

total provision (including that for crash programme) of Rs. 30.00 crores during 1965-66.

(c) Yes. Rural electrification in Rajasthan by the end of the Third Five Year Plan is expected to be of the order of 4 per cent as against the All-India figure of 9.6 per cent.

(d) The Fourth Plan has not yet been finalised. However, the tentative target for Rajasthan during the Fourth Plan has been fixed as 7,000 villages which will help Rajasthan to come at par with other States. Advance planning for procuring necessary materials have been done by the Board and partial order therefor have also been placed. Suitable organisational set up has also been built up to cope with the increased tempo of work.

Power Shortage in States

*1266. Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri Hukam Chand

Kachhavaitya:

Shri P. L. Burupal:

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:

Shrimati Sarda Mukerjee:

Shri Ravindra Varma:

Shri R. S. Pandey

Shri Thirumala Rao:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the States where acute power shortage is still being felt;

(b) the monthly consumption of energy in these States during 1965 and how much of it was less during the period from October to December, 1965 as compared with earlier months;

(c) the monthly consumption of energy in these States from January to March, 1966; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the shortage?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):

(a) The States where acute power shortage is still being felt are Punjab, Rajasthan, Chambal Service Area of

Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the figures of monthly power consumption in the States of Madras and Punjab during 1965 and during the period January-March, 1966 is given in Annexure I, laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6116 (i)/66].

The power consumption in respect of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Kerala is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

(d) A statement giving the steps taken to meet power shortage in various States is appended in Annexure II, laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6116 (ii)/66].

Price of Gold

*1267. Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Shri P. C. Borooah:

Shri Kindar Lal:

Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union have suggested a world-wide increase in the price of gold as a means of providing more liquid money for investment in developing countries;

(b) whether Government have considered this proposal; and

(c) if so, what is their reaction?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) In a meeting of the UNCTAD Committee on Invisibles and Financing Related to Trade, the USSR Delegate advocated an increase in the price of gold.

(b) and (c). Government's view has been that a rise in the price of gold will benefit only a few countries which have substantial gold production or substantial official reserves of gold.