

so. The population limit is 3000 in respect of general category and only 1500 for the weaker sections and hilly areas.

[English]

**Setting up of National Transmission Corporation**

\*74. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKAT  
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a National Transmission Corporation to work out an integrated approach to the power transmission needs of different regions;

(b) if so, the proposed set up of the Corporation; and

(c) whether the regional power grids are also proposed to be integrated under the above scheme to ensure equitable distribution of power in all the regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). The continued augmentation and strengthening of the Inter-State and Inter-Regional transmission lines has given impetus for evolution of a National Power Grid. The possibility of ultimately having to create a separate organisation at the National level to operate the Extra High Voltage Lines for transmission of power from one State/region to another, cannot be ruled out. The matter, however, requires an in-depth analysis of all aspects of the problem, including set up of the proposed organisation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the generation of power is concerned, in the beginning it was 1450-1750 MW and now we can say proudly that the present capacity of power genera-

tion has gone up to 56,000 MW. We have created capacity. Not only that, new power stations have been constructed in conformity with the policies in this regard. At certain places some concentration also took place. The result is that though power generation has gone up quantitatively, it has not been possible to make equitable distribution of power to all states in the absence of a national grid. You will be astonished to know that due to shortage of transmission lines, it has not been possible for us to make full utilisation of N.T.P.C. projects at certain places where the same could be utilised. While sharing the views of the hon. Minister I feel that there is a need to make an in-depth study of the subject as we shall be able to generate 58,000 MW power in the Eighth Five Year Plan. It is a matter of pride for us that not only we have been able to achieve the target of Seventh Five Year Plan but also we have gone ahead of it. Will the hon. Minister assure the House of setting up of a National Grid Corporation so that we may take maximum advantages of the available power.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a proposal to set up a National Transmission Corporation is under the consideration of the Government. The N.T.P.C., the N.H.P.C. the Lignite Corporation and the different State Electricity Boards maintain their separate transmission lines. The state sector maintains transmission line for the Atomic power Station. The Government is holding talks with various sectors and it is a very serious matter. A committee is being set up and the Government is considering a proposal to set up a National Transmission Corporation.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to note that the hon. Minister has accepted the seriousness of the matter. But the immediate need of the hour is that every effort should be made for proper capacity utilisation of power. In certain states like Uttar Pradesh especially in proper Mirzapur district in Robertsganj though 6000 MW power is being generated, it cannot be transmitted to them in the absence of trans-

mission lines. In view of this, will the hon. Minister consider this question of providing power to the industries in the backward areas where super Thermal Power Stations exist at a little cheaper rate than the rate at which power is being supplied to industrialists by charging them some extra amount so that power could be properly utilised in tribal areas like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh by giving incentives to the people and these areas could be developed industrially. Will he consider this important question and ensure that power capacity is not wasted and industries get power.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member's suggestion is not related to this question.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: It is certainly related to it. I want that power being generated must be utilised properly.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): It is true that once power is generated, it must be utilised, otherwise it will go waste. We are experiencing this problem in Uttar Pradesh where the power being generated in Singrauli could not reach a number of places but it is for the State Electricity Board to construct transmission lines for this purpose. We are prepared to provide assistance to them in this work. The Central Government neither can provide line to any industry directly nor can it supply electricity. We are making every effort to see that more and more power reaches people and more and more power is utilised through the State Electricity Boards and State Governments. We will take into account the suggestion of the hon. Member in future.

[English]

#### Prices of Plastic Raw Material

\*75. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of raw material used in plastic units have increased considerably forcing the units to close down;

(b) if so, the number of such units, State-wise;

(c) the extent to which the prices of raw material have increased; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to provide protection to these units, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

#### STATEMENT

The prices of plastic raw materials to the processing units, numbering around 15,000 and mostly in tiny and small scale sectors, have considerably increased primarily due to increase in international prices of these products by almost 100% since the beginning of 1987 (around 50% of the requirement of plastic raw materials is met through imports). This coupled with certain other constraints has reportedly resulted in closure of some processing units; precise data regarding such closures is however, not available.

The import levies on plastic raw materials have been reduced thrice since March 1987.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked as to how many units have been closed and what is their state-wise break-up. The hon. Minister has given an evasive reply to it. He has neither given the number nor the State-wise break-up about the units closed. It is a clear question. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has got the required figures in respect of Andhra Pradesh, if not in respect of other States? He is very particular about Andhra Pradesh. Hence, he should, at least, give the reply in respect of Andhra Pradesh.

Secondly, how many workers have been affected and how many workers were rendered jobless as a result of closure of small plastic industries due to non-availability of raw material. What measures Govern-