

DR. PHULRENU GUHA : I have gone through the statement very carefully. But I am not satisfied at all. Midnapore is the largest district in West Bengal. But its telephone connections are 4520 only. Again, the number of telephones on Contai sub-division is horribly low; it is only 1127.

In West Bengal, we have only one sea shore, i.e. Digha which falls under Contai sub-division. For pleasure trips in West Bengal, people go to Digha only because Darjeeling is almost out of bounds now-a-days because of the trouble there. For the people of West Bengal, there is only one place, Digha, for recreation. So, I would like to know that in view of the changed circumstances whether the Government will change their thinking and allow more connections to Digha.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: The present position has been given. But, in the light of what the Hon. Member has said about Digha, we realise that it needs more connections than what it has today. We will certainly look into it and try to augment the position in Digha to the extent possible.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA: It is not possible to ring up Calcutta from Contai and the people of Contai cannot think of getting telephone connection with Delhi. So, they have to come to Calcutta to ring up Delhi. Contai people cannot ring up either Calcutta or Delhi.

May I know from the Hon. Member whether his Ministry will consider taking immediate steps so that the Contai people can ring up Calcutta and Delhi?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I will look into the matter immediately and try to do whatever is possible.

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: In view of the Reliance Cup being held in Calcutta shortly I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any steps have been taken to improve tele-communication system including telephones in Calcutta?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Although this question does not relate to the present question yet I would like to say that we are quite aware of the difficulties that citizens have been experiencing. We have had a very close liaison and dialogue with everyone there in Calcutta. Improvements are going on and looking to the importance of the city of Calcutta we are trying to see that Calcutta gets sufficient telephone facilities.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI USHA VERMA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many telephone connections have been provided to the Lakhimpur district of Uttar Pradesh and how many telephones are in order and how many are out of order in that district? When we try to ring up Lakhimpur or Lucknow from Delhi, we are not able to get the connection and similarly, we are not able to ring up Delhi from Lakhimpur.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: There is a lot of injustice done in regard to Uttar Pradesh.

MR SPEAKER: The question should be related to some point.

[*English*]

Scheme for use of non-conventional fuels and fuel saving devices

*423. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the scheme for use of non-conventional fuels and fuel saving devices has not made any material impact; and

(b) whether Government of Waste Land Board contemplate making films of one or two minute duration depicting the fire-wood saving devices or using some such other methods for mass education about these devices?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Scheme for use of Non-Conventional fuels and fuel saving devices

(a) No, Sir. The various schemes in the area of non-conventional energy sources like installation of biogas plants, improved chulhas, solar thermal systems and devices (solar cooker, water heating system, crop dryer, distillation units etc.), wind pumps, wind energy generators, photovoltaic lighting system, photovoltaic pumps, biomass based systems are creating a good impact in regard to saving of fuel wood, providing organic manure, generation/conservation of energy. These programmes are aimed at environmental upgradation, reduction of drudgery of women folk, improvement in general health of the people, uplifting the standard of living, especially in the rural areas, generation of employment and development of agro industry.

(b) Propagation of fire wood saving devices through various media of mass communication is being done continuously. The Films Division have produced and released several films on trees and energy resources which directly or indirectly deal with the subject of fire wood saving devices. Video cassettes of 15-20 minutes duration on biogas, improved chulha, solar cooker, wind energy, urjagram etc. have been made by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and these have been/will be telecast by Doordarshan at appropriate intervals. At the instance of the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Radio and T.V. spots and jingles on bioqas and improved chulhas were broadcast/telecast. Doordarshan covers in their news bulletins, most of the important developmental programmes, schemes, projects including new and renewable sources of energy. National Wastelands Development Board have also made films on various aspects of social

forestry and wastelands development for being shown to the people to increase the public awareness.

The following steps among others have been/are being taken for increasing the public awareness and mass education of fuel saving devices:

- (i) Organisation/participation of exhibitions/fairs throughout the country.
- (ii) Participation/support to/organisation of symposia, seminars, workshops, conferences etc.
- (iii) Publication and free distribution of booklets, pamphlets, posters, brochures etc.
- (iv) Preparation of audio visuals/slides.
- (v) Printing of slogans on postal stationery.
- (vi) Issue of news items and stories in the Press.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I have seen through the statement laid on the Table of the House which gives all the details and categorically denies that there has been failure. But when we look at the efforts which have been made or are being made one cannot help coming to the conclusion that success has not been commensurate with the publicity and promotional efforts being done for non-conventional fuels. Are there any specific targets which the Government has fixed which can help to evaluate that the various effort of publicity and promotional aspects for non-conventional fuels has achieved any success? Is there any target fixed district-wise or area-wise?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: No targets have been fixed area-wise or district-wise. We have to do whatever we can within the limited resources that are made available.

You are fully aware that this Department gets only about Rs. 100 crores for the whole nation for the entire non-conventional energy programme yet, I think, the House would be glad and proud of the achievements when I tell them that on an investment of about Rs. 238 crores in a period of 3 years only in one year the achievement in terms of saving fuel and also in terms of organic fertilisers is worth Rs. 236 crores. I think in no effort such an achievement can be made if you consider the amount of about 8.4 lakh biogas family-size plants installed by the year 1986-87 and about 28 lakh improved chullahs in addition to Rs. 236 crores comes to about Rs. 78.40 crores of saving of fuel apart from the benefit to the health of the women who otherwise as you know were affected adversely by the smoke. It was said that per woman inhaled equivalent of 200 cigarettes in a day out of a chullah that she had to look after. Therefore, it has helped our people in a large way. With more resources, I am sure, this one programme can be of great service to the people in the rural areas of our country.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I wish the Minister had given this figure as part of the statement laid on the Table of the House, then at least I could have complimented him. But that he has informed us now. It is very good and very important.

Now, Sir, with this success and with the meagre amount of Rs. 100 crores—meagre according to the Minister—which is said to have saved so much of fuel and helped so much in avoiding deterioration of health will the Government consider to increase promotional efforts?

I would also like to know whether the Government would consider having special thrust areas/districts for promotion of this. If so, will he name a district or two which could be included in the special thrust programme?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I have made a request to all members...

SHRI KAMAL NATH: We all support for this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: If the Hon'ble Members of Parliament could identify certain areas in their constituencies, which do not have normal energy availability, then with their cooperation and with our limited resources, we want to have this whole movement, as I said, of integrated energy villages (Urjagarm). It helps in converting a village into an integrated energy village. For wasteland development, we can have plantation of fast growing trees which give both fuel as well as fodder. All these schemes could be used. I only seek cooperation of the Hon'ble Members both in their interest and in the interest of the country

I will be glad if he takes initiative in his own district. We will try to help him.

SHRI D.N. REDDY: Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether research has been made to produce power from rice straw, especially in Punjab, in which case it will create a lot of power and also reduce consumption of coal in the country?

MR SPEAKER: It is a very good suggestion.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, there is a possibility. We are examining the proposal. We would like to encourage the use of rice straw for production of power.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH. Sir, I know of a report in 1981. Six years ago, it said that despite all the other avenues of production of power and energy in this country, more than half of the energy consumed comes from firewood cut by people to cook food in their hearths. So, in these six years, has there been any reduction in the percentage of the use of firewood used for cooking?

Secondly, Sir, we know that around Rs. 5-6 hundred crores were asked for by the Department for the non-conventional

energy programme and it has been brought down only to Rs. 100 crores. Would the Hon'ble Minister lay a supplementary demand? In that case, I am sure, every Hon'ble Member will support it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: About the last point, Sir, I will be very happy to do that if it is approved by the Government. It is good one. I think the opinion of this House would help

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We will all support except his Cabinet

(Interruptions)..

SHRI M.Y. GHORPADE: I think the budget is Rs 100 crores I would like the Hon'ble Minister to say whether it is so difficult for him to reallocate within his budget of about Rs. 7,000 crores and put another Rs. 200 crores for non-conventional energy. If he is prepared to put such a proposal I am sure, the Finance Minister would agree. Will the Minister agree to substantially step up this smokeless chullah programme to about 1 crore chullahs per annum for the next 5 years because even if you do it free, that will cost us 50 rupees. One crore chullahs will cost only Rs. 50 crores but the saving in the firewood is calculated by technical people to be 10 times more. So, in 5 years if you provide 5 crores chullah, even if you construct free, to all those poor families who use firewood, it will cost only 450 crores but the annual recurring saving in firewood will be more than Rs. 2,500 crore. Therefore my specific question is whether for this year you will start constructing 1 crore smokeless chullahs? And secondly, regarding the integrated energy programme, could you give an assurance that at least one village in every block is adopted by the Non-conventional energy department to demonstrate to the people the benefits of the non-conventional energy and also to see as to how far this programme is successful under the local conditions?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I thank the Member for his suggestion. I am willing to

accept all your suggestions totally, wholeheartedly subject to the resources.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: Take it as conventional and do it as non-conventional.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Why don't you have non-conventional resources.

SHRI VASANT SATHE. Sir, as far as the conventional budget is concerned, you are aware that there is going to be a shortage of about Rs. 10,000. So, it is not possible because of the paucity of fund. There will be grievances from the House itself if we divert the funds. Sir, the only possibility I can visualise is that if we can make Integrated Energy Programme as a part and parcel of the rural development programme then probably the money could be found and I would be glad if he could do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Satheji, there are three things: the non-conventional energy supplied by non conventional resources at the initiative taken by a non conventional Minister

(Interruptions)

Manufacture of Metal Detectors

*424 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether metal detectors are now being manufactured indigenously;

(b) whether during 1986-87 Government imported metal detectors;

(c) if so, the details of the countries from which and the number of detectors that were imported; and

(d) whether such other security devices manufactured in the country are sufficient to meet the demands?