

SHRI T. A. PAI: My predecessors have rightly taken the decision that comparison between State and State should not be made by getting this information. I think the backwardness or forwardness of a particular State cannot be decided only in terms of railway mileage. Of course, the addition in railway mileage will have to be considered wherever necessary.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Then the answer should have been that the information cannot be divulged in the public interest, not that it is not available.

Number of villages without Electricity

*386. **SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country which have a population of over 2,000 and are still without electricity; and

(b) the State-wise break-up of the total number ?

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

Statement

Out of 30,762 villages with a population of over 2,000 in the country, 20,596 villages were electrified as on 31-3-71. The break-up of un-electrified villages State-wise is given below :

Andhra Pradesh	1,312
Assam	279
Bihar	2,424
Gujarat	301
Haryana	62
Himachal Pradesh	158
Jammu & Kashmir	88
Kerala	335
Madhya Pradesh	153
Maharashtra	560
Manipur	5
Mysore	482
Nagaland	4
Orissa	241
Punjab	190
Rajasthan	632
Tamil Nadu	477
Tripura	21
Uttar Pradesh	771
West Bengal	1,636
Union Territories	35

Total: 10,166

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH: In view of the statement that has been provided to us, may I know the main factors that are responsible for this wide variation in the number of villages in different States which remain electrified, looking to the policy of the government to electrify every village with a population of 2,500 in the Fourth Plan ?

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: Since electrification is done by the States, those States which have spent more money, are advanced in the matter of electrification while others are lagging behind. Those States which are below the average are Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, UP and West Bengal. The average for the whole country is 21.7 whereas these States have a lower figure.

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH: It is common knowledge that most of the State Electricity Boards are suffering from want of funds. May I know what the government propose to do to save these Electricity Boards from shortage of funds?

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: Keeping this difficulty in view, the Rural Electrification corporation has been constituted at the Centre. It has already sanctioned schemes costing about Rs. 159 crores for rural schemes, including the backward regions.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: We are given to understand that the target of the Fifth Plan for electrification of villages is 1,31,000 and they propose to add 42 million kw of Electricity during the same period. Has the work started on all those power projects which will produce additional energy for the Fifth Plan period ?

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: During the Fifth Plan 1,31,315 villages will be electrified and 25 lakhs pumpsets installed. By this time 1,23,389 villages out of 5,66,878 have been electrified. The percentage is 21.7.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: May I know whether the work has started on those power projects which will produce additional 42 million kw during the Fifth Plan ?

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: Some of the schemes are continuing schemes. Some new schemes will also be taken up.

श्री आर० बी० बडे : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ, अपने स्टेटमेंट में उन्होंने यह कहा है कि मध्य प्रदेश में 153 विनिमय एलेक्ट्रिफाइड हुए हैं जब कि मध्य प्रदेश में 5 हजार विनिमय एलेक्ट्रिफाई करने हैं, उस में से 153 हुए हैं, मध्य प्रदेश में थर्मल एनर्जी भी बहुत काफी है लेकिन उन के पास तार और खम्भे नहीं हैं, चुनाव के दिनों में खम्भे जो उन्होंने डाले थे वह भी उठा लिए और उन्होंने कहा है कि हमारे पास मंडीरियल नहीं है तो क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट इन में उन की मदद करेगी ?

श्री बंजनाथ कुरील : जैसा मैं ने बताया यह काम स्टेट एलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड करते हैं और यह बात कि खम्भे नहीं हैं, छोटी चीजें नहीं हैं, तार बगैरह नहीं हैं, यह तो बहुत छोटी एकमक्यूजेज है। जो स्टेट अपने प्रदेश में एलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन बढ़ाना चाहती है वह बढ़ा सकती है। यह जो दिक्कतें हैं स्टील बगैरह की, तार और खम्भे बगैरह की इस में हमारे यहां सेंटर से भी उन को ये चीजें दिलवाने और प्रॉक्योर करवाने में असिस्ट करते हैं। हमारे यहां आफिसर हैं इस तरीके के जो जब भी वह मदद चाहते हैं तो मदद करते हैं।

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: In view of the fact that there is disparity among the backward States in the matter of rural electrification, may I know from the Government whether the backward States are given proper amounts by the Rural Electricity Corporation to electrify villages? In Orissa, 240 villages have been electrified. I do not think that the State Electricity Board is not willing to take the loan. Will the Government direct the Rural Electricity Corporation to advance such State Governments which are backward the amount required by them.

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: The Rural Electrification Corporation, when they sanction the schemes, keep in mind these points—backward regions. Regarding Orissa, they are lagging behind, no doubt, in electrification work. Recently I went to Balasore district and we found

that, on the schemes which were sanctioned long ago, six or nine months ago, the work has not been started so far. This is the position. What can we do? We can only sanction the money and schemes.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: There is too much of disparity in rural electrification between State and State. Rural electrification, as it stands today, is: 100% in Haryana, 45% in Punjab, 30% in Madras and 9% in Bihar. Bihar has the lowest figure. I would like to know from the Government what concrete measures they are going to take to bring about uniform development of rural electrification in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: What punishment for those who have gone ahead!

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: I have already said that these electrification works are done by the States. In the coming Fifth Plan, we are very much accelerating the electrification work. I think, these variations and disparities will be removed in the Fifth Plan because in the Fifth Plan we are going to have double the energy what we are having today.

SHRI B. S. BHAURA: You might have read in the papers that Haryana is 100 per cent electrified. But here you have given 62 villages as unelectrified. From where have these come?

MR. SPEAKER: The villages came into existence after that.

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: Actually what he says about Haryana that 100% villages are electrified is not 100% correct. If in a village there is a pumpset they have taken that village as electrified; if there is a line (*Interruption*) that village is taken as electrified. There are villages in Haryana which are not availing of electricity.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you can have another discussion. There are so many. How many more can I accommodate? We have to proceed with the other questions. Every question is made a subject of debate. In the other legislatures I find that 35 or 40 or 45 questions are covered; the member interested asks his question and then there are one or two more. But here every ques-

tion is made a subject of debate. What to do now? Everybody gets up—I cannot afford to ignore. The great Maulana Saheb also?

श्री इसहाक सम्मली : जैसा कि इस बयान में बतलाया गया है कि यू० पी० में सिर्फ 222 गांवों में यह स्कीम लागू की गई है। आप जानते हैं कि यू० पी० हिन्दुस्तान का सबसे बड़ा आबादी का सूबा है, उस के बावजूद भी इतने थोड़े पैमाने पर वहाँ बिजली की दिवावार पहुंचाना कहां तक इन्फ्रा की बात है। मैं मालूम करना चाहता हू कि यू० पी० सरकार ने जो बड़ी-बड़ी स्कीमों में सरकार के पास मंजूरी के लिये भेजी है, सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट उन के बारे में क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है?

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी : बिजला को बिजली क्यों दे दी ?

श्री बंजनाय कुरील : यू० पी० इस मामले में बहुत ज्यादा पिछड़ा हुआ नहीं है। जो आल इण्डिया एक्ट है—21.7 परसेंट, यू० पी० का एक्ट 21.5 परसेंट है। यू० पी० में इस वक्त तेजी से बिजली का काम चल रहा है, कोई परेशानी की बात नहीं है।

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: May I know since the installation of the new Ministry in West Bengal how many villages have been electrified in that State and out of those villages in how many villages power has been taken by private consumers or it is also like the Haryana model?

SHRI B. N. KUREEL : In West Bengal, upto 31st May, 1972, the number of villages which have been electrified is 3708 and the percentage is 9.6.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Since which date? I asked—since the installation of the new Ministry.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Since the villages in the hills are very small and there are hardly any villages which have a population of 2000, I want to know what are the norms laid down for rural electrification in the hill areas and

how many villages have been electrified according to the norms laid down by you?

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: The population basis has nothing to do with rural electrification work. Actually, the grouping has been done as villages having below 500 and above 500 population. 2000 has no basis at all. But, for backward areas—these hill areas also come into that—a special provision is made in sanctioning rural electrification schemes and also in regard to the interest and the return taken and the period of loan is longer. These concessions are there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—

MR. SPEAKER: You can judge for yourselves. There are other members also on the question list. I am sorry I have to pass on to the next question.

श्री बी० पी० सोयं : माननीय मंत्री जी शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट के हैं, उसी सम्बन्ध के नाते मैं उनसे एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। गांवों में बिजली पहुंचाते वक्त क्या यह प्रतिशत भी ध्यान में रखा गया है कि शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट के मुहल्लों में कितनों को बिजली मिलनी है?

श्री बंजनाय कुरील : माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत अच्छा प्रश्न पूछा है। पिछले साल में जब हम लोगों ने देखा कि बहुत से गांव जो इलेक्ट्रिफाई होते हैं उन में हरिजन मुहल्ले छूट जाते हैं, तो यह तय किया गया कि जब भी गांव के इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन की स्कीम बनेगी, जब तक वे मुहल्ले शामिल नहीं होंगे, तब तक स्कीम संकशन नहीं होगी। जो गांव इलेक्ट्रिफाई हो चुके हैं, उन में जो हरिजन मुहल्ले छूट गये थे, उन में बिजली पहुंचाने के लिये सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने 5 करोड़ रुपया अनया से दिया है और यह तय किया है कि इस रजत-जयन्ती वर्ष में प्रत्येक राज्य में प्रतिदिन एक गांव में बिजली पहुंचाई जाय।

SHRI D. BASUMATARI : I am glad the scheduled caste villages are covered by this scheme. May I know whether the same scheme is there for the tribals also?

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: Tribals are also included but there is one difference so far as tribal villages are concerned, or places inhabited by the tribals. There are not these mohallas as Harijans have got.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI: Will it be a policy that the places of concentration of tribals population should be deprived of power?

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: As I said, these places of tribals are covered by the scheme.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: The Minister has said that they can sanction the money and cannot do anything more. In that context may I ask him one thing? What steps have the Central Government taken so far to impress upon State Governments the importance of electrification of the villages? And, number two, there is a heaven-and-hell difference between various States in the matter of electrification. What efforts are being made to diminish or minimise this difference?

SHRI B. N. KUREEL: Regarding the first part of the question, we have been watching this. West Bengal has been lagging behind and we have asked them to submit schemes and we told that whatever schemes they submit will be sanctioned and we have sent our officer there to assist in formulating the schemes. Regarding the second part, as I said, we are increasing the generating capacity in the fifth plan and we are going to double it. So, naturally, this difference will be minimised.

Kala Irrigation Project in Orissa

*387. **SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kala irrigation project in Orissa is proposed to be included in the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) when the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the benefits to accrue therefrom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) to (d). The Kala Irrigation

Project proposed by the Government of Orissa has been accepted by the Planning Commission on 25-7-1972 for inclusion in the developmental plans of Orissa. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 196.76 lakhs and provide annual irrigation of 5587 ha.

The State Government have indicated that it is proposed to complete the project by the end of the Fifth Plan.

Detained wagons being used as godowns by paying demurrage charges

*388. **SHRI D. P. JADEJA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Companies are detaining wagons for using them as godowns by paying demurrage to the Railways;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to take some action against such Companies; and

(c) if so, the nature of action proposed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) There is frequent and widespread incidence of wagons not being unloaded by consignees within the "free time" allowed and becoming subject to demurrage.

(b) and (c). The maximum demurrage rate is 30 paise per hour per tonne of the carrying capacity of a wagon. Railway Administrations have been empowered to levy demurrage at the maximum rate whenever necessary. At this stage, a 4-wheeled Broad Gauge wagon earns a demurrage of Rs. 158.40 per day, which constitutes a strong deterrent to the detention of wagons. Of course, since this can be passed on to the consumer it ceases to act as a deterrent. Furthermore, Railways have the option to unload wagons departmentally and debit unloading charges to the consignee. This option is also exercised wherever possible.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA: May I know what types of goods are normally not unloaded early and whether most of those goods are from the larger industries and big business houses?