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Title: Need to release additional power to Tamil Nadu and expedite the setting up of proposed power projects in the State.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Electricity is the basic input required for the development of economic growth in our country. The scarcity of electricity creates social unrest among masses. Energy deficit for Maharashtra is 18.3%, Madhya Pradesh 14.1%, Gujarat 16.2%, Punjab 8.4%, Rajasthan 3.1%, Bihar 13.3% Uttar Pradesh 18.0%, Andhra Pradesh 4.1%, but Tamil Nadu is only 2.8%. Amongst all States, Tamil Nadu is lesser deficit in Electricity supply. Tamil Nadu is the only State which provides electricity to all its villages. The no. of unelectrified villages in various states are: Orissa-20994 villages, Bihar-18395 villages, Jharkhand-20235 villages, Rajasthan 12614-villages, Uttar Pradesh-12298 villages, West Bengal-1605 villages but in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana it is zero.

Tamil Nadu needs more power to cater to the needs of all sections. Due to failure of previous Government to start Power Generation Projects, a severe power crisis persists in Tamil Nadu and has resulted in load-shedding and the industries are forced to endure power cuts as long as ten hours a day. The Small and Medium Scale Industries are on the verge of closure which will result in lakhs of workers losing their jobs. Agriculture is also badly affected and farmers are unable to irrigate the standing crops properly. The power crisis has affected the textile units, power loom industries, fireworks industries and the Weavers in the State. It is causing much hardship to different sections of people and the State Economy.

Hence, I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to release additional power to the Government of Tamil Nadu and expedite the proposed setting up of power projects in the State.