

When will you clear all these projects of the Government of Maharashtra—four pending with you, two advertised by them and the Thakuril power house to be run on gas turbine? Are you going to clear them early?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: The Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Unit by Tata Electrical Companies, Trombay, Maharashtra (180 MW) and the Western Maharashtra TPS of BSES, Dahanu, Maharashtra, Thane District (500 MW) are the projects which have been approved by the Government of India.

Regarding the other proposals, I would like to say that the Maharashtra Sarkar has not still established the fuel-linkage. Until and unless the Petroleum Ministry gives the clearance for the fuel-linkage, we cannot give techno-economic clearance.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is good that the Private Sector is being involved in power generation as the power shortage is growing day by day in the country. The hon. Minister might be knowing that there is acute power crisis in Bihar. The State Government is making its efforts to meet this crisis and it has submitted proposals in this regard to the Central Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the stage at which these proposals are at present. The most parts of this State are adjacent to the borders of Nepal. Sources of water and electricity of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar both originate from Nepal.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is on Privatisation.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: It would be better if the hon. Minister throws some light on this issue. I have just returned from abroad and as such I have not been able to speak to him. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the progress made in this regard as a result of the talks held between him and the Prime Minister of Nepal?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, the proposal for Chandil Project with 500 MW capacity submitted by the Bihar Government is under consideration of the Central Government. Techno-economic clearance has already been given and the financial clearance will also be issued soon. Two months ago, the Central Government approved 710 MW Koel-Karo Hydro-electric project for Bihar, which involves an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1338 crores. The work on this project has already commenced. Hon. Sharad Yadav would be glad to know that an agreement between India and Nepal with regard to water resources which includes Pancheswari, Karnali, Bagmati, Kamala and Kosi dam has been reached recently following the visit of nepalese Prime Minister to India. Protocols in this regard have been signed between the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal. We hope that after the completion of that project, India will get hydro-power in abundance.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Members from different states want to know about the time frame by which the projects of their respective states would be completed. I would be better if you could send replies to them in writing when they write to you about that. Now I am going over to the next question.

[English]

Identity Cards to Persons Living in Border Areas

*243. **SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:**
SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue identity cards to persons living in the border areas of the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the scheme is proposed to be taken up for implementation;

(c) whether such identity cards have

already been issued on a limited basis in certain areas; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the entire expenditure on the issue of such identity cards will be met by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A pilot Scheme for issue of Identity Cards is already under implementation in the border areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The districts covered under the Scheme are Jaisalmer, Ganga Nagar, Barmer and Bikaner in Rajasthan and Banaskantha and Kutch in Gujarat. So far about 2,84,000 and 67,000 identity cards been distributed in Rajasthan and Gujarat respectively. The State Governments of Punjab, J&K, Assam, Mizoram, Tripura and West Bengal have also agreed to take up the Scheme in selected border areas.

(d) The expenditure on the issue of such Identity Cards is presently being borne by the Central Government on 90% Grant and 10% loan basis.

[English]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Pilot Scheme was initiated in 1987 as far as I can gather from the replies given by the Government to various questions posed in Parliament on this very issue. It is more than four and a half years now that this Pilot Scheme was launched and even after four and a half years, it continues to be a pilot Scheme. My point is that, it seems, this entire scheme has been a non-starter.

I have with me a reply given by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dey in 1989. In it, he assured Parliament that this Pilot Scheme would be evaluated very soon and then it would be taken up in the other border States.

Now, I would like to know whether any evaluation has been done; whether evaluation Report is available which can be shared with Parliament so that we can form

our opinion as to what are the advantages of this kind of Identity Card Scheme. Because, to the best of my knowledge, this Identity Card Scheme is not universal, it is no token of the fact that so and so is a citizen and so and so is not the citizen.

In view of this, I would like to know whether evaluation has been done and whether the evaluation Report will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, the reply clearly states that more than half a dozen States have agreed to take this scheme which in fact, in 1987, was a Pilot Scheme. Now, it has been extended to Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura, Mizoram, West Bengal and Bihar. These are the areas, where they have agreed to implement the scheme but before the scheme is implemented—in fact in my discussion with the Officers, I have asked them to issue instructions to the State Governments—or before they introduce the Identity Card System, they must go in for a proper survey of the entire villages where the scheme is proposed to be implemented and thereafter, those who apply for the Identity Cards, the question of taking a decision on that will arise.

so, we will immediately take the survey of those villages and thereafter, this scheme will be implemented.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: My question has not been replied. I have asked whether the evaluation has been done and whether the evaluation Report will be shared with Parliament.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I do not have the information. I will have to find that out.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: In the reply, it is suggested that the Punjab Government has now agreed to take up this scheme. I have with me a quotation. A statement was made by the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar on September 13, 1988 in which he says: "All the formalities in this regard for introducing

laminated Identity Cards to the residents of the villages on the Indo-Pak Border have been completed by the Home Ministry. In the first phase, sixty villages in the districts of Amritsar would be covered. Fourteen district officers would complete the task within three weeks.

This was accepted by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev in the Rajya Sabha and he said that once it is made, we will know the total number of persons. These laminated cards will be printed in the Nasik Press. This will take four to six months."

I am citing this example only to point out that all statements made in this regard have not at all been followed up and no such decision has been implemented. Have you anything to say about this particular statement that was laid by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev in respect of Amritsar that laminated cards will be prepared in nasik within four or six months?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, the laminated Identity Cards are printed in the Nasik Printing Press. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition expects me to give the reply about what Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev said about Amritsar district, I am sorry, I do not have the information. I will try to collect the information and pass it on to him.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I am really trying to point out that these questions have been answered in a routine manner over the past four and a half years and there has been no follow up and the whole scheme is a non-starter.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I have the figures of the number of villages in each area. I have given the detailed information regarding Rajasthan and Gujarat. In Punjab, we have 210 villages, wherein 11,40,000 people have to be issued the identity cards. They are the people who are eligible for this. In Jammu and Kashmir, we have 1,80,000 people who are to be issued Identity Cards and according to the State's claim, already Identity Cards for 1,64,000 people have been issued. And

in Assam, we have about 29,59,281 eligible people.

For different areas we have the scheme of the number of persons who are eligible. But it is true that it has not been implemented; we have still to make a beginning.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister has stated that they are going to begin it now. For the past four and a half years, it is in the process of being started. When shall it reach half way mark? When will this process end? Mr. Speaker, Sir, when a decision to issue identity cards was taken, many important factors were kept in mind. One of them was insecurity also. Then there was the question of citizenship as to who is the citizen of India and who is not? Identity cards shall be of great help in taking a decision in this regard, such was the feeling. However, so far only a few lakh identity cards have been issued in certain *Tehsils*. When the Central Government is willing to bear 90% expenditure on this item, I would like to know as to why State Governments are going so slow on it?

Also please tell us as to what is the purpose of issuing this identity card. The hon. Minister has stated that in Gujarat and Rajasthan, people have been asked to apply for issue of identity cards if they so desire. If that is the procedure, those who are not the citizens of India they would apply first of all. Will it depend on the will of the citizens to obtain or not to obtain the identity cards? In this scheme being taken seriously? I would request the hon. Home Minister to answer this question categorically.

[English]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: In fact, the objectives of the scheme are very clear: (1) to register bonafide residents; (2) to collect reliable information regarding the status of the residents; and (3) to check the movement of the visitors who stay for more than 30

days. These are vary clear objectives which have been laid down.

We have recently a meeting of the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States wherein this entire issue was being discussed; and every one pointed out that it is necessary, before the scheme is introduced in an extensive manner, it must have a legal backing; and that is why we have to go in for some type of legislation.

It is not a question of a particular person applying for an identity card and whether he wants to have it or not, we will have to give that identity cards to the persons who are living in those areas; and that is why it is absolutely necessary that we have the legal backing for the same; and an enactment will be necessary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from Rajasthan, and Jaisalmer, Barmer and Bikaner district are the border districts of the State. The people of Jaisalmer district met me yesterday morning and pointed out that most of the people living in the border areas belong to the Minority Community and they have been living there for years together. The land on which they are living belong to them. But now the Government is allotting that land to the *Harijans* and *adivasis* so that these people are deprived from getting the identity cards. Will the Home Minister investigate into this matter? Will the *Subedar* (original land allottee) get fair justice? Will the lease holders get authorised houses on that land and their identity cards? I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister the action he proposes to take in this matter?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: If an attempt to transfer the lands of the permanent residents of that area to other people through acquisition proceedings is being made, the Central Government will look into it and question the State Government in this regard. All eligible persons will be issued identity cards.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether it has a policy to issue identity cards to all the citizens of this country because this matter is not confined to a few districts and the border states. It has many other dimensions. Arrangements to issue identity cards to every citizen of the country should be made and it should not be restricted to Punjab. Because I do not understand that——

MR. SPEAKER: You have already asked your question as to whether there is a proposal to implement it in the entirety country.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: I am asking the (b) part of my question because the hon. Home Minister has said that he did not know what Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev had said. This should not happen——

MR. SPEAKER: You have already asked your question. Please do not speak like this.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Because Sontosh Mohanji was also there in the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking whether this move of issuing identity cards is to be implemented throughout the country?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: There is no proposal to implement the same all over the country.

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The districts listed by the hon. Home Minister are the districts of Jaisalmer and Barmer. It is not out of the parochial concern that I raise this point, but these two districts have been my home districts. The hon. Minister has said that in a meeting recently convened by his Ministry the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States stated that they need a legal backing for this scheme. I would, therefore, like to ask two clarifications on two aspects. One is, what is the legal lacuna

and is it four and a half years after the trial scheme that the Government is becoming aware of the requirement of a legal backing for such a scheme?

MR. SPEAKER: Is it implementable in a court of law; that is the requirement.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Does it take four and a half years for the Government to take such a decision? Secondly, does the conferment of the issue of an identity card, mean the conferment of citizenship? Does the identity card holder become a citizen of the country, or is it merely a recognition of his residence in the area? That is the most crucial aspect of the issue of the issuance of identity cards in the border areas.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I have made the point very clear what exactly is the objective of the scheme. After the issue of the identity card he does not automatically become a citizen of India. But this, in fact, can be used for identifying all those who are illegally migrating into India. And thereafter whatever action is called can be taken. Those people who are the permanent residents of those areas, they should not be harassed and that is why these identity cards are being issued so that we are able to identify those who are illegally coming into the country.

Kutir Jyoti Yojana In Orissa

*244. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Kutir Jyoti Yojana was started by the Union Government in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the grants provided by the Union Government to the State Electricity Board through the Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. for implementation of the scheme;

(c) whether it is proposed to provide

certain concessions to the beneficiaries especially the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). With a view to providing single point light connections to the households of rural families below the poverty line, including harijans and adivasis, a welfare programme known as 'Kutir Jyoti' was initiated by the then Government in 1988-89, all over the country, including in Orissa. Under the scheme which was financed from Central grants during 1988-89 and 1989-90, the task of identifying the beneficiaries was vested with the State Governments concerned. The Rural Electrification Corporation provided, in all, Rs. 167.591 lakhs to the Orissa State Electricity Board under the programme, for releasing 78,905 single point light connections. According to the available information, the State Electricity Board has achieved the above target.

The scheme was not continued after 31.3.1991

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that 78,905 single point light connections have been released in favour of the people living below the poverty line, including these of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. I would like to know if any special concessions have been shown to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Secondly, I would like to know, out of these total number released how many were released in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes people in the State of Orissa, district-wise.