

Power Sector Exceeds Target in December 1982

*129. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power sector had exceeded the target set for it in December, 1982;

(b) whether the increase in power availability and corresponding reduction in shortages were proportionate;

(c) if so, the details; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (d). The power generation during December, 1982 was 11619 MU as against the programme of 11496 MU. Over the years, there has been considerable improvement in availability of power in the country. The gap between anticipated requirement and availability has come down from 16.1 per cent in 1979-80 to 12.6 per cent in 1980-81, 10.8 per cent in the year 1981-82 and to 8.6 per cent during 1982-83 (April, 82—January, 1983).

SHRI R. P. DAS: It appears from the answer as read out by the Minister that the Government has been able to achieve the target in this case. I would like to know whether the target of the Sixth Plan has been adhered to in this case or the target has been lowered down so that it may look decent at least in the Year of Productivity.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: I was referring to the figures set in December, 1982. But so far as the Sixth Plan targets are concerned, the target is 19666 MW units and the anticipated achievement is 14,000 MW units. It means we shall fall short of the target during the Sixth Plan Period.

SHRI R. P. DAS: In view of this I would like the hon. Minister to justify the power crisis in Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, West Bengal and many other States. If the Government is able to achieve this target, why is the power crisis there?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: This is the over-all position on the national level. But region-wise there are imbalances and State-wise there are shortages. In some of the States particularly in Rajasthan and Tamilnadu there are shortages.

So far as the Northern and Western regions are concerned, the situation is little comfortable. But in other regions it is not so. We have taken certain steps to meet the shortages in these States particularly the crisis ridden States. We have gone all out to come to the assistance of such States.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: On the 2nd January, 1983, the then Energy Minister Shri Vikram Mahajan, while talking to the press had mentioned that Government was considering of connecting over a dozen central power stations to a National Grid System so as to ease the temporary shortage in the States. Under the National Grid System, the Central Government would retain a certain percentage of power for distribution to the deficient States. I would like to know what progress has been made in the implementation of this proposal and how soon would the Central National Grid system be set up?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: The programme for the National Grid System has been taken up and it is in progress. But so far not much progress has been made in this connection and only inter-regional transmission systems have been strengthened. So far as the National Grid System is concerned, we are not in a position to take more than 1,000 MW load from one region to another. But we are keen on building up this system so that intra-regional imbalance can be rectified.

श्री जगपाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि उत्तर-पश्चिम में बिजली की सप्लाई संतोषजनक है। छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में उन्होंने कहा है कि लक्ष्य

प्राप्ति करेंगे। शायद मंत्री महोदय को मालूम नहीं है कि किसानों को छः घण्टे भी बिजली नहीं मिल रही है, क्योंकि मैं उत्तर-पश्चिम दोनों जगहों से आता हूँ। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या किसानों को 24 घण्टे नहीं तो 12 घण्टे बिजली दिलाने पर विचार कर रहे हैं या नहीं? यदि कर रहे हैं तो कब तक आप उत्तर-पश्चिम में किसानों को 12 घण्टे बिजली देंगे?

श्री चन्द्र शेखर सिंह : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने अभी आपके सामने निवेदन किया कि जहां तक पांच क्षेत्रों का सवाल है, उनके बीच तुलनात्मक दृष्टि से उत्तरी और पश्चिमी क्षेत्रों की अवस्था बेहतर है। इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि वहां कोई कमी नहीं है, लेकिन माननीय सदस्य ने जो किसानों और खेती के काम के लिए लगातार बिजली की आपूर्ति के सम्बन्ध में मुद्दाब दिए हैं, दरमसल में यह जिम्मेदारी तो राज्य सरकारों की है और स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड की है। हम फिर भी लगातार मानिटरिंग कर रहे हैं। हमारा प्रयास है कि विशेष संकट की स्थिति में या किसी विशेषसमय पर जैसे खेती के समय पर, जहां तक सम्भव हो नेशनल लेवल पर दूसरे क्षेत्रों से बिजली की आपूर्ति बढ़ा कर उन की आवश्यकता की पूर्ति करने की चेष्टा की जाय।

श्री जगपाल सिंह : 12 घण्टे तक बिजली दिलाने के लिए सरकार कब सक्षम होगी ?

Written Answers to Questions Supply of Drugs/Medicines at Cheaper Price

*123. SHRI K. A. SWAMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the actual steps taken by Government to supply

drugs and medicines at cheaper price in 1981 and 1982?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

Distribution control on the medicines required by the consumers is not exercised by the Government, the medicines are supplied to the consumers through the countrywide net-work of retail, wholesale outlets and health institutions located in the Rural and Urban Areas of the country.

The maximum prices of medicines are, however, controlled under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979. Under the provisions of the said Order, the maximum prices of formulations falling under Category-I, Category-II and Category-III are controlled whereas there is no control on the prices of formulations not specified in any of the three Categories. The prices fixed by the Government for price controlled formulations are the maximum retail prices and manufacturers, importers and distributors are required not to sell the medicines at the prices exceeding the prices fixed by the Government.

The steps taken during the year 1981 and 1982 to make available medicines to the consumers at cheaper prices are as follows:—

1. The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices had undertaken cost studies of number of drugs during the year 1981 and 1982. As a result of these studies, the prices of several bulk drugs have been reduced. The prices of formulations based on such bulk drugs have also been reduced.

2. The medicines based on 50 essential and life saving drugs such as Dapsone, Insulin, Thiacetazoe, Ethambutol, Penicillin, Tetracycline etc. continued to enjoy exemption from Excise Duty.

3. 32 essential and life saving drugs such as Olofazimine, Rifampicin, Vincristine Sulphate etc. continued to enjoy exemption from Customs Duty when imported into the country.