

As I have told this august House earlier that in the revenue boundary, whether it is for the pump set or for electrification of a village or a hamlet, it would be covered 100 per cent for electrification purposes. Now we want to change it and for that we are changing the concept from village revenue boundary to inhabitation. In consultation with the Central Electricity Authority, we are changing the definition.

Furthermore I would request all the hon. Members, if they wish to submit any suggestions regarding change of definition, they may kindly do so. Their suggestions would be welcomed.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Bhavnaji has already asked my question.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every Member cannot ask a question in the Question Hour. Members are requested to send their questions to the honourable Minister in writing and get the replies.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA: Madam Chairperson, I would like to ask from the honourable Minister as to whether it is correct that those villages which have been electrified, have intact not been electrified completely and a large part or several localities of those villages have not been electrified. What schemes the Government propose to launch to electrify the part or portions of those villages ?

Second thing is that in electrified villages transformers often become out of order and the State Governments take several months to get these transformers repaired.

Whether the Central Government has any scheme to help the State Governments so that they can keep spare transformers and in case of failure of a transformer in any village, spare transformer can be installed there. Supply of electricity should be maintained at least in those areas where it is being supplied at present. Therefore, through you, I would like to know as to how classification will be completed in partly electrified villages, and what arrangements do the Government want to make to repair those transformers which go out of order.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALA CHARI: Madam, in addition to our regular programmes we are spending a sum of Rs. 20 crore yearly for the MLAs' programmes and non-conventional energy programmes. We are taking up programmes like small, hydro, wind energy, and gas based programmes. Further, we are having system improvement schemes through the REC. Through the system improvement schemes we are providing loans to State Electricity Boards for making transformers and other systems and also to improve the efficiency of load.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Madam Chairperson, the question was asked about all the states. There are seven Union Territories in India out of which information has been given in regard to two Union Territories only in reply to the question but no information has been given about five other Union Territories. Union Territory of Chandigarh has demanded funds from the Government in this regard. Punjab, Haryana High Court has directed the Chandigarh Administration to give power connections in those areas where these connections have not been given so far. Therefore through you, I would like to know as to why information in regard to remaining five Union Territories including Chandigarh, has not been given and if you have got the required information are you in a position to apprise this House of the actual position.

DR. S. VENUGOPALA CHARI: Madam, I will pass on this information to the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall move on to the next question—Q. No. 542.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Madam, before you move on to the next question, I would like to know as to why I am specifically targeted by the Secretariat by supplying blank pages as schedules in the List of Business to me. Madam, would you please ask the Secretariat to inquire into it ?.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: You can raise this issue later on and not during the Question Hour.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Actually I wanted to raise it before the start of the Question Hour. Madam, I saw that you had started the Question Hour....(Interruptions) Would you please ask the Secretariat to inquire into it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise it later on.

Now, we shall take up the next question.

Allocation to Mega Cities

*542 SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission on Urbanisation had recommended allocation of funds for mega cities for the purpose of infrastructure development in the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans;

(b) if so, the details of amount allocated to the mega cities;

(c) whether the Government propose to continue the mega city scheme in the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to include more cities in mega city scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, including the criteria laid down for the selection of cities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amounts allotted to the mega cities under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities, formulated in pursuance of the recommendations of the National Commission on Urbanisation, are as follows:-

Mega City	Funds Released (1993-97)* (Rupees in crores)
Calcutta	67.86
Mumbai	67.36
Chennai	55.26
Hyderabad	53.49
Bangalore	45.83
Total:	289.80

* The funds for 1993-94 were released by the Planning Commission as Special Central Assistance and were treated as Central share for the Mega City Scheme. From 1994-95 onwards the funds were released by Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has proposed to the Planning Commission to continue the Mega City Scheme in the 9th Plan.

(d) At present there is no proposal to include more cities under the Mega City Scheme.

(e) The criterion for inclusion of a city under the Mega City Scheme as per the Scheme Guidelines is that the population as per the 1991 Census is more than 4 million.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Madam Chairperson, the Central Government have issued guidelines in regard to implementation of centrally sponsored schemes in mega cities and provided funding pattern for them. As per this funding pattern, 25 per cent share is borne by the central Government, 25 per cent by the state Government and the remaining 50 per cent is borne by nodal implementing agency but the nodal agency has to face many problems in collecting this 50 per cent share. Central Government is responsible to make effective these centrally sponsored schemes. Therefore, through you I would like to know as to whether the Central Government are considering to enhance its share which is 25 percent at present ?

[English]

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: Madam, this scheme, as the hon. Member has observed, is a centrally sponsored scheme. When this scheme was formulated, it was formulated on the basis that 50 per cent would be borne by both the State Government and the Central Government on 50:50 basis; 25 per cent of the project cost would be provided by the Central Government, the Union Government, as a grant; 25 per cent would be borne by the State Government and remaining 50 per cent was to be raised either in the shape of a loan from the institutions or by developing the land or by having some other means for raising the funds internally by the State Government.

But the total work is entrusted to a nodal agency by the Central Government. As such, there is no proposal nor is it possible for the Central Government to raise its share from 25 per cent to any further.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Guidelines have been fixed for mega city scheme, which do not include schemes of Master Plan of Municipal Corporation taken. Through you, I would like to know from the honourable Minister as to whether the schemes of Municipalities can be included in Mega city scheme ?

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: Madam, I do not know what exactly the hon. Member wants me to answer this question. As far as the Mega City Scheme is concerned, the Municipal Corporation is eligible to have its own plan. But there is a State level Sanctioning Committee. Any project that is conceived by the Municipal Corporation, can be passed through that State level Sanctioning Committee and that scheme can be approved in the Sanctioning Committee. As far as the number of schemes that are to be included under the Mega City Scheme within the purview of its level is concerned, the Central Government will not interfere.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Madam, this question of Mega Cities is drawing the attention of all the important metropolitan cities as listed in the answer. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the city adjacent to the Mega Cities is treated as a combined city or not? I give a specific instance of the city of Calcutta. Both Calcutta and Howrah are treated as a combined city. Howrah is the constituency that I represent. I have been arguing right from Prime Minister, to the hon. Minister and to the Chief Minister that it should be treated as a twin city project both within the Mega City complex. The factual problem is that the Municipal Corporation has no infrastructure. When I started interacting with the municipal authorities, they admitted that they had no infrastructure to implement this Plan. They say, 'we have no competent technical staff and officials'. Money is allotted. Although the money that is being allotted is meagre, I am not arguing on that now. In what manner and in what capacity, is it going to be implemented ?

Before the Budget was placed, without consulting Surat, without consulting Kanpur, without consulting Ahmadabad, I proposed on their behalf because my group of team has been working in this urban conglomeration, keeping in view the horrible conditions of their civic life, the slum conditions and the drinking water, that these cities be taken special care of within the mega concept by the Prime Minister. But nothing has been done. I proposed Nagpur also. On the one hand the Government is making a principle that we should not make any more crowd to the main urban centre and on the other hand, the Government is telling that the Mega City complexes ensure immediate implementation of the programme. When we go to the State, we find that bureaucracy and technical infrastructure are nil. Does it need any effort? Now I am coming to the question of Calcutta and Howrah. I have drawn your attention. In those cities, there has been no water for the last 10 months and the women are in the streets for water. There is no slum improvement. The Mega City money is lying idle. The Howrah Municipal Commissioner told me that he had no infrastructure. The CMC says that he has not got the guidelines. The Minister says that he had sent the money. Who will do it? I do not understand. Please answer, therefore, the following questions; (a) Whether Howrah is clubbed with Calcutta as a twin-city project; (b) What specific mechanism has he evolved to provide the technical superintendence for implementing this project? What is going on?...(Interruptions)

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: Calcutta and Howrah come under one Mega City Project. Both are under one Mega City Project.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: The name of Howrah has not figured in it.

[English]

You have to say why Calcutta and Howrah have not been mentioned.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: I do not know the historical reason why it has been mentioned only as a Calcutta Mega City Project and why it has not been mentioned as Calcutta-Howrah Mega City Project. But as far as the Mega City Project is concerned...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can reply to the second part of the question.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: Madam, it is under the Calcutta Mega City Project. As I have been mentioning earlier the schemes which are to be taken up under the purview of that Mega City, will be decided by the State level Committee.

As far as Calcutta is concerned, the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority is the nodal agency which is finalising and implementing this project. In Calcutta, 56 projects have been approved which have been conceived

by this Committee...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Madam, I seek your protection because the hon. Minister has just now admitted that Howrah is included in Calcutta. No projects are given to Howrah; only to Calcutta they are being given. That is why, I am asking this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let him reply.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You live at Calcutta, so they are giving preference to Calcutta region.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Shri Pal, do not make a mistake. This is a serious question. If all the trains are stopped at Howrah, none of you people will be able to come to Delhi. Will that be all right?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister reply.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: The hon. Member has given me a letter. I have forwarded that letter to the State Government for considering this particular project. I am yet to receive the information from them. Even now regarding any deletions or additions in the approved projects, it is up to the State level sanctioning Committee. There will be a representative from my Ministry. There will be a representative on the Committee even from the Planning Commission. The Committee can take up either deletion or addition of these projects within the purview of the total budget that has been allotted for that.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Madam Chairperson, whether any funds have been made available for the project Mega city 'B' by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment of the Central Government? If so, how much amount has been given to Rajasthan during the last five years and the details of amount provided out of that city-wise separately? Please make it clear.

[English]

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: This will not come under Mega city Project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can write to him.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: Yes.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Madam Chairperson, there is a criteria fixed for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can write to him and the Minister would send a reply.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I request the Members to maintain some order in the House?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: The scheme of Mega City which the Central Government is implementing is in

conformity with certain principles. The people migrate from villages to cities and from one State to another and it puts tremendous burden on the cities which receive such migrant population.

The city of Mumbai has now exceeded a population of more than twelve million. We are talking about Mega City status—the cities having only four million population. But thrice that number lives in the city of Mumbai. More than half of the population lives in slums and in almost sub-human conditions. The State Government is trying hard to bring up their standards of living. But with such pittance that the Central Government is providing, which is less than Rs. 13 to Rs. 14 per head, it is a cruel joke. It is adding insult to injury.

Is the Central Government thinking of putting additional amount into the city of Mumbai specifically because it claims to be the commercial capital of the country? Is the Government thinking of taking a share of the development of that city and not just an amount of Rs. 14 crore or Rs. 25 crore *ad hoc* which loses all its relevance? So, what is the Government's thinking in this matter? Is it in conformity with the principle that you have accorded the status of Mega City? Is the Government contemplating to take specific share in the development of the city and bringing up the lives of human beings who have migrated from all over the country? Is the Government thinking of putting up a cess on other States whose population we receive in our small Mumbai?

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: The Mega City was conceived on a principle and whatever decisions were taken based on certain guidelines.

The Mega City projects have been taken up in the cities where the population is more than four million as per the 1991 census. Only such cities have been taken up. Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore are the only five cities whose population is more than four million as per 1991 census. As such, based on the principle of population being more than four million, these five cities were taken up. With regard to the project and the proportion that is being borne by the Union Government, Mumbai has been approved with a plan of Rs. 800 crore and in this total cost of Rs. 800 crore, 25 per cent will be borne by the Central Government in the shape of grants. As such the Central Government will be providing Rs. 200 crore for that.

Similarly Calcutta is approved with a plan of Rs. 1,600 crore; Chennai with a plan of Rs. 914 crore; Hyderabad with a plan of Rs. 913 crore and Bangalore with a plan of Rs. 805 crore. These were the projects that were approved. The twenty-five per cent of the cost will be borne by the Union Government.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM: Madam, Bangalore is included in the megacity scheme. As far as the climate is concerned, the Bangalore climate is very good. When there was a thinking that we must have a session of Parliament in the South also, Bangalore city was selected for that

purpose. But now Bangalore is facing drinking water and also this Mega City problem. I would like to know as to how much money has been allotted for this. I request that the work should be taken up very expeditiously and that Mega City has to be developed and justice done as far as the allotment is concerned.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: Madam, the Eighth Plan outlay for Bangalore under this megacity scheme was Rs. 100 crore and the amount that is already released is about Rs. 45.83 crore.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Madam, Chairperson, the honourable Minister has just told that a plan of Rs. 800 Crore for Mumbai and Rs. 1600 Crore that is double, for Calcutta have been approved. My colleague Shri Prabhu has told that the population of Mumbai is 1 Crore and 20 lakh but the population of Mumbai is more than that. There are four Municipal Corporations i.e. Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan and New Mumbai and eight Municipalities named Bhainder, Vasai, Nalasopara, Virar, Navachar, Ambarnath, Ullhas Nagar and Panwar! adjacent to Mumbai and thus the total population comes to 2 Crores. Now it is responsibility of Mumbai to provide all civic amenities to these 2 crore people. Therefore, I would like to know as to whether the planning of Mumbai Megacity would be done taking into account 2 Crore as population instead of 1 crore and 20 lakhs? Besides this, what is the reason behind allocating Rs. 800 crore to Mumbai in comparison to Calcutta? Why injustice is being done continuously against Mumbai?

[English]

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: Madam, as I have mentioned earlier also, these schemes were approved as early as in 1993-94 and the schemes were in implementation during the Eighth Plan. This is the status at the end of the Eighth Plan. Most of the schemes have not been pushed through. Whatever schemes that have been started have not even been completed.

In fact, in my Ministry, we have written even to the Planning Commission to consider the continuation of this particular Mega City scheme even during the Ninth Plan also. It is still under discussion and it has not been finalised. In this revision and continuation, we have also been requesting them to take stock of the present position of these cities. I think something will come out on this particular thing by the time the Ninth Plan discussions are finalised.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Madam, Chairperson, I have not got reply to my question. I had asked as to whether the Government would consider about the population of 2 crore while planning in future and why injustice is being done against Mumbai? So what, if previous Government had made this scheme, the Government continue to exist.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: What I was telling is that

this scheme is supposed to be closed by the end of the Eighth Plan. Now, I have written to the Planning Commission that since the Scheme has not been finalised and completed, there is a necessity for continuation of this scheme during the Ninth Plan. While continuing this scheme, I have also been requesting them to consider all these factors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question number 543.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: This particular question is pertaining to my city. There was no opportunity given to me to ask the question. It is most surprising.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can write to the Minister and get a reply from him.

Question number 543.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: As regards Howrah, a question was asked. That is all right. I have been raising my hand from the very beginning and this particular question is pertaining to our city. You have not allowed me. It is all right. But I would like to bring it on.....*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please write for Half-an-Hour discussion.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: The hon. Member can come to me so that we can discuss it. If there is any problem, we can sort it out.....*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: What is the definition of 'Mega City' ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vijay Goel, this cannot go on like this.

Collaboration of India with Foreign Countries

*543. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepalese delegation to the Conference of the SAARC Council of Ministers held in December 1996, had presented a paper advocating collaboration between India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan for developing contiguous parts of the four countries in the areas of water, electricity, transport, trade, communications etc.;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(c) India's reaction to this concept and whether any initiative is proposed to be taken by India in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The paper presented by the Government of Nepal

broadly included promotion of sub-regional economic co-operation by engaging Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India through a series of comprehensive expert studies to help implement the concept of sub-regional cooperation in the core economic sectors. The proposal envisaged utilising economics of scale for mutual benefit through a three phase plan.

India welcomed this initiative of economic cooperation involving the four countries of South Asia and has participated in the Foreign Secretary-level meeting held at Kathmandu on April 2, 1997. It was agreed at the meeting that the objective of the "growth quadrangle" is to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development through identification and implementation of specific projects of cooperation in the core economic sectors of multi-modal transportation and communications, energy, trade and investment facilitation and promotion, tourism, natural resources and environment.

The Foreign Minister of the four countries met in New Delhi on April 8, 1997 and formally launched the sub-regional economic cooperation initiative. They reaffirmed their commitment to pursue sub-regional economic cooperation for accelerating economic growth, overcoming infrastructural constraints and making optimal use of sub-regional complementarities.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: The Minister has given in the reply that India welcomed this initiative of economic cooperation involving the four countries of South Asia and has participated in the Foreign Secretary-level meeting held at Kathmandu on April 2, 1997. It was agreed at the meeting that the objective of the growth quadrangle is to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development through identification and implementation of specific projects of cooperation in the core economic sectors of multi-modal transportation and communications, energy, trade and investment facilitation and promotion, tourism, natural resources and environment.

To this proposal, the Pakistan has not liked our improving relations with these countries and the Pakistan officials expressing unhappiness over the move have stated that a sub-regional group like this will undermine the SAARC. In reality, Pakistan is afraid that India's coming forward with these nations would be a setback for her.

My question to the hon. Minister is whether the objection of Pakistan would come in the way of implementation, or would slow down the process of cooperation, with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. What steps have been taken in furtherance of the proposal since December, 1996 when it was mooted ? What is the assistance or concession India proposes to give taking into account the special needs of the smaller States ?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Madam, as regards the first question relating to objections by Pakistan, I may tell the hon. Member that it appears that he is not abreast of the happenings at Maldives. The objections initially raised by Pakistan no more hold good. At the discussions which