

countries? Have they succeeded in this effort?

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : We have put up an exhibition here where the goods manufactured by our small-scale industries have been exhibited. The delegates to the conference were taken round the exhibition and they saw our goods manufactured by our small-scale industries.

Slow Progress of Electrification in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa

*36. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the slow progress of electrification in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa; and

(b) the number of villages and towns electrified in these States in last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The main reason of slow progress of electrification in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa has been that the allotments of funds by the State Governments for Rural Electrification have been very meagre in the last ten years as compared to other States in the country.

(b) The number of villages and towns electrified in the States of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal during the last three years are furnished below :

State	No. Electrified during				
	1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal					
Villages	216	186	345	*towns remain to	
Town	2	Nil	Nil*	be electrified,	

	1	2	3	4	5
Bihar					
Villages	661	797	742	@ All towns with	
Towns	Nil	Nil	Nil@	population of	
				10,000 electrified	
Orissa					
Villages	62	129	311		
Towns	Nil	Nil	Nil@		

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : May I know whether there is any specific reason for the three States in the eastern region lagging behind in the matter of rural electrification, whereas States like Punjab, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have gone for ahead? Is there any particular reason for it or is it just a coincidence that a particulars contiguous belt in the eastern region is lagging far behind, as shown by the figures given in the Statement?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDUT MANTRI) (DR.K.L. RAO) : This is a State Subject of Course, it is very unfortunate. It so happened that in the last decade, 1961-71, more money was spent by the other States for this purpose, while Bengal, Bihar and Orissa spent the least amount. For example, in the last decade, Tamil Nadu spent as such as Rs. 90 crores on rural electrification whereas Bengal spent only Rs. 8 crores. Orissa spent Rs. 9 crores as against Rs. 50 crores spent by several other States. It shows that these three States did not attach much importance to rural electrification, now they are picking up. From this year, they have started giving special attention to this and I hope they will make some progress hereafter.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It is primarily the responsibility of State Governments, as he has said, but I would like to know what steps, if any, the Central Government has taken to try, when Central Plan allocations and so on are made to the states, to persuade these Governments to put greater emphasis on the question of electrification

since this is not a matter which relates only to the States but affects the whole of agricultural production.

DR. K. L. RAO : We have got to take special steps specially in respect of West Bengal and Orissa because they are at the lowest now both in the matter of electrification of villages and electrification of pumping sets, which is very sad. I have written to the Rural Electrification Corporation that they should give special consideration and see that most of the schemes sanctioned are in these States. That is the only way in which we can help them. I hope, we will be able to do it. Bihar is picking up recently but Bihar also we keep in view. I want that the Rural Electrification Corporation should give much more assistance than usual particularly to these three States because they are lagging behind. The assistance that they can will be outside the State Plan.

श्री के० एन० तिवारी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हू कि बिहार में कितना रुपया दिया गया और उसका यूटिलाइजेशन कितना हुआ तथा नार्थ बिहार की क्या स्थिति है जहाँ तक एलेक्ट्रिसिटी का संबंध है ?

DR. K. L. RAO : As I submitted, Bihar is picking up now. In the last five years they have made much better progress than before. Earlier, they were practically hopelessly bad. Now they have put in the Fourth Plan Rs. 36 crores of their own Plan resources and are putting in another Rs. 50 crores from other resources, bringing the total to Rs. 86 crores for the Fourth Plan, which will be a very good amount. If they are able to find that amount and spend it, rural electrification will take a very big step in Bihar.

It is very unfortunate that North Bihar has got very little power. *Per capita* it is the lowest, almost, in the country, because there is little generation there. We are very keenly alive to the situation and are trying to put new extra thermal stations and to augment power connections from South Bihar. It is an area where we have got to take special steps.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member there.

श्री बी० पी० मौर्य : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पहले तो मेरा एक सुझाव आपके लिए ही है, मंत्रियों को निकाल कर मुश्किल से हम पीने पांच सी सदस्य होंगे। तो या तो आपके सामने जो नक्शा है वही पर नाम लिखवा लीजिए या पमारे नामों को याद कर लीजिए। मेरा नाम बी. पी. मौर्य है। यह पाचवी बार है जब कि मेरा नाम नहीं मालूम है...

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not pass such remarks. You are a new member. It takes time to know the names of all Members. After all, I also am a human being. Please come out with your question.

श्री बी० पी० मौर्य : आप गुस्सा क्यों होते हैं ? कम से कम सदस्य का नाम याद रहना चाहिए। ... (व्यवधान)...

Not to know the name of a Member is an insult to the Member.

यह दुनिया के किसी भी सदन में नहीं है ? सदन के सदस्य का नाम मालूम होना ही चाहिए।

मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि देश में इतनी बिजली है वह एक व्यक्ति के हिसाब से आकर कितनी पड़ती है ? उत्तर प्रदेश में 9 करोड़ के करीब की सख्या है। तो उत्तर प्रदेश का कितना हिस्सा पड़ता है और इस समय कितनी बिजली उत्तर प्रदेश में है ? पिछले वर्ष में उत्तर प्रदेश में कितना धन इस सम्बन्ध में खर्च किया गया ?

MR. SPEAKER : This relates to three States—West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

श्री सरजू पांडेय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो राज्यों को केन्द्र की ओर से बिजली लगाने के लिए सहायता दी जाती है उसका

क्राइटीरिया क्या है ? उसकी कसौटी क्या है ? क्या उसमें कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था है कि प्रान्त इसना खर्च करे तो केन्द्र इतनी सहायता देगा ? क्या नियम है कि जिससे कुछ राज्यों का अधिक पैसा मिलता है और कुछ को कम मिलता है ? मंत्री महोदय इसके बारे में स्थिति स्पष्ट करें ।

DR. K. L. RAO : Rural electrification is given separate funds. Central assistance to State is given by certain formula—population, backwardness and so on. It is for the States to adjust the amount of money that they would like to spend on rural electrification.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : The hon. Minister seems to be an expert in giving an assessment of what has been done in these three States. A plea has been advanced that these eastern States in the last 10 years have not been able to utilise the funds for their own electrification programmes, I would like to have a clear answer from the hon. Minister. In the last year's Report, it has been very specifically stated that under the Rural Electrification Corporation, five pilot projects have been taken up and those States are : Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mysore and, probably Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Those States are getting more power. But the hon. Minister does not consider the case of these eastern States where there is an acute shortage of power. May I know from the hon. Minister whether these States also equally qualify to have such projects as it has been done in the case of other States under the general rural electrification scheme ? The Rural Electrification Corporation is getting a large amount of money, about Rs. 150 crores from the US Fund. Will the hon. Minister agree to that proposal ?

DR. K. L. RAO : The Rural Electrification Corporation is a finance organisation. As soon as they get the projects from various States, they clear them up. It is very unfortunate that the hon. Member has made some insinuation. On the other hand, whatever schemes are received from the States are immediately cleared. It is unfortunate that these three States have not sent sufficient number of projects. I have noted it. I have asked the Corporation to assist specially these three States by sending special teams there.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : I sent to you various schemes for North Bengal to which you also agreed. I do not know what happen in between.

SHRI K. SURYANARYANA : The hon. Minister stated that it is a States' subject. Is it politically motivated not to develop rural electrification particularly in these eastern States by the State Governments ? Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government of India are providing any special funds for Backward areas for rural electrification.

DR. K. L. RAO : It is the intention of the Government of India to see that rural electrification scheme is implemented at the top-most speed. I am glad to state that, at the present moment, the scheme has been very much accelerated and that we are able to give connections to as much as 3-1/2 lakh pumping sets every year. The total number of pumping sets has only been 25,000 a few year ago. Today, the number has increased to 16 lakh pumping sets. Every year, we are adding 3-1/2 lakh pumping sets. This scheme has been greatly accelerated. In regard to the question of finance from the Government of India, apart from the Central assistance, the Rural Electrification Corporation has been set up in order to help the backward areas in particular and they give assistance outside the State Plan.

श्री रामोदर पांडेय : मैं सिर्फ यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या प्रोडक्शन कंपैसिटी कम होने से या डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन लाइन कम होने की वजह से बिहार में रूरल एलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन का काम रुका हुआ है या कम हुआ है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह प्रश्न इससे नहीं उठता ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इधर भी ध्यान दिया जाय । बिहार का सवाल है हमको भी यौका दिया जाय ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : तो बिहार का एक दिन रख लें, आप नोटिस दे दीजिए ।

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : There should be a half-an-hour discussion on it.

MR. SPEAKER : If you give a notice, I will allow a discussion on it.

श्री हामोवर पडिब : ग्रह्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने बिहार के सम्बन्ध में रूरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन का सवाल पूछा था, उसका उत्तर नहीं आया ।

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : What about the suggestion for discussion of the subject of rural electrification? I propose that there should be a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : If any hon. Member gives notice we will see. You ask for capacity for production. This is a question entirely different. This is about slow progress of electrification to which he has replied. I have already called the next question.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order during question Hour.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : What is it that bars me from raising point of order? Yesterday, before Questions were taken there were various points of orders raised.

MR. SPEAKER : I don't think you should insist on it.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : I would like to know why not.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing it.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Why not?

MR. SPEAKER : You know, the practice followed in this House is not to raise points of orders during Question Hour. Yesterday it was somewhat different—that was question about the language; it is not arising out of the question itself. (Interruptions) Order please. Next question.

Frequent Cancellation of Local Passenger Trains in Sealdah Division (Eastern Railway)

*37. **SHRI R. P. DAS :** Will the **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI)** be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the frequent cancellation of local passenger train services due to the scarcity of rakes in the Sealdah Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the reasons for the scarcity of rakes in Sealdah Division;

(c) whether Government propose to take positive steps to supply sufficient rakes and run the passenger trains as scheduled in Sealdah Railway Station; and

(d) if so, time by which the passenger Trains would be put into service?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) There have been cancellations, but these were not caused by scarcity of rakes.

(b) The cancellations have taken place because of—

(i) Civil Disturbances, Bundhs and imposition of curfew rendering train running and attendance of staff difficult and risky;

(ii) Hold-up of trains by passengers resulting in rakes getting locked up away from starting stations;

(iii) Theft of Overhead wires resulting in rakes getting locked up away from starting stations; and

(iv) Theft of equipment of rolling stock resulting in temporary immobilisation of the suburban electric rakes.

(a) and (d). Do not arise, as cancellations are of a temporary or localised nature and not the result of shortage of rakes.