

is a proposal for granting Rs. 10,000/- per jhuggi to those slum-dwellers, who are living near the railway tracks and will be rehabilitated in some other place.

SHRI YUVRAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in places like Katihar, where neither there is any proposal for laying a new railway line nor a railway structure is coming up there, the poor living near the railway track for the last 25 years, are being removed from there, and the place allotted for resettling those poor people is low-lying. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether those low-lying areas where these poor people will be rehabilitated, would be levelled by filling earth and made fit for habitation?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is for the State Government to undertake the rehabilitation work. Railways cannot do this work.

Autonomous Board for Power Generation and Distribution

*105. **SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an autonomous board for generation of power and its equitable distribution in the different regions of the country;

(b) if so, the nature of the organisation and when it will be set up; and

(c) what will be the relationship between the above autonomous board and the electricity boards of different States?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: May I know if it is a fact that the Sarkaria Committee was appointed to look into the working of DESU

and suggest remedial measures where required? If so, what are the findings of the Sarkaria Committee?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: You will appreciate that this is a very specific question — whether there is a proposal to set up an autonomous board for generation of power and its equitable distribution in the different regions of the country. I am not aware of the Sarkaria Committee, but I will definitely supply this information to the hon. Member.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: My idea in asking this question was very specific...

MR. SPEAKER: But he is not aware whether there was Sarkaria Committee or not.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: What can I do?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: This is a very specific question about autonomous board for generation of power and equitable distribution of power. If there was Sarkaria Committee, it does not arise out of this question. But I will definitely supply the information to the hon. Member.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: By and large, the working of Electricity Boards all over the country is most unsatisfactory. The consumers are very much annoyed with the supply and distribution of electricity. Secondly, there is financial indiscipline and inefficiency. To look into all these things, the Sarkaria Committee was appointed. May be it was for this purpose. Will it not be possible for you to take some lessons from the findings of the Committee and make them applicable throughout the country?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: As you are aware, electricity is on the Concurrent List under the Indian Constitution. Generation of power is done both in the State and Central Sectors. The State Electricity Boards are autonomous bodies created under the Indian Electricity Act, 1948 by

the respective State Governments. The administrative control is exercised purely by the State Governments. However, the Central Government keep in touch with the overall position. It is a continuous process. We try to monitor, we keep sending circulars to the State Electricity Boards. The regional Electricity Boards are also there. It is a continuous process and our endeavour is that the performance of the State Electricity Boards improves.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the intention behind this question was to know whether there was a proposal to set up a central grid for equitable distribution and generation of power all over the country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is unsatisfactory generation of power and its distribution in all the regions of the country and whether any arrangement will be made to check this inefficiency and meet the shortfall?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, it is true that there are transmission and distribution losses in the generation of power. The generation of power as well as its distribution is the responsibility of the State Electricity Board.

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Central grid.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: All efforts are being made to set up a central grid. We are in a position to transfer power between the northern grid and the western grid. But it will take some time to make arrangements for transfer of power between the eastern grid and the northern grid. But I would like to give one information in this regard, that the Central Government is going to set up a new body, viz. National Transmission Power Corporation, which will take over all the transmission work which is at present under different bodies of the Central Government and will also lay the transmission lines which are needed to set up a central grid. Certainly, it will take many years to set

up a fully equipped national grid.

[*English*]

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: The worst sufferers of the inefficiency of the Electricity Boards are the farmers of this country. Is there any possibility to have a separate grid for the farmers in the country?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, let us build first what has been described by one hon. Member as a national grid and the idea is very much there.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I hope the Deputy Prime Minister will support this.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: As far as the supply of electricity to the farmers is concerned, definitely that is a matter of priority. I do not know what the hon. Member means by separate transmission lines for the farmers.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Just now, the Hon. Minister said that the State Electricity Boards were set up under the Electricity Act of 1948. The job of the Central Government is only to monitor such Boards. I agree with Mr. Rathod on his comments regarding State Electricity Boards. He said the State Boards have been inefficient and corrupt. I fully agree with him. There are instances where the State Electricity Boards have given false information, particularly regarding rural electrification. Without electrifying the villages, they have declared that they have been electrified. This issue has been raised in different forums. But there has been no remedy. I want a categorical answer from the Minister as to whether there is any remedy to those problems or not.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I have already explained that constitutionally, legally, the State Electricity Boards are autonomous and they are under the administrative control of the State Governments. But, if there are any complaints of these irregularities which the hon. Member has mentioned, then definitely, all these com-

plaints can be looked into and remedial action can be taken.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VAMAN RAO MAHADIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the generation of power and its distribution is under the Central Government. There is scarcity of electricity in the country and lot of complaints are received from the States in this regard. Central Government should make arrangement for generating electricity from the gas of Bombay High, from coal and by storing water on high places to increase the generation of power. Is Government considering any new projects and if so, the number of new projects proposed to be undertaken.

MR. SPEAKER: The question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Investment on Aircraft by Indian Airlines

*106. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount provided (Rs. in crores)</i>	<i>Amount utilised (Rs. in crores)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1988-89	153.47	161.28
1989-90	182.35	174.09 (Estimated)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(a) the percentage of increase in investment on aircraft acquisition by the Indian Airlines during the Seventh plan period as compared to the Sixth plan and the position in this regard about expenses on aircraft maintenance;

(b) the total amount provided and utilised for maintenance of aircraft during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(c) whether there are complaints about lack of proper maintenance of the aircraft;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken for proper maintenance of aircraft during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Indian Airlines, during the 7th plan period, spent 242% more on acquisition of aircraft and 130% more on maintenance of aircraft over the 6th plan period.

(b) The amount provided and utilised for maintenance during the years 1988-89 and 1989-90 was as follows:

(e) All the aircraft of Indian Airlines are maintained by duly qualified and licenced/ approved persons at specific intervals, whose