

stations are also coming. There is a lot of stress on non-conventional energy sources.

So, an integrated view has to be taken and the overall requirement of electricity is being met.

[Translation]

Regional and National Grids

*129. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of regional and national grids, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are paying special attention towards speedy establishment and operation of regional and national grids; and

(c) if so, since when and the result thereof ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) There are five regional grids, namely Northern, Western, Southern, Eastern and North-Eastern comprising the power system of the different States, Union Territories and other power utilities of the regions. These regional grids would ultimately form a National Grid.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The setting up of Regional Load Despatch Centres was taken up in the Seventies. As a result of various measures taken, the Northern, Western and North-Eastern Regional Grids are operating in an integrated manner. Southern and Eastern Grids are partially working. During 1984-85 the regional grid operations helped in the transfer of power from one State to the other.

[Translation]

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first question was as to

what was the number of regional and national grids, State-wise. In reply to this, the hon. Minister has stated that there are five regional grids—Northern, Western, Southern, Eastern and North-Eastern, comprising the power systems of the different States, Union Territories and other power utilities of the regions and that these regional grids would ultimately form a national grid. I did not ask about the formation of the national grid. What I had asked was the number of regional and national grids, State-wise. No reply to this has been given. I would like to know the State-wise details in this regard.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : When these regional grids will be finally ready and will start functioning, they will themselves form national grid, the moment they start operating in an integrated manner. There is no proposal to set up a national grid separately.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : I want to know that, as is clear from the reply given by the hon. Minister, there is no proposal to set up national grid separately... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Clear or not clear ?

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : It is clear. Bihar figures nowhere in the matter of setting up of regional grids and their operation. Bihar has been ignored due to which regional grids in sufficient number have not been set up even districtwise. The functioning of old grids is urban-oriented whereas it should be rural-oriented with a view to facilitating the development of those living below the poverty line.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Bihar falls in the Eastern Grid. A super thermal power station is being set up there by the National Thermal Power Corporation and, therefore, there is no question of ignoring Bihar. Bihar is included not only in the Eastern Grid but it is also linked with Uttar Pradesh. Sometimes, it so happens... (Interruptions) I am only speaking about electricity, nothing else. If Bihar needs electricity and U.P. has surplus, it can be

diverted to Bihar though U.P. and Bihar are not in the same grid. Apart from the Grid, Bihar has links with other States also.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : I have asked that the old grids meet the needs of the urban areas, whereas the people living below the poverty line are living in the rural areas. What are your schemes for them. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask only two supplementaries. There is no time left now.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Just now, the hon. Minister has stated that there is no proposal for setting up a national grid. You might remember that Rajyadhyaksha Committee had stated in their report that there were many areas in the country where thermal power stations could not be set up and there were also such areas where hydro-electric power could not be generated. Keeping all these things in view, the Government had decided to formulate a scheme to set up a national grid. But the hon. Minister has just now stated that only regional grids would do. Keeping in view the interests of the States, I want to know whether Government have abandoned that scheme ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : It appears that I have not been able to make the hon. Member understand what I mean. What I have said is that when regional grids would be set up, the States falling under that region would be integrated through the regional grid and when the regional grids would be strengthened and start functioning fully in an integrated manner, these regional grids would themselves form a national grid. Therefore, there is no question of abandoning that scheme.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Usha Choudhary...Not present. Shri Mohanbhai Patel...Not here. Shri Chintamani Jena... Not present. Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty... He is also not present. Shri H. N. Nanje Gowda...Not present. Shri C. P. Thakur.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Qn. No. 134.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us thank him for breaking the monotony.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) *rose*.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHEKJEE : Why is he replying ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has been delegated the authority.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I am replying on behalf of my colleague Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Changes take place in Government so fast that it is difficult for us to keep pace with them.

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep your mind alert.

Closing of Branch and Sub-Post Offices

*134. SHRI C. P. THAKUR† :
SHRI ZAINUL BASHER :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of the increasing demand in the country for opening more and more post offices, the Department has closed a large number of branch and sub-post offices;

(b) if so, the number of branch and sub-post offices closed during the last one year; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). During the year 1-4-84 to 31-3-85, 37 sub-post offices and 41 branch post offices were closed. The number for the period 1-4-85 to 31-10-85 is 72 sub-post offices and 250 branch post offices. These figures are not large taking into account the fact that the total number of post offices in the country exceeds 1,44,000.