed in November, 1983 and the plant was supplied by M/s Bluestar Ltd.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

- (d) No, Sir.
 (e) Does not arise.
 (f) Does not arise.

Scheduled Tribes Vacant Posts

283. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the posts meant for scheduled tribes are lying vacant under different categories in the Ministry; State-wise;
 (b) whether persons belonging to other castes have been working against those posts;
 (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and post-wise; and
 (d) the action taken by the Government to fill up the total backlog ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Development of Wind Energy

284. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
 PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

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

- (a) whether any schemes has been formulated for the development of wind energy in view of the acute shortage of power in the country;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether there is any proposal to set up research centres for the development of wind energy; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof and the amount estimated to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) A total wind power capacity of 900 MW has been installed in the country. Over two billion units of electricity have so far been generated and fed to the grid from these projects. Wind power installation have come about mainly through private sector investments. Government support has been by way of wind resource assessment and demonstration projects

aggregating to 50 MW undertaken by State agencies and Electricity Boards.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has decided to establish a Wind Power Systems Development and Test Centre to undertake R&D, testing and to serve as the technical focal point for wind power development in the country. A Wind Turbine Test Station will be set up as an integral part of the Centre. Technical and partial financial support for the Test Station will be provided by the Government of Denmark. An amount of about Rs. 10 crore is likely to be incurred in the establishment of the Station.

[Translation]

Construction of Railway Line

285. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any scheme to construct railway line in the Adivasi areas of the country which have Mineral Wealth in huge quantity such as Garchilori in Maharashtra; and
 (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several lines are under construction in the Adivasi areas of the country which have mineral wealth. These include Daitari-Banspani, Khurda Road-Bolangir. Construction of Dallirajahara-Jagdapur line in such a area has also been approved and would be taken up in the coming years. As regards Garchilori, a survey for a new line from Wadsa to Garchilori has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

Funds to Bihar for Employment Assurance Scheme

286. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the reasons for non-availability of funds for district Begusarai in Bihar under the Employment Assurance Scheme during the current year; and
 (b) the efforts being made to ensure that the funds are made available to the State timely ?