

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Pricing of liquid fuel imports for power plants would be outside the administered pricing mechanism and would not be linked up with Oil Pool Account. The prices would be based on international prices and would not have any element of subsidy. This is not expected to have any adverse effect on the feasibility of setting up of liquid fuel projects to the extent of 12000 MW.

[Translation]

Shortage of Power in Villages of Rajasthan

1534. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that despite vigorous efforts of Rural Corporation of India there is shortage of power in various villages and towns of Rajasthan and there are various such villages which have not been electrified as yet;

(b) if so, the names of the districts and the villages which have been electrified by the Rural Electrification Corporation of India with the assistance of the State Government during the last three years; and

(c) the names of the district which have been selected for electrification as per the target fixed for the current year and the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) has informed that even though there is a shortage of power in the State it has not affected achievement of village electrification plan targets in the State. As per 1981 census out of 34,968 inhabited villages in Rajasthan, the State has reported electrification of 31,320 villages upto March, 1997. The balance 3648 villages remains to be electrified.

(b) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) only provides financial assistance to State Electricity Boards/ Electricity Departments for rural electrification programme and actual execution of the programme including electrification of villages is undertaken by the respective SEBs/Electricity Departments. District-wise number of villages electrified by RSEB both under REC Financed Scheme and State Plan funds during the past three years are given in the attached statement.

(c) State-wise rural electrification programme for the current financial year 1997-98 is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission. However, it is propose to electrify 480 villages in Rajasthan under REC Financed Scheme.

Statement

District-wise village electrified during 1994-95 to 1996-97*

S.No.	District	No. of inhabited villages 1981 census	Villages Electrified During		
			1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ajmer	923	15	1	14
2.	Alwar	1892	16	10	12
3.	Banswara	1445	35	8	41
4.	Baran	1045	40	13	12
5.	Barmer	853	23	9	7
6.	Bharatpur	1328	22	11	19
7.	Bhilwara	1512	9	3	-
8.	Bikaner	571	5	-	3
9.	Bundi	783	16	16	21
10.	Chittorgarh	2144	46	47	58
11.	Churu	855	17	7	12
12.	Dausa	793	18	41	21
13.	Dholpur	538	11	1	3
14.	Dungarpur	832	16	16	5
15.	Hanumangarh	-	75	139	145

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Jaipur	1913	15	50	13
17.	Jaisalmer	462	10	12	1
18.	Jalore	602	4	-	3
19.	Jhalawar	1444	41	36	40
20.	Jhunjhunu	689	-	-	-
21.	Jodhpur	705	5	-	-
22.	Kota	798	18	12	9
23.	Nagaur	1223	12	12	1
24.	Pali	818	-	-	-
25.	Rajsamand	939	16	6	17
26.	S. Madhopur	1534	18	16	16
27.	Sikar	813	-	-	-
28.	Sirohi	433	-	-	-
29.	Sriganganagar	3886	189	196	145
30.	Tonk	1017	27	30	28
31.	Udaipur	2178	37	58	54
Total		34968	756	750	700

efforts and time required to collect the names of the villages which have been Electrified during the last three years is not commensurate with the results. Hence number of electrified villages is given.

[English]

Refund of Money of Unutilised Tickets

1535. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a station Superintendent or any other officer of a Railway Station is authorised to refund money of an unutilised ticket of a passenger for a long journey by Express/Mail trains purchased from any station in the country if the passenger does not perform journey due to sudden sickness and if he wants to purchase ticket for next day by that refund money;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) the mode of assistance provided to such passengers by Railways if that passenger has no further money to purchase ticket for next day if refund is not given to him for his unutilised ticket from that station; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the refund is made to such passengers on that railway station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) As per rules, refund on reserved, RAC and wait-listed tickets is admissible at all stations on Indian Railways within the time limits prescribed in the rules provided that verification of such tickets is possible at the concerned station. However, the Station

Masters of 452 important stations have been given discretionary powers to grant refund of fare on unused tickets, issued from their stations, where refund is not admissible due to expiry of the time limits prescribed in the rules.

(c) and (d) The Railways do not grant any financial assistance to passengers for purchasing tickets. However, the facility of postponement of journey on reserved tickets is already available, provided that a confirmed reservation is available on the day of the proposed journey.

[Translation]

Faulty Telecom Services in U.P.

1536. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the faulty telecommunications services in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the telecommunications facilities; and

(c) the allocation made for incurring expenditure on improving the telecommunications facilities during the Ninth Five Year Plan?