

where there is availability of gas. All these factors must be linked together and I am sure that if that scheme is there, we will see what is the position about it. I would also like to inform the hon. Member that regarding availability of gas in future, we have already given priority to certain projects like in Dadri where another additional 600 MW gas project is likely to come up.

Secondly, we could consider doubling up our 430 MW in Anta.

Thirdly, use of gas for plants in Delhi. Apart from this, as enumerated earlier, there are many in the pipelines. Though this question was on Tamil Nadu and not on Andhra Pradesh we will look into it and see if anything can be done about it.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: The Minister was replying to the question and has referred to the on-going project at Anta in Kota. May I know from the Minister about the Anta project, which is a gaseous project, that in view of the fact that lot of gas is available from HBJ pipeline and the fertilizers plants are not likely to come up and in view of the fact that Rajasthan is suffering from serious power shortages, would the Minister consider the making up of the capacity of this gas-based plant from 430 MW to 600 MW. Then Sir, would the Minister also indicate as to what are the plans which have been formulated by the Ministry with the large availability of gas in Jaisalmer and Barmer districts?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: Regarding the first part of the question, the hon. Member is quite correct that there is greater availability of gas and therefore with this capacity, the NTPC capacity in Anta instead of being raised from 430 to 600 MW could be raised to 860 MW. In Rajasthan, we have project which is under implementation in Ramgarh, a gas turbine project of 1×3 MW. It is a smaller one but a present one. About other details of Rajasthan, in particular districts I do not have and we will look into them.

[*Translation*]

**Electrification of Development Blocks
in Bastar. (M.P.)**

*147. **SHRI MANKURAM SODI:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of development blocks in Bastar district, Madhya Pradesh, which have not been electrified so far;

(b) whether the work has been held up due to non-clearance by the Forest Department; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (c) Out of a total number of 3382 inhabited villages in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh, 1301 villages had been electrified by the end of July, 1987. The headquarters of all the Development Blocks in Bastar District have been electrified. According to a preliminary survey made by the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board, the electrification of 4 villages in the current year's programme has been affected for want of forest clearance for construction of 11 KV lines.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANKURAM SODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in her reply that "out of a total number of 3382 villages in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh, 1301 villages had been electrified by the end of July, 1987". Now the Seventh Five Year Plan is going on & out of a total number of 3382 villages, you have electrified only 1301 villages. From this, it is clear how slow we have been going in this field in this backward district. This is one of the examples. Besides, there are a total number of 32 development blocks in Bastar district, out of which two

development blocks, namely, Abuzmad Development Block, which has its headquarters at Orchha, and Darbha Development Block, which has its headquarters in Jagdalpur project area, have not been electrified whereas the Madam Minister has stated in her reply that the headquarters of all the development blocks in Bastar district have been electrified. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to get it clarified from her Department once again.

Thirdly, with reference to the Government's decision to electrify all the villages in the country within a specified period, I do not think that this work will be completed in time considering the speed with which the work is going on in Bastar district. Therefore, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would issue instructions to the State Government to complete this work speedily ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, as per my information the headquarters of all the Revenue Blocks in 32 development blocks have been electrified. The two blocks which he has referred to have also been electrified. With regard to the four villages which have not been electrified, the slackness is not on our part. It is the Forest Department of the State Government which has not given the clearance. If the hon. Member could get it cleared from the Forest Department of the State Government, they too would be electrified.

As regards the backwardness, it is a fact that the percentage of electrification in Bastar district in Madhya Pradesh at present is 67 which is marginally below the national average of 72.2 per cent. However, the speed of electrification of the villages in Bastar district is slow which has to be speeded up. In this regard, the R.E.C. has formulated and got sanctioned 57 schemes. We have to accelerate the speed of electrification. I would request the hon. Member as well as the State Electricity Board and the State Electricity Minister to extend their cooperation in this endeavour. At the same time, I would say that the R.E.C. and the State Electricity Board should give

priority to the electrification of tribal areas, *Harijan Bastis* and backward areas under the minimum needs programme so as to accelerate the speed of electrification. The percentage of electrification which stood at 12 per cent in 1959, the year in which R.E.C. was set up has today gone to 73 per cent. It is hoped that the rest of the areas would be covered by the end of the Eighth Plan.

SHRI MANKURAM SODI : The Government has admitted that electrification of 4 villages in the current year's programme has been affected for want of Forest Department's clearance. As per the budget provisions of her Department for rural electrification, the work relating to erection of poles is done and thereafter only poles are seen for the next 2 to 3 years and no electricity line is laid because cutting of trees etc. is involved. In the absence of clearance for cutting of trees, the people see only poles for 2-3 years. The people ask us as to what is this policy of the Government that the poles are erected by one department but the other Department does not allow the laying of electricity lines. There is no coordination between the two Government departments. I would like to know whether Government would bring about improvement so far as lack of coordination is concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as coordination is concerned, it is the two Departments of the State Government which have to coordinate with each other. The one is Forest Department which is to give clearance with regard to cutting and removing of trees etc. and the other is Electricity Department of the State Government which has to fix the poles and lay electric line. So far as the Centre is concerned, we make provision and allocate funds for rural electrification and this we have done. The difficulty regarding coordination is between the two departments of the State Government. I would request the hon. Members to help us in this regard in impressing upon their respective State Governments. On our part, we too will take it up with them. It is our endeavour to electrify more and more villages.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : It is for the State Government to give clearance. 11 k.v. lines are to be laid there and it is the State Government who has to give clearance for it.

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH : Sir, the Hon Minister has just now said that he would request the members to ask their respective State Governments to facilitate the sanction of electricity in tribal villages where there are forests. This is a very incongruous situation. On the one side, it is said that forests should not be cut, and this, is one of the priority sectors of the Environment Ministry and Government of India. The Hon. Minister is very keen on 'Urja Villages'. He has written to all the hon members of Parliament regarding decentralised systems of power generation so that we can have these 'urja' villages. Why does not the Minister instead of passing the buck on the State Government and seeing that the State Government cut forests, have 'urja' villages in remote areas and see that priority is given to tribal villages to have these decentralised power systems ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, I am thankful to the Member for suggesting this concept of 'urja' villages in those tribal areas where for various reasons, like the transmission lines, etc., power cannot be taken through non-conventional system. I entirely agree that one of the greatest advantages that can be achieved is through the use of natural energy sources like, the bio-gas, bio-mass, solar system, wind, etc. This whole integrated energy concept, i.e. the 'urja' is the most advantageous for the tribal villages like in Gujarat and Khandia. That is why we are proposing that this scheme should reach the tribal villages but for that we must get cooperation from the State Electricity Board and the State Government. We can only give assistance. We have now decided to give assistance even through the Power Finance Corporation.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Why do not you have the cooperative system ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is not for us to say, "Why do not you". In fact, I have requested every hon. Member of Parliament and I would say It again that each hon. Member of Parliament should start a cooperative integrated energy village, at least in one village in his constituency. We will give all the technical assistance that is required and I can give you an assurance for that. Let them also do something for their constituencies.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : We have already given the names of the villages.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Merely giving name would not help.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that whatever schemes have so far been taken up by the Rural Electrification Corporation have not been taken in a systematic manner. Even today, and other tribal and other areas of Rajasthan are lagging far behind in the matter of electrification. Will the hon. Minister issue a warning or directive to the R.E.C. to formulate a scheme for speedy electrification of tribal areas ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Whatever Shri Sathe has said in reply to this basic question is correct. As has been pointed out earlier by an hon. Member, the poles are erected there but lines are not laid. It is also necessary to lay electric lines. In this connection, I would like to say that perhaps the area has not been fully equipped with non-conventional sources of energy. However, we shall take it up with the State Government and the concerned Minister, impressing upon them need to get the schemes of rural electrification implemented speedily so that all the four villages are electrified. So far as the hon. Member's submission that the schemes are not being implemented systematically in Rajasthan, I would like to say that R.E.C. is taking up all the schemes in a systematic manner

and they have given it due priority also. Some special States and regions are covered under the minimum needs programme, such as, all North-Eastern States. The R.E.C. will take up its schemes in these States.

[English]

Or all States with less than 65 per cent electrification as on March, 1985. In these States, those districts will be taken up which have less than 65 per cent electrification in 1985, provided the States have less coverage. These will be given priority over others.

[Translation]

The question which you have raised just now will be covered under it. Besides, Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti areas of Himachal Pradesh are also covered under it.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : They are covered on paper only. Actually they are not electrified.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : From this, it is clear that there is a systematic programme going on in this regard. However, efforts will be made to accelerate the speed.

Paddy levy system in Punjab

*148. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Punjab Government has urged the Union Government to reconsider the introduction of paddy levy system;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER
OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The hon. Minister has said that he has not received any recommendation from the Government of Punjab asking the Central Government to abolish the levy system on rice. Either the Government of Punjab which is now a Centrally-ruled State is misleading the people, or-I cannot say-somebody else. According to *The Tribune*, dated 29th September, the Punjab Government has recommended to the Union Government to examine the possibility of abolishing the levy system on rice in terms of allowing the farmers to fetch better price for their paddy in the market. The measure will also help the farmers in providing suitable price for paddy. Now the Government of Punjab say that they have recommended to the Government of India in a memorandum on drought conditions in Punjab. I would like to request the hon. Minister that he should tell us whether the Government of Punjab is misquoting or whether some thing is wrong in his Ministry.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : There is nothing wrong in my Ministry. I do not know that the hon. member is quoting. Let him read the question. The question that he is asking is entirely different. His question reads :

“Whether Punjab Government has urged the Union Government to reconsider the introduction of paddy levy system.”

In reply, I have said, ‘no’. Now the hon. member is asking whether the Government of Punjab has asked us to do away with the levy system on rice. I am not aware whether it is abolished or not at the moment. But in principle, in the interest of the distribution system in the whole country, we cannot do away with the levy system. We have to see that also. The hon. member knows that in order to give incentive, the Punjab Government is giving extra bonus to the farmers from their own funds.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Anyhow, the point has not yet been cleared. The Minister has used technicalities.....