

So, that is a serious matter. I am concerned about that. But my Ministry is concerned only with the assistance part. The flood part is with the Water Resources Ministry. The relation is like the Mahabharat's Bhim and Shakuni. Bhim is creating the trouble and Shakuni is giving relief. So, this is the situation. The hon. member can address that question to the other Ministry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow me to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, would you please ask him to reply to this very important question? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : One minute, please. This is a very important question. I know, every hon. Member from every State would like to raise questions. Yesterday, in the meeting of the Leaders, it was decided that the House should have a full discussion on this question. So, we are going to have a full-fledged debate and discussion on this issue and, therefore, we go to the next question.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this does not include the name of Madhya Pradesh. Unless the name of Madhya Pradesh is included in it what can we ask...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House will have full discussion on it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to the back benchers like us also ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been decided that a full discussion will be held on this issue in the House. Everyone will be given a chance to speak.

[English]

Now Question No. 3. Shri Ramendra Kumarji.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

*3. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Govt. of Bihar and other States of Eastern region have sought financial assistance from the Union Government for rural electrification;

(b) if so, the amount of financial assistance provided by the Union Government for this purpose during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 particularly to Bihar;

(c) the time by which all the villages in Bihar are likely to be electrified; and

(d) whether any target has been fixed in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). The financial allocation approved by Planning Commission for Rural Electrification in the Eastern States for the last 3 years is as follows

	(Rs. in Crores)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Orissa	24.0	15.0	15.0
Bihar	10.0	6.0	16.0
West Bengal	14.0	20.5	33.5
Sikkim	2.0	2.5	1.5

The Government of Bihar proposes to achieve cent per cent village electrification by 2000 AD and has sought for additional financial allocation for Rural Electrification. As against 67513 villages in Bihar, 47805 villages have been electrified.

As rural electrification is a continuing process, the electrification of all villages will depend upon availability of resources, power supply position in the state, a proper network of transmission and distribution systems and the targets fixed by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Government on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the eastern region consists of Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim for financial assistance for rural electrification. However, the Bihar Government wrote to the Minister of Power in May 1995 stating that they propose to cover all the villages for electrification in Bihar by 2000 A.D. It was mentioned in the letter that Rs. 530 crore would be required upto 1999-2000 for completing village electrification.

Sir, the second part of the question pertains to the financial assistance provided by the Union Government.

The financial allocation for all the States is decided by the Planning Commission in consultation

with the State Governments, annually. The allocation made in the previous years for the eastern States is as below :

	(Rs. in crores)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Orissa	24.0	15.0	15.0
Bihar	10.0	6.0	16.0
West Bengal	14.0	20.5	33.5
Sikkim	2.0	2.5	1.5

Sir, as far as part (c) of the question is concerned, it is difficult to estimate by what time the village electrification is likely to be completed in Bihar, since the Planning Commission finalises the rural electrification programme for each State, keeping in view the financial resource position, infrastructural facilities, the Board's capability and the availability of State Government's resources.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very long answer. Why don't you make a statement and lay it on the Table of the House?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, this question consists of four parts and I have already laid a statement on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government's reply is that allocation of an amount of Rs. 32 crore, Rs. 54 crore and Rs. 67.5 crore has been made to Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal respectively during the last three years. I would like to know from the Government as to what is the basis for providing funds to States for rural electrification?

[English]

What are the other reasons? The Government should explain the criteria for giving financial aid to the States for rural electrification.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : As far as rural electrification is concerned, the States have to take certain steps like finding a satisfactory solution to liquidate the outstanding dues of REC and making arrangements for prompt payment of future dues on a year to year basis; making provision of adequate cash subsidy in the State budget to make good RE losses being incurred by the State Electricity Board; devising an adequate mechanism for revenue realisation from the customers; involvement of consumers in effective protection and maintenance of works and installations.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : This is not the correct reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interfere. Let him answer first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I am on a point of order, Sir.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I am also on a point of order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order during the Question Hour. During the Question Hour there cannot be any point of order. Rule does not permit point of order during the Question Hour.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : One hon. Member has been sitting in the well of the House. At this point of time the House is in disorder. This way the House should not function; or the House should take action ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : What are the criteria for giving assistance to the States for rural electrification?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : The criteria are they have to ensure the availability of power; make provision of adequate cash subsidy in the State budget to make good RE losses being incurred by the State Electricity Board; devise an adequate mechanism for revenue realisation from the customers; strengthen sub-transmission system to back up the massive rural electrification programme. revise tariffs for agricultural consumers in line with the recommendations of the State Power Ministers Conference in 1992. Based on this the State Electricity Board Authorities approach the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : This reply is not satisfactory.

[English]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : What about our point of order, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : I have understood it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : As per rules I have the right to ask two supplementaries. Please allow me to ask another supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you not asked your second supplementary question?

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : No Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I thought you have stood up three times!

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been mentioned in the reply that 47805 villages out of 67,546 have been electrified in Bihar but this

figure is not correct. Besides, it has also been said that all the villages of Bihar will be electrified by 2000 A.D. I would like to know from the Government as to how many villages are likely to be electrified during the year 1996-97?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : The Bihar Government has set their target for completion of village electrification by 2000 AD...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Have patience to listen to the answer.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : They have sent a proposal stating that they have to electrify 31500 villages.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusaral) : This is not the question.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : In this way you will not get the answer.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : The hon'ble Minister himself does not know the answer.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : CEA has reported that there are a total of 67546 inhabited villages in Bihar as per 1981 census. The BSEB reported that they have completed electrification of 47805 villages. Therefore, as per our records only 19741 villages are left to be electrified. The Bihar Government in their reference have stated that they have to electrify 31500 villages. There appears to be a basic discrepancy in the number of villages to be electrified as per BSEB figures and the reference received from the Government of Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : It is a wrong answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you stand up again and again?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you make so much noise?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Union Territory Chandigarh comes directly under the jurisdiction of the Central Government. On one hand, loans are being provided to the people in some States for electrification but on the other hand, people of 22 villages in Chandigarh have built houses on their

now land coming out side the red line by getting sale deed prepared and obtaining the transfer of land thereto but the Central Government are not releasing power connections to them. They are demanding for power connections but their demand is not being accepted. Chandigarh is called the most beautiful city in the world. But about one lakh people are deprived of power facility there. Whether there is any such policy of the Government that power connections will not be given to those who have built their houses outside the red line area? My second question is whether the Government propose to give power connections to these people immediately?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, I request the Member to ask a separate question. Otherwise, I will pass the message to him pertaining to Chandigarh.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope, for the question that I put before the hon. Minister, he will reply in specific terms.

A question has been raised concerning Bihar in particular and the eastern region in general. The rural electrification programme is done in consonance with the States as well as the planning priority of the annual plan document, making out a target. May I know from the hon. Minister what was the actual target for the State of West Bengal to complete the rural electrification programme, to cover all the villages, in what time, within what period and whether the Ministry made any verification as to what the physical target reached up to this date is, including that of utilization of funds? I have got reports from the panchayats. Reports come to Delhi that so and so villages have been electrified. The panchayat body says with strong objection that that is not the actual physical target achieved. So, I would like to know whether a physical study has been made by the Government in regard to the progress and the target that is supposed to be achieved in respect of the State of West Bengal.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : As far as the figures pertaining to West Bengal are concerned, for 1993-94, it was 351 villages; for 1994-95, it was 310 villages; and for 1995-96, the number of villages was 89. The amount utilized is not available because the programme for 1996-97 has not been finalized by the Planning Commission. This will be discussed and after the Planning Commission discusses it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I said, 'what was the target and how much has been achieved?' I wanted to know whether a physical verification has been made checking whether the target has really been achieved. Did the Government make the physical check?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, I will examine it

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know this from the hon. Minister, through you. The Government of Orissa has sent a proposal to achieve cent per cent rural electrification by 2000 A.D. and has asked for additional financial allocation for rural electrification. I want to know whether the Government of India and the concerned Department are considering the proposal to send the additional fund requested for by the Government of Orissa.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, as far as West Bengal is concerned...*(Interruptions)* In fact, I am giving information in respect of the State of West Bengal...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Sir, I have asked this categorically. The Government of Orissa has sent a proposal to achieve hundred per cent village electrification by 2000 A.D. The Government of Orissa has already sent a proposal to the Government of India and has sought for additional financial allocation for rural electrification. I would like to know whether the Government considers this proposal to send this amount to the Government of Orissa or not.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, we propose to sent it. As I told already, the Planning Commission will discuss it with the State Government authorities and they will finalize the outlay.

DR ASIM BALA : The Government of India are providing electrification to *Kutir Jyoti* and *Jawahar Jyoti* to SC/ST people. But I would like to know whether the Government is ready to implement electrification for the rural poor people irrespective of caste and groups and castes because most of the Government planning is for providing electric line upto *mauza* level but not to their houses. Since the rural people are very poor, they cannot provide the funds for taking electric line to their houses. So, I would like to know whether the Government have any plan to provide electrification to rural people irrespective of caste and creed.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : As per the State Government proposal, after receiving the proposal only the REC will finalise.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue has been raised on Bihar. Hon'ble Member has said that the electrification has not been done to that extent as has been given in the figures. The second thing is as to whether the electricity is being generated with the full capacity of the power plants installed in Bihar? It is obvious that electricity is not being generated to that extent. That is why, industries are not being set up there. This is due to the functioning of Bihar Government. Industrialists have said that they would set up industries in Bihar only when Bihar Government would have sufficient power capacity. Electricity poles are there but there is no electricity. Bihar has no power capacity. Therefore, the electricity poles installed there are useless. How

many villages have been electrified? I would like to know from the Government as to what is the exact power capacity of the power plants in Bihar. What is the existing power generation of the plants against the power capacity there?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, pertaining to generation, let the hon. Member ask separate question regarding Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of power generation is related to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody is speaking on Bihar. What is this happening?

(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : My question is related to Bihar. Expectations of Bihar Government are so high. It has said that all the villages of Bihar, would be electrified by 2000 A.D. but only having expectations do not serve the purpose. I would like to ask as to how much amount has been provided to Bihar during the last five years for rural electrification. Whether the Government propose to appoint an independent agency to make an inquiry about proper utilisation of the amount provided to Bihar or rural electrification irregularities? In the villages where poles have been installed, wires have not been given and where wires have been given, transformer poles have not been provided. The result is that it is an open invitation to the thieves to take away these things. The figures given are absolutely wrong. Even in my constituency, there are about 1250 such villages...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question otherwise you would not get the answer to such a lengthy matter.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Whether the Central Government would appoint an independent agency to investigate whether the funds provided to Bihar during the last five years for rural electrification have been utilised properly or not? I am not telling about the report of the Bihar Government. Bihar Government will only cover up its indolence. My question is whether the Government would appoint an independent agency to go into it.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Shall I give figures?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1993-94 the number of places electrified is 205 and amount utilised is Rs. 10 crore...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : What is this answer? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : First, please listen and after that speak...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : Please give reply to my question.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : You ask the right question.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Whether you are getting the irregularities investigated or not?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Environmental and Forestry Clearance

*1 SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state .

(a) whether a number of development projects are held up for want of the environmental and

forestry clearance from the central authorities causing significant cost/time escalation;

(b) if so, the names thereof, State-wise;

(c) since when these projects are pending and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to streamline the present system so as to make it more efficient and speedy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). A statement is enclosed

(d) and (e). The Government has already taken steps for speedy clearance of projects. A final decision on the project proposals is taken within a stipulated time of 90 days and communicated to the proponent within 30 days thereafter from the date of receipt of complete information and other relevant details asked for from the project proponents.

STATEMENT

List of developmental projects pending with this Ministry for Environmental & Forest clearance.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

S.No.	Name of the Project	Pending since	Resons for pendency
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Development of the Rava Oil and Gas field located near the Godavari River Delta A.p. of M/s Command Petroleum (India) Pvt. Ltd., with ONGC.	June 1995	Under Final stage of examination
2.	Expansion of Paperboard Production and Cogeneration power plant at ITC Sarapaka, Khammam of M/s ITC Bhadrachalam Paperboard Ltd.	August 1995	Under process
3.	Exapansion of Paint Complex by Asian paints, Patancheru A.P.	September 1995	Under process
4.	Cement plant at village Anantapur, by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	November 1995	Under process
5.	Cement manufacturing unit Nalagunda. of M/s Devi Cement Ltd.,	January 1996	Additional information awaited
6.	Manufacturing of Royon grade Pulp at Kamalapur in Warangal of M/s. Andhra Pradesh Royon Ltd., (APR Ltd.)	February 1996	-do-