

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Generally, we cannot say that. So far as 110 MW units are concerned, there has been some mistake in the design and manufacture of equipment.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The picture in Bihar of power generation is absolutely dismal. The total installed capacity is 940 MW and the average generation has never exceeded 150 MW. This matter has been debated on the floor of this House and in the State also. There are defects in the designing and other factors are also responsible. But I wonder why upto now no steps have been taken to improve the power generation. The power potential of the State which is the richest in resources is going down every year and in terms of *Per Capita* income, Bihar is at the lowest bracketed with Nagaland and other States. In the last Lok Sabha, we had raised this matter and Government was considering to set up an atomic power plant in Bihar. In view of the dismal performance of the existing power plant, will the Government consider improving power generation and also setting up of atomic power station in Bihar ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This is a suggestion for action.

MR. SPEAKER : When the other power stations are not working well, how can you expect atomic power plant to work better ?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Who is responsible for that ?

MR. SPEAKER : That has to be streamlined. You should devote that much energy to that !

Construction of Low Cost Houses for the Poor

***18. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have initiated any new programme for construction of low cost houses on a large scale to meet the shortage of dwelling houses for the poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) and (b). Housing is a State subject and the States/Union Territories are undertaking schemes for various target groups in accordance with the Plan priorities. The programmes in this regard include the schemes for assistance through Housing and Urban Development Corporation for construction of houses for economically weaker sections, the plan scheme for allotment of houses—sites and construction assistance to rural landless workers to step up housing facilities for them and the provision of finances for low income groups through institutional assistance. It is proposed to expand these programmes with higher outlays during 7th Plan period.

According to National Buildings Organisation, the housing shortage in the year, 1985 was roughly about 24.7 million of which 18.8 million is rural and the rest urban.

In regard to the housing scheme for the economically weaker sections, a target of 16.2 lakh units has been fixed and up to 30-11-1984, 7.28 lakhs has been achieved. One lakh more units are to be achieved by the end of 1985.

In regard to the houses for landless labourers, according to the Planning Commission the estimated number of eligible landless families in rural areas would be roughly about 14.5 million by 1985 and according to another estimate of the National Buildings Organisation rural housing shortage would be roughly about 18.8 millions. The plan target for economically weaker sections was about 16.2 lakh units, and 7.28 lakh units have been achieved. Regarding rural house sites, at development cost of Rs. 250/-, the plan target was 68 lakh families, and 50 lakhs have been achieved, for construction assistance of near about Rs. 500, the plan target was 36 lakhs, and 17 lakhs have been achieved....

AN HON. MEMBER : Let him ask his supplementary.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The question he has asked is what are the new schemes, and I am explaining these so that

no supplementary will arise. Anticipating the supplementaries, I am giving all this information.

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : May I know whether the Government have allowed the banks to lend directly for construction of houses ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : There are many schemes. I will give one example, that of HUDCO. So far as the loans to economically weaker sections are concerned, the assistance given by HUDCO is at the rate of interest of five to seven per cent; for low income group it is eight per cent; for middle income group it is 10½ per cent; for higher income group it is twelve and half per cent. These are the schemes under HUDCO, and HUDCO has achieved all the targets entrusted to it. If you want, I can give that number also.

(Inter-ruptions)

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : May I know whether the Government are aware of the rural works housing scheme and if so, whether they will popularise it ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I do not understand. If he means that according to a research work which the National Buildings Organisation has formulated, out of Rs. 5,000 they can construct a small house for the landless labourers, then research is going on for hilly regions and it is roughly about Rs. Rs. 7,000, and in a number of States, in a cluster form, these things have been organized by the National Buildings Organisation—in Kashmir and other places. A large number of houses, about 25,000 or so, have been done in some States. That scheme for exhibition sake is also being organized throughout the country.

SHRI VADDE SOBHANEDREE-SWARA RAO : Will the Government take necessary steps immediately through HUDCO to provide more funds to the Government of Andhra Pradesh which has taken up construction of 1,40,000 permanent houses at an estimated cost of Rs. 80 crores per year in the last two years ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : As you

know, everything is under consideration in the Seventh Five-Year Plan. If we get higher allocations, we will certainly look into your grievances and allot more funds to your State also. I can say that your State stands amongst first so far as housing scheme is concerned. I thank you for this, and we will try to help you.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : With your permission, Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister of Works and Housing as to how much is the cost of a house built in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh for weaker sections, when this cost was fixed and what is the amount of grant given for it ?

[English]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : It is near about Rs. 5,000 for Bihar and U.P. also. So far as sites for the landless labourers are concerned, they have achieved a good percentage. Now some of the States are insisting that the Central Government should give assistance also for purchase of sites to these landless labourers. So far as construction of houses is concerned, I am sorry to inform you that U.P. and Bihar lag far behind the other States.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The Minister has read out a number of schemes and has also given us the shortage which stands at present at 24.7 millions and which will go on increasing. What I would like to ask is this. There are a number of schemes and these schemes are having different types of concessions. This kind of thing creates confusion. Moreover, there is no linkage between the housing programme and the other rural development programmes like NREP, RLEGP, etc. Unless linkages are established and the schemes are simplified, it is not possible for the common people at the village level to comprehend the schemes, if the Government have any. Has the Minister considered that it is necessary to simplify the schemes and to establish linkages between the housing programme and the other schemes meant for providing employment in rural areas ? Also I want to know whether it is possible to see, if it just as we get loans at a very soft rate from the United Nations Organization, repayable in 50 years or so, similar loans can be made available in the rural sector also for the purpose of bridging the gap in rural housing.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Government is always responsive and willing to consider any good suggestion from any Member of the House, particularly from the Opposition.

Earthquake in Cachar District of Assam

***21. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an earthquake rocked the Cachar district of Assam recently;

(b) if so, the loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof;

(c) the relief measures provided; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the victims of the earthquake ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) According to available information certain parts of Cachar district were affected by an earthquake during the night of 30th and 31st December, 1984.

(b) As per reports received from the Government of Assam the losses to life and property are as under :

(i) No. of human lives lost	13
(ii) No. of cattle lost	1
(iii) No. of villages affected	125
(iv) No. of houses damaged	3000
(v) No. of bridges damaged	2
(vi) No. of timber bridges damaged	6
(vii) Estimated value of property damaged	Rs. 40 00 lakhs

(c) & (d) The State Government have reported that the next of kin of the deceased have been given ex-gratia grant at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per adult and Rs.

500/-per minor. However, the State Government proposes to enhance this assistance to Rs. 5000/- per adult and Rs. 2500/- per minor. Injured persons have also been suitably compensated. About six hundred affected families have been accommodated in six relief camps. Free blankets, tarpullines and other essential commodities have been distributed to the affected people. The State Government have reported that house to house survey to assess the extent of damage to dwelling units/institutions is under progress.

At the request of the State Government a sum of Rs. 5.00 crores has been sanctioned as a ways and means advance on 8-1-1985 by the Government of India for taking up urgent relief and rehabilitation works.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, I must congratulate the Minister and the Prime Minister because they have acted very promptly to help the victims of the earthquake. I would like to know whether any modernised warning system has been provided in the country to fore-warn the earthquake victims so, that they may shift to a safe place. Secondly, due to different geological formations this type of natural disaster happens in which there are four formations—ancient formation, old formation, Gondwana formation and Rockfeller formation. Secondly, if we entrust the job to NSRA agency based at Hyderabad we can know where the actual disaster will happen.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I agree with the hon. Member that advance information should be given to the earthquake prone areas but so far as it has not been possible to evolve a fool-proof system by which we can really envisage the possibilities and the extent of earthquake. But I would like to tell the House that the country has been divided into five seismic zones. Assam is one zone in which earthquakes are expected quite frequently. In addition to this there are also 12 seismological observations in the North Eastern region and we propose to set up five more during the Seventh Five-Year Plan to make it possible that we could give some information about the earthquakes in the affected zones.