

>

Title: Regarding power situation in assam and need to generate more power for the development of the state.

SHRI RAMEN DEKA : Sir, I want to raise a very important issue of Assam. Assam remained in dark from 2nd May to 22nd May. There was no electricity; somewhere there was partial electricity and somewhere the electricity was cut off for about 20 hours to 22 hours. This is the fate of our State. Some people have doubts that some unscrupulous elements lobbied for it that there should be no electricity so that people think of having big dams.

Sir, I come from a village, Sualkhuchi. Mahatma Gandhi termed this village as Manchester of East. That village got the first rural electrification in India. We marched rural electrification from Sualkhuchi. We have a potential to generate hydel power. We have a requirement of 1130 MW, but we produce now only 250 MW of power. Successive Congress Governments and two AGP Governments did nothing in the area of power sector. So, it remains always underdeveloped.

Sir, if there is a vision then we can have bio-mass energy and we can produce more power. The total bio-mass energy that we can generate in the country is 50,000 MW. We have the potential but the Government has not given any eyes in this sector.

Yesterday, there was a discussion on the River Ganga. The hon. Members said many things about Ganga that Ganga is the holiest river and all that. We too have a mighty river called Brahmaputra River. It has many tributaries. From these tributaries if we get the hydel power, then we can generate more power, which can fetch our State and which can fetch the rest of the country. The Brahmaputra water can produce 29,000 MW of power. But we are not giving any attention to use the Brahmaputra river water. We are neither using it in irrigation and agriculture sectors nor for drinking purposes.

Sir, I would like to conclude with a couplet, 'Water, water, everywhere water but there is not a single drop of water to drink.' We have water but we cannot use this water.

So, I would urge the Government to use the Brahmaputra water properly so that we can grow more agricultural products and generate more power for the development of this State.