

(b) and (c). The administrative set-up in the telecommunication circles is being reorganised on the basis of secondary switching areas which are generally co-terminus with the revenue district. Single secondary switching area or a group of secondary switching areas will constitute Telecom. District which will be placed under the charge of Telecom. District Engineer/Manager depending upon the work load. The scheme is under implementation.

This is expected to lead to effective discharge of administrative managerial and technical responsibilities thereby ensuring proper development of telecommunication facilities.

[English]

Review to Identify Industrially Backward Districts

*30. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating a review for identifying the industrially backward districts (block-wise) so as to be entitled for Central subsidy for industries;

(b) if so, the guidelines in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO): (a) to (c). The Government have undertaken a detailed review of the Central Incentive Schemes for industrial development of backward areas in the Country.

Power Crisis in Kerala

*31. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI I. RAMA RAI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the power crisis in Kerala due to inadequate monsoon;

(b) whether power crisis is repeatedly occurring every year;

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(b) whether there is a proposal to set up a thermal power plant in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI). (a) The power shortage in Kerala during the period from April to June, 1987, was about 6.5%.

(b) While Kerala was able to meet its requirement in 1985-86, it had a power shortage of about 7.6% in 1986-87.

(c) In order to mitigate the power shortage in Kerala, assistance to the extent possible is being provided from the Central power stations and, depending upon availability, from the neighbouring systems of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

(d) and (e). The Central Electricity Authority has submitted to the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), as their consultant, a Project Report for setting up in Kerala a thermal power station of 2x210 MW in the State sector. The Report is under the consideration of the State Government and the Kerala State Electricity Board.

A proposal was received on 1.7.1987 from the Kerala State Electricity Board for setting up in the State a 100 MW power station with diesel generating sets. The proposal can be taken up for techno-economic appraisal after all necessary clearances and inputs, such as those relating to availability of fuel oil on a sustained basis and environmental clearance, have been tied up by the KSEB.