

regarding the rehabilitation of those persons, there is always a routine reply that it is a State subject, but this is a major project which is being constructed there through you. May I, therefore, know what type of guidelines or directions you are going to issue to the State for the rehabilitation of these people?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I have already stated that the cost of rehabilitation measures do form part and parcel of the project estimates.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is all. There is nothing more in this Question.

Rural Electrification in Backward Areas

*774. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the Central Government's consideration to make changes in the criterion fixed for rural electrification schemes in respect of backward and non-backward States;

(b) whether Governments of backward States have approached the Central Government to make the said changes; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Special concessions are already being extended in providing loan-assistance for rural electrification schemes meant for backward and under-developed areas.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that special concessions are already

being extended in providing loan-assistance for rural electrification schemes meant for backward and underdeveloped areas. May I know from the hon. Minister which States are coming under this scheme and uptill now which States have been provided such facilities?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I have not been able to follow...

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know which States have availed of such facilities.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : These facilities are available to all States and Union Territories.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Our State, the State of Orissa, is very poor in respect of electricity; more than 70 per cent of the people are living in rural areas and they do not get the facility of electricity due to shortage of power. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Orissa has sent any proposal for assistance in setting up new projects in Orissa and if so, what is the reaction of the Government to that?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : We have never said 'no' to the proposal from the Government of Orissa in respect of rural electrification programmes and their implementation.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Considering the fact that the Rural Electrification Corporation is earning fairly good profits, will the hon. Minister consider lowering the rate of interest on loan for backward areas?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The backward areas do get loan on concessional rate of interest. If I can give information to the hon. Member, the terms and conditions on which loan assistance is given for rural electrification schemes of tribal areas and Harijan bastis are more favourable as compared to the other areas, specially the underdeveloped areas. The rate of interest is 6-1/4-8-1/4 per cent. The period

of moratorium is seven years and the period of repayment is 25 years. (Interruptions) We have given enough concessions.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : In view of the fact that the benefits that can be derived from irrigation through pumpsets are quite a lot and can be done within the shortest possible time, will the Government provide more funds in the Seventh Plan for energisation of pumpsets—particularly keeping in view the fact that in the sixth Plan, specially in the year 1984-85, the targets were not achieved. And the actual achievement was much less than the targets. Will the Government provide more funds for rural electrification and for energisation of pumps ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I can say to the benefit of the House and to the benefit of the hon. Member that we have provided enough funds for this programme and the funds to a certain extent are lying unutilised by the States.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

[Summer special Trains]

*772. **SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether different Railway Zones are introducing summer special trains;

(b) if so, the details of such trains proposed to be introduced from different Zones along with capacities thereof;

(c) the number of summer special trains which have been introduced on different routes of South Eastern Railway Zone; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE 'MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.