

given the contract on the terms that 15 per cent of the expenditure on the project will be its profit, and if it is a fact that the NPCC did not construct a small bridge over the Gumti River so that the transport costs would be higher ? May I know why these extraordinary terms have been given to the NPCC ?

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) :** This project is located in a very inaccessible place. As there was no chance of getting any contractor, the NPCC was brought in.

We have adopted the same process, the same agreement at the Farraka barrage and we have adopted the same thing here also. We do not think that there is anything wrong in having the provision for 15 per cent over the actual cost.

**SHRI DASARATHA DEB :** Because of Mizo raids in this project area and because of lack of protection from the Government the workers are not encouraged to stay there and work. Is that also one of the causes for the delay of the completion of the project ?

**DR. K. L. RAO :** The reasons for delay are not the ones the hon. Member has mentioned. The main reasons are : the project having been located in an inaccessible site, we had to take more time for the supply of construction material and constructing a road from Amarpur the nearest town. There was also difficulty in getting explosives. That was there all over India. Then there was a flood in 1970 which was rather excessive and this caused further delays in the construction of the project.

#### Shortage of Iron and Steel in Small-Scale Industries in Bihar

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\*335. **SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL :**

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :**

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 400 small Industrial units in the State of Bihar are facing shortage of iron and steel and are reported to be on the verge of closure ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to avert this crisis ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :** (a) and (b). The information has been sought from the Government of Bihar and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**श्री यमुना प्रसाद मंडल :** मैं जानता चाहता हूँ कि कब से आप विहार सरकार से यह जानकारी मिल रही है ? कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं होगा कि आफ्टर डेथ, आफ्टर क्लोजर यह जानकारी आए ।

**अध्यक्ष मंडल :** पहली सरकार की तो डैथ हो गई, प्रब दूसरी बताएगी ।

**श्री यमुना प्रसाद मंडल :** क्या बता सकते हैं कि कब तक जानकारी मिल जाने की इनको आशा है ?

**श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :** विहार सरकार को जितनी जलदी हो सके जानकारी भेजने के लिए कहा गया है । जैसे ही जानकारी प्राप्त हो जाएगी, इसको सभा पठल पर रख दिया जाएगा ।

#### Rural Electrification during Fourth Plan

\*336. **SHRI S. R. DAMANI :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the nature of proposals received from the State Governments for rural electrification during the Fourth Plan;

(b) the member out of them that have been cleared and the progress made so far; and

(c) the guidelines that have been indicated to the State Governments for drawing up their programmes of work ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER :** (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

(a) and (b). The State Governments have indicated outlays for rural electrification in the State Plans as per the statement enclosed. Schemes as submitted by the States are examined and cleared by the Technical Advisory Committee. Seven schemes submitted by State Governments for implementation during the Fourth Plan have been cleared. 13 schemes are under processing in the Central Water & Power Commission. The Rural Electrification Corporation has been set up in the Central Sector to provide additional finances for rural electrification schemes of the State Electricity Boards. Schemes are submitted by State Electricity Boards to the Rural Electrification Corporation in accordance with the criteria prescribed by the Corporation. 181 schemes have been submitted by the various state Electricity Boards out of which 110 have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 62 crores. The remaining 71 are under examination. Up to 31st March, 1971, the number of pumpsets energised is 16,27,310 and the number of villages electrified is 1,05,870 as compared with 73,971 villages electrified and 10,88,777 pumpsets energised at the beginning of the Fourth Plan.

*Statement*

Sl. No.	State	Outlay in Rural Electrification within State Plan during IV Plan. (Rs. in crores)
1.	Andra Pradesh	15.00
2.	Assam	10.88
3.	Bihar	36.00
4.	Gujarat	6.00
5.	Haryana	10.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1.21
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.00
8.	Kerala	4.50
9.	Madhya Pradesh	20.00
10.	Maharashtra	25.00
11.	Mysore	15.50
12.	Nagaland	0.07
13.	Orissa	6.05
14.	Punjab	9.00
15.	Rajasthan	14.00
16.	Tamilnadu	41.15
17.	Uttar Pradesh	61.002
18.	West Bengal	10.00

SHRI S. R. DAMANI : According to the statement of the 181 schemes, 110 schemes have been approved and 71 schemes are still pending. How long have these schemes been pending and what are the difficulties standing in the way of approving these schemes ? Is there any time bound programme to electrify the villages, especially in the backward areas ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER ( DR. K. L. RAO ) : The question refers to schemes being sanctioned by the Rural Electrification Corporation which looks to the viability of a project. Every month they sanction a large number of projects and whenever any project does not satisfy the viability criteria they send it back to the State and get full information and then they pass it. I expect all these processes would be complete in the next one or two months and there would be no difficulty about that. As regards the time-bound programmes in the country, in our country there are 5.75 lakhs of villages and we have electrified 1.05 lakhs of villages. We hope to electrify fifty percent of these villages before 1980. Thereafter it will be much more easier because by that time we would have put in transmission lines all over the country, and it would be easier than to electrify the rest of the country.

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI :** I want to know whether the electricity rate changes from State to State and whether Government have any intention to regulate it and bring it to a uniform rate and also give some subsidy as was given by the Tamil Nadu Government so that poor farmers can use electricity ?

**DR. K. L. RAO :** The question of getting a uniform rate all over the country is one that we are also concerned about; we shall be happy to have that uniform rate. This can follow only when we have built up an All India grid and the various States also agree to such a procedure. I hope we shall be able to do that in the course of the next ten years. As regards subsidy I may mention that a few years back we used to give a subsidy whenever the rate exceed 12 paise. Now it is felt that it is not necessary and the farmers will be able to pay even more than 12 paise also and so the subsidy has been withdrawn. We hope that the rate will generally be between 12 and 15 paise per unit in most of the States.

**श्री रामादत्तर शास्त्री :** अभी देहातों में विजली की कितनी आवश्यकता है, इसको हम सब लोग जानते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या विहार गवर्नरमेंट ने आपके पास इस सम्बन्ध में कोई योजना भेजी है और अगर भेजी है तो उराकी मुख्य-मुख्य बातें क्या हैं और आपने उसके सिलसिले में क्या फैसला किया है?

**SHRI K. L. RAO :** There is no scheme as such for the whole State of Bihar. They are submitting schemes from time to time. I only wish that more of them are submitted, because we know that Bihar is one of the States where electrification is much behind. So, we have been writing to the Bihar Government also; I have recently written to them to increase the number of schemes that can be sent in so that it will be possible for us to cover more of the schemes.

**श्री कें० एन० तिवारी :** उस रोज मन्त्री महोदय ने जवाब देने हुए कहा था कि नार्थ बिहार में सब से कम विजली की सप्लाई है और वरीनी में इनका पावर स्टेशन काम नहीं

कर रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वरीनी में जो ट्रैबल है वह कल तक खत्म होगी और बिहार को कब तक सप्लाई मिलेगी ?

**क्या यह सही नहीं है कि नार्थ बिहार में विजली का रेट सब से अधिक है? अगर यह सही है तो इसके सम्बन्ध में क्या स्टेप लिए जा रहे हैं?**

**DR. K. L. RAO :** It is true that North Bihar has got very little electric power ; its *per capita* consumption probably is very little eight kilowatt hours per person, against the average of 90 for the whole of India. So, we are aware of it and we are trying to put more and more projects there. Samastipur is one and there is one near the West Bengal-Bihar border. Unfortunately, these schemes for the projects have been received only recently. Of course Barauni is there ; we have to see to its maintenance and repair. But what we require is more or additional power to be produced by stations located in that area besides getting power from Gaya to serve North Bihar.

**SHRI S. B. GIRI :** In Andhra Pradesh, electricity is produced particularly in the Telengana region, but the electricity has been used in the rest of Andhra Pradesh. May I know when all the villages in the Telengana region will be electrified proportionately with Andhra Pradesh ? (*Interruption*) Because the hon. Minister comes from Andhra Pradesh, though electricity is produced in Telengana, more than 7,000 villages are yet to be electrified in Telengana. While electricity is being taken to Andhra Pradesh, may I know when all the villages of Telengana will be electrified.

✓ **DR. K. L. RAO :** I am sorry that the hon. Member has made an insinuation which is absurd. I wish to strongly protest at the way in which this question is put ; that is not the way to serve Telengana. (*Interruption*)

**SHRI S. B. GIRI :** It is a fact that Telengana has been neglected. It has been proved also. Though electricity is produced in Telengana, many of the Telengana villages have not yet been electrified (*Interruption*)

✓ **MR. SPEAKER :** Order please. You can ask this question in some other shape also. Do not try to promote your case through this innocent question.

**SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM :** On a point of order. When I am standing on a point of order, the Minister must sit down. The Minister has used the word 'absurd'.

**MR. SPEAKER :** No points of order during the Question hour.

**SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM :** The Minister has used the word 'absurd' against this hon. Member. Whatever may be the politics there, is it parliamentary to use the word 'absurd'.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I hope the Minister is too gentle to use such words. I hope he knows that though there is no objection, in the Parliamentary sense, to the use of this word 'absurd', still, in that context, it should not have been used. May I ask him to correct himself?

**SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** But while putting the question also, no insinuation should be made.

**✓ MR. SPEAKER :** I have said it should not have been done.

**DR. K. L. RAO :** I do not think I have used that word in any bad sense, but if it hurts, I withdraw it.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Thank you very much. What is the reply to Mr. Giri's question?

**DK. K. L. RAO :** We do not have anything like Telengana power. The power generated is in Andhra Pradesh as it is today. We have got figures only for the whole of Andhra Pradesh. Whatever power is produced, they are utilised to the benefit of various places. So far as rural electrification is concerned, we have taken a very large number of steps to supply electricity to as many backward areas as possible. Telengana, having been considered as a backward area, it has got the unique opportunity of getting one Rural Electric cooperative project worth Rs. 3 crores, which many other States do not have.

**SHRI G. VISHWANATHAN :** Does the Rural Electrification Corporation have any target by which total rural electrification of the country will be achieved and if so, what is the estimated cost of total rural electrification?

**DR. K. L. RAO :** The corporation is a financing body. It gives loans to various State Electricity Boards and other cooperative organisations. Its finances are about Rs. 150 crores for the Fourth Plan. It has so far sanctioned projects worth Rs. 75 crores.

**SHRIMATI LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA :** May I know whether there is any proposal to expand the kothagudam thermal power station which is situated in Telengana?

**DR. K. L. RAO :** There is a general shortage in Andhra Pradesh. Our future plans do provide for the expansion of Kothagudam and many other projects.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA :** The other day the Minister said that some of the State Governments have not utilised the money sanctioned for rural electrification. I want to know the position in Bihar. Will he ask the State Government to see that more progress is made in 1971-72?

**DR K. L. RAO :** Quite so. We are very anxious that the money sanctioned by the Rural Electrification Corporation should be spent as quickly as possible. I shall be drawing the attention of the Bihar Government to expedite it.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—**

**✓ MR. SPEAKER :** There are so many rising. They can have a half-honour discussion on this.

**SHRI K. S. CHAVDA :** Electricity in Gujarat is dearer than in other parts of the country. May I know whether the Minister has recommended to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals to reduce the price of gas and residual fuel oil so that electricity may be cheaper in Gujarat?

**DR. K. L. RAO :** This concerns the general policy of price fixation of gas and oil. Many years ago we have suggested it but at the moment, it is under discussion between the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Gujarat Government. We have not taken any initiative in this matter.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAH :** May I know whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a time-bound programme of electrification of all the villages in three

years' time and whether the Government of India has approved the scheme ?

**DR. K. L. RAO :** A number of schemes have been received by us from the State Governments. I do not know exactly which scheme the hon. Member is referring to. Quite a number of schemes have been submitted to us from time to time and they are being cleared as quickly as possible. If the hon. Member writes to me about the particular scheme that he has got in view, I will make enquiries.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I find that the number of hon. Members standing up are more than those who have already asked questions. I think we can allow a half an hour discussion, if it is demanded. Those who are left out may try their chance there. But we cannot afford to prolong this question indefinitely.

#### Satpura Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh Lying Idle

\*337. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Satpura Thermal Power Station in the coal belt area in Madhya Pradesh is lying idle for want of coal ;

(b) whether the shortage of coal is due to lack of co-ordination between the power plant and the National Coal Development Corporation and the failure of N.C.D.C. to adequately exploit the coal reserves in the area ; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to energise the plant ?

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) :** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) The Satpura Thermal Power Station is not lying idle for want of coal. The Station is operating in accordance with the system load condition, the number of generating sets in operation at any one time varying from 3 to 4 sets, for which necessary coal is being obtained.

(b) Of the present requirements of coal of about 1900 tonnes per day, N.C.D.C. is

supplying about 1200 tonnes only and the balance of 700 tonnes is being obtained from the Pench Valley Coal-fields. The shortfall in the supply of coal from the N.C.D.C.'s own mine of Patherkheda in the vicinity of the power station is on account of shortfall in the production level at the mines and delay in implementing their expansion project which would enable the full needs of Satpura power station being met from these mines.

(c) As already stated, the power station is operating according to the system load demands. However, in view of the necessity for the station to step up generation further for feeding increased power and energy into the Bhakra System action has already been initiated by N.C.D.C. to develop the expansion project at Patherkheda which has already been sanctioned. The supply of coal will now progressively increase to 2500 tonnes per day by 1974-75 which will suffice for stepping up generation at the station. In this meantime, additional coal supplies are being obtained from Pench Valley Coal-fields by rail and road.

**SHRI N. K. SANGHI :** We have just now heard the clamour for electricity all over the country and yet in the Satpura Thermal Power Station only three sets are running against the five sets installed. As against the total demand of 3,500 tonnes of coal we are getting only 1,900 tonnes. May I know how much extra freight has been paid in getting the balance of coal for last year for the third plant of the Satpura Power Station ?

**DR. K. L. RAO :** Actually, the number is not three ; we have been running four machines now. Apart from coal, one difficulty in the case of Satpura has been transmission lines. The lines we have got are not enough. Therefore, we have recently decided to set up a 220 kv line from Satpura to Itarsi, Bhopal and Rana Pratap Sagar. When that line is completed in the course of one year, then it would be possible to push up the power generation at Satpura. We are also trying to have one Satpura-Nagpur line. When these two lines are established then it is possible that all the power generated at Satpura would be fully utilized. Regarding the question of coal apart from what NCDC is supplying, we are getting it from Pench Valley at an extra cost of Rs. 19 per ton.