

not connected with the question, but whatever has come to our notice is that there is a tradition of constant security check and various equipment are needed to check the things. I cannot right now say what action is being taken in this regard. As and when the situation arises, we are quite aware of it and we are going to tighten the security measures.

[*Translation*]

### **Electrification of Hilly Areas in Uttar Pradesh**

\*163. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals regarding the rural electrification of the hilly areas from the Government of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any limit on expenditure per village, has been fixed by the Rural Electrification Corporation, for the approved schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the programme to extend electrification facilities to the hilly areas is being adversely affected due to the limit fixed on expenditure; and

(f) if so, when these restrictions are proposed to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) and (b). No separate proposal specially for hilly area of Uttar Pradesh has been received in the Central Government. The Districtwise RE activities are finalised at the State level basis on the availability of funds and inter-se priority fixed by the State Government. 206 rural electrification schemes sponsored by the UPSEB for electrification of 14757 villages in the 8 hilly

Districts of Uttar Pradesh have been sanctioned by the REC so far for financial assistance of Rs. 128.18 crores.

(c) to (f). No specific limit of expenditure per village has been fixed by the Rural Electrification Corporation.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while expressing my dissatisfaction over the apathy shown in the matter of sanctioning rural electrification Schemes by Rural Electrification Corporation, I would like to know from the honourable Minister the number of rural electrification schemes forwarded by the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board last year and how many of them have been sanctioned and also the reasons for not sanctioning them on a time bound basis by the Union Ministry?

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board submitted a State level scheme which included eight hill districts. In these eight districts, there are nearly 651 villages and electrification thereof has been sanctioned for this year. The work is likely to begin shortly.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are complaints of misuse of money allotted for such works and also of diversion of funds. But such complaints regarding these schemes of hill areas are more serious. On the basis of the information available, the Union Ministry has decided that, whatever be the population of the village as per the census of 1981, only 50 electric poles will be installed there. Problem is that in the hilly areas the distance between one village and the other is considerable. Moreover, the terrain is also difficult. Villages are small and the population is also scattered. The villages being electrified by the State Electricity Board are not being electrified fully. This is creating discontent among the local people. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister, through you, whether the norms for putting up electric poles and sanctioning of funds have been fixed by his Ministry on the basis of population?

**SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify that we have not shown any indifference towards the development of hilly areas. Seventyone percent of the villages in entire UP are electrified and in hilly areas 69.12 per cent villagers are electrified. So, no indifference has been shown. However, the Planning Commission has fixed a criterion of Rs. 2.2 lakh and we spend accordingly. We give sanction for electrification taking some villages as a group. So, there is no restriction whether the electrification of a particular village involves more expenditure or less. In spite of this, if there are some hilly areas facing scarcity of electricity because of their geographical and topographical conditions, we will consider their requirement keeping in view their development. We will not allow the villages to continue as scarcity areas.

**PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Minister has replied that there is no separate proposal for hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh. Honourable Shri Kalviji has no doubt touched these points, but I want a clear assurance. Will any special Central assistance be given for the hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh so as to ensure speedy electrification of the backward and hilly areas of these states?

**SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rural Electrification Corporation sanctions funds for the purpose of electrification in rural areas on demand from the State Governments concerned. No funds are sanctioned to any individual rather the total amount is sanctioned to the State Government as per their total requirement. The Central Government monitors the progress of work of electrification besides giving financial assistance. We have nothing to do with the spending of amount or according sanction for electrification of villages as such.

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given by the hon. Minister, it has been claimed that 71 per cent electrification i.e. the full quota, has been

completed in Uttar Pradesh. The hon. Minister has misled the House to some extent. ....(*Interruptions*) .....I would like to submit that the electrification of a particular village includes its Gram Sabha which covers hill area and also the plateau. One Gram Sabha consists of 10/12 small hamlets. But electrification is done only in the main village and all other hamlets are neglected. No electrification is done in these hamlets whereas the fact is that their population is more than that of the Gram Sabha. Though the hon. Minister claims to have completed 71 per cent electrification but it is 25 per cent in hill areas and Bundelkhand plateaus of Uttar Pradesh. In rest of the villages, electrification work is lying incomplete. Perhaps the target of 71 per cent electrification might have been fulfilled by covering other remaining areas of Uttar Pradesh.....(*Interruptions*) .....But what measures are going to be taken to remove this imbalance? What decision will be taken with regard to the electrification in the hamlets which come under a Gram Sabha.

**SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that it is for the State Government to earmark the villages proposed to be brought under electrification programme. We provide funds keeping in view the demands put forth by the State Government and monitor the progress of the work.

**SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister something with regard to Rajasthan. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would not compel the hon. Minister to say any thing in regard to Rajasthan. You can ask about Uttar Pradesh, if you want.....(*Interruptions*) .....

**SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR:** As you have stated, facilities should be provided in hill areas. Villages in desert areas are also scattered at distant places in the same manner. ....(*Interruptions*) .....

**SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI:** Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it clear to the hon. Member, who belongs to Rajasthan, that similar difficulties exist in hilly areas where villages are situated at distant places say at 10-20 kilometres as well as in desert areas, Therefore, all geographical factors will be taken into consideration.

SHRI RAMDHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the State Governments frame and also implement the schemes, Central Government merely provides financial aid. However, the reality is that the State Governments have been spending the funds provided for this purpose elsewhere. The Government of India had chalked out a plan for the electrification of Harijan colonies but in fact these colonies were neglected and instead other colonies have been brought in electrification programme. Recently, a Central team was sent to Uttar Pradesh do to coordination work in rural areas but then it was withdrawn. Will the Government sent that team again so that the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Electricity Board may function properly and the funds are utilized in a proper manner.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Mr. Speaker, sir, we accord priority to the electrification of Harijan colonies..... (*Interruptions*) .....

SHRI RAM DHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has stated that priority is given to Harijan colonies.

SHRI RAM DHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was not my point, he is misleading the House. My submission is that the Central team which has been sent to do the coordination work in Uttar Pradesh has been withdrawn. Funds which are allocated for particular purpose are diverted elsewhere. The hon'ble Minister has not stated the steps taken in this regard.....(*Interruptions*) .....

SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main question relates to the electrification in Uttar Pradesh. The list of identified

Harijan areas published recently by the Government of Uttar Pradesh is not correct.....(*Interruptions*) .....Will the hon. Minister direct the Government of Uttar Pradesh to verify the list, if so by when and whether its report will be placed on the table of the House?

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides providing the list of Harijan colonies, electrification of those Harijan colonies has been made compulsory, which are adjacent to the villages proposed to be covered under the electrification programme.

[*English*]

#### Power Availability

\*164. SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any plan for maximising power availability from the existing stations by reducing transmission and distribution losses and improving plant load factor of thermal plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Measures taken to maximise power availability from the existing stations include implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Renovation & Modernisation programme for thermal power stations, reduction of T&D losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures, transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas, arranging adequate quantity and quality of coal, training of op-