

cleared although it was submitted in 1983. It is being unduly delayed. I want to know from the hon. Minister the time by which this project will be cleared and whether the project will be sent to the World Bank thereafter ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : This is true that meetings have been held between the officials of our Department and that of the Uttar Pradesh Government, but decision regarding environment is not to be taken by the Department of Power. This decision has to be taken by Department of Environment. After the meetings between our officials and the officials of the Uttar Pradesh Government, this project was included in the list of projects which are to be submitted for the World Bank aid. The Department of Economic Affairs has written to the Uttar Pradesh Government that the project cannot be included in the list of the projects for World Bank aid until it is cleared by the Department of Environment. Therefore, this project was dropped from that list. A decision on this project will be taken as soon as clearance from that Department is received.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the total hydel power potential in Uttar Pradesh and the names of the projects for which Central Government is going to assist the State Government during the Seventh Plan period so as to ensure time bound exploitation of that potential ? What are the names of the projects which have been submitted by the U.P. Government to your Ministry for World Bank assistance and the time by which you will submit those projects to the World Bank ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, right now there are two projects of Uttar Pradesh for World Bank assistance and both of them are under consideration. One is Tehri Project and the other is Srinagar Project. Besides, there are two more projects of Uttar Pradesh, namely Palamanari Project and Sobla Project which are now under the consideration of the Planning Commission from the investment point of view.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : You tell me about Tehri Project.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I have already told you about Tehri Project. Tehri and Srinagar are two such projects on which talks for getting World Bank assistance are in the final stage.

[English]

**States with Surplus/Deficit
Quantity of Electricity**

*421. **SHRI MANIK REDDY :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States now having surplus electricity and the names of the States having deficit electric energy; and

(b) the per-capita consumption of electric energy, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Himachal Pradesh and Delhi in the Northern Region, all States in the Western Region, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala in the Southern Region and the North-Eastern Region are, by and large, able to meet their energy requirements. The other parts of the country have power shortages in varying degrees.

(b) The estimated per-capita consumption of electricity in various States during 1983-84 is indicated in the *Statement* given below.

Statement
*Annual Per-Capita Consumption of
Electricity in Different States
during 1983-84*

| Region/State/U.Ts. | (in Units) |
|------------------------|------------|
| | 1983-84 |
| 1 | 2 |
| Northern Region | |
| Haryana | 245.45 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 88.93 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 104.71 |
| Punjab | 354.44 |
| Rajasthan | 126.26 |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Uttar Pradesh | 103.07 |
| Chandigarh | 386.35 |
| Delhi | 467.34 |
| Sub-total | 151.24 |
| Western Region | |
| Gujarat | 274.19 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 136.94 |
| Maharashtra | 267.00 |
| Goa, Daman and Diu | 279.26 |
| D and N Haveli | 86.07 |
| Sub-total | 223.52 |
| Eastern Region | |
| Bihar | 90.51 |
| Orissa | 135.38 |
| West Bengal | 128.02 |
| A and N Islands | 63.19 |
| Sikkim | 51.64 |
| Sub-Total | 109.88 |
| Southern Region | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 142.42 |
| Karnataka | 166.24 |
| Kerala | 113.36 |
| Tamil Nadu | 178.05 |
| Pondicherry | 222.41 |
| Lakshdweep | 57.79 |
| Sub-Total | 153.93 |
| North-Eastern Region | |
| Assam | 42.20 |
| Manipur | 12.77 |
| Meghalaya | 68.70 |
| Tripura | 20.60 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 26.76 |
| Mizoram | 25.30 |
| Nagaland | 48.87 |
| Sub-Total | 39.80 |
| Total all India | 154.06 |

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANIK REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the figures given by the hon. Minister, it appears that there is a wide variation in annual per capita consumption of electricity in different States. It will be very good if Government implement the National Grid System soon. The country is suffering heavily due to delay in its implementation. Have Government taken any step to take some immediate measures in this regard ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I fully share the concern expressed by the hon. Member. National Grid is not a separate scheme as such; instead the Regional Grids are to be strengthened to effect complete coordination and link between the States falling under one region and once it is achieved, the regional grids will be linked with each other and it will be known as National Grid. With a view to enabling the Central Government work more vigorously in this field, we need the help of the hon. Members. They should persuade their respective State Governments to allow more freedom to the Central Government in the field of electricity.

SHRI MANIK REDDY : Sir, it will be very good if a uniform rate of electricity is charged throughout the country. It will be better if a Committee is set up by involving consumers, on the lines of the Rating Commission in U.S.A. Is there any proposal under consideration of the Government ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, the generation cost of electricity in different power stations is also different. Since, basically this work is done by the Electricity Boards of the respective States, they fix the rates keeping in view their generation cost per unit. When our national grid becomes strong and we are in a position to supply electricity from a surplus region to a deficit region throughout the country, then perhaps some way out to this problem will also be found and it will be possible to reduce or remove the difference in power rates existing in different regions.

(*English*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister

whether the Government has any proposal to set up more thermal power stations in the deficit States, specially in West Bengal where power crisis is very acute. The people of West Bengal are not getting sufficient power. The industrialists are not interested in setting up any new industries in the State because of acute power crisis. All sections of the people in the State are very much affected due to power shortage. The name of the Chief Minister, Shri Jyoti Basu is now closely associated with load shedding, that is, Power Crisis Minister or Load Shedding Minister. I would therefore like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal at the Centre to set up more thermal power stations in West Bengal.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Member and this is about the power shortage which has been experienced in some parts of the country. The hon. Member has expressed her concern about the power crisis in West Bengal and I appreciate her concern. In fact, we are writing to them.

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji, do you want the electric power or the political power ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : In fact, we are monitoring the performance of the various State Electricity Boards and to those Boards which are not functioning satisfactorily we are writing specifically. I am sorry to state that apart from the three other States West Bengal is also one State where the plant load factor is much below the national average.

AN HON. MEMBER : Shame.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Don't say 'shame' because there are three other States also. (*Interruptions*).

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You should rectify this thing. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I can tell you that the plant load factor in Uttar Pradesh is also lower than the national average. We are not less concerned about it. We are also equally concerned about Bihar; we are equally concerned about

Orissa and we are equally concerned about West Bengal. In West Bengal, the plant load factor is below the national average. The national average is now a little over 50% and in order to further improve power generation and power availability, a number of measures are being taken. These measures include expeditions commissioning of on-going projects, measures to improve the plant load factor of thermal power stations, such as, extensive renovation and modernisation programme in the Centrally sponsored scheme for which Rs. 500 crores have been provided. There will also be a programme for training of 'operation and maintenance' staff for upgrading their skills and their knowledge. In addition, there will also be modern methods, techniques, proper planning and timely execution of works, improvement in coal quality and overall reduction in transmission and distribution losses, energy conservation, etc. There is a proposal for an additional capacity of 22,000 megawatt for which an outlay of more than Rs. 24,000 crores has been provided for being utilised during the Seventh Plan.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is acute shortage of electricity in Rajasthan and the average load there, to which he has referred, is about 45 per cent. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps he proposes to take to meet the shortage of electricity in Rajasthan during the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : According to the figures available with me, there is shortage of course, but it is not as acute as made out by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : There is shortage; he is right in saying so.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : According to the figures available with me, the supply during April to November was 4162 million units as against the requirement of 4457 million units. Thus the shortage was of the order of 295 million units which is 6.6 per cent of the total requirement. I had stated earlier that we propose to raise our generation capacity by over 22,000 megawatt during the Seventh

Five Year Plan. Rajasthan will have a share in it and we shall make all efforts to ensure it. The hon. Prime Minister has given assurance in this very House that there should not be any shortage of electricity in any part of the country by the end of the Seventh Plan.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister accompany us on the 21st.

(c) There is no separate fixation of tariff for supply of hydel power.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Hydroelectric projects with a total installed capacity of about 5,540 MW are expected to be commissioned during the 7th Plan period.

[Translation]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Time-Bound Plans for Giving Cheap Power to Consumers

*409. DR. A. K. PATEL :
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) India's potential in hydel power and the percentage of it presently utilised;

(b) the average capacity utilisation (Plant Load Factor) of the present hydel power plants;

(c) the average tariffs of hydel power in Punjab and Bihar;

(d) whether there is much difference; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time-bound plans and prospects of hydel projects for giving cheap power to consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The hydroelectric potential of India has been estimated at about 89,000 MW at 60% load factor of which about 11% has been developed and an additional 7% is under development.

(b) The performance of hydroelectric projects is judged not by the P. L. F. but on the basis of the actual energy generation vis-a-vis the designed energy generation. During the year 1984-85, actual generation from hydel projects was 102% of the designed potential.

Opening of Post Offices

*411. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to open a post office or a branch post office within the distance of five kilometres in every part of the country;

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated therefor;

(c) if so, the outlines thereof and if not, the other means through which Government propose to provide postal facilities to the people;

(d) whether Government propose to conduct a survey in district Basti (U.P.) with a view to finding out the number of post offices required to be opened there according to the said norm; and

(e) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) In rural areas, post offices are opened on the basis that the distance between a proposed village and the nearest post office should be more than 3 KMs. Besides, population and expected revenue are also taken into account. In urban areas the condition is that in cities with a population of 20 lakhs or more the minimum distance should be one kilometre and in other cities 1.5 kilometres. Urban post offices should also be financially self-supporting. As on 31st Oct., 1985, a total number of 1,44,519 post offices have already been set up on the basis of norms prescribed from time to time.