

advantage of these coaching classes which are on the increase.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: I would like to know the total number of such centres to be opened in each state in the country? Have any proposals been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government and if so, the places recommended by them and the places where the Government propose to open them?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Proposals have been invited by us and these are under our consideration. I cannot tell you the names of places where these will be opened as these have not yet been finalised.

[*English*]

Atomic Power Plant in Bihar

*228. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand from the State of Bihar has been pending for long to set up an Atomic Power Station in that region;

(b) if so, whether any decision has since been taken by Union Government to set up such a Station in that State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (c). There is no proposal at present to set up an Atomic Power Station in

Bihar. In view of the availability of coal in this region, the priority for setting up Atomic Power Station is relatively lower compared to the other electricity regions. Also, the adjacent North-Eastern electricity region has large hydel potential which when tapped can serve the eastern electricity region also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister regarding setting up an Atomic Energy Station has not impressed me. There is acute shortage of power in Bihar, both in industrial and agricultural fronts. Farmers are unable to get power supply even for two hours a day for their pumping sets. Due to shortage of power, industrial development is not taking place in our State. Keeping this in view, I wrote a letter to the Hon. Prime Minister on January 14, 1988 and have received a reply that the letter received in connection with the setting up an Atomic Energy Station in Bihar is being got examined.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar is the most backward State in the country and there the percentage of per capita consumption is the least. In spite of the directions given by the Hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India, there has been no improvement in the power supply. In the circumstances, we can solve this problem only by setting up an Atomic Energy Station there. Keeping in view the shortage of power being faced by a backward State as Bihar, will an Atomic Power Station be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan? In view of this long standing demand of the residents of Bihar and also the problem being faced there, will directions be issued for setting up an Atomic Power Station there?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): Sir, we have not entirely ruled out that in the future there will not be any atomic power station in the Eastern Region. But what the Government's stand is that the power resources especially from coal are so great in the Eastern Region, particularly in Bihar which has the major part of coal—about over 56 billion tonnes of coal; that is the known resources of Bihar. So, it has a lower priority as far as atomic energy plants are concerned because thermal power plants can be established there and in course of time it would be possible to tap hydel resources of the north Eastern Region also. Therefore, in the list of priority Bihar comes lower in respect of nuclear power, but not in respect of other sources of power. Bihar itself had proposed about five sites and apart from the general consideration, we have examined these five sites and we found that some difficulties or the other with regard to these five sites proposed by Bihar. Either, there was non-availability of fresh water or it is highly seismic region or the foundations were not good. Therefore, these particular sites proposed by Bihar were not found to be suitable also. As I said, it does not mean that in future, in the Eight Plan or some other time, we would not consider nuclear power plants in the region.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not right to say that availability of coal in Bihar is less than that in other States, because 2/3 production of coal of the whole country is contributed by Bihar and Uranium is also available there. I would like to know that in view of the potentiality available in Bihar, even Hon. Prime Minister has issued instructions to make power generation more economical. I would, therefore, like to know whether in view of the above

circumstances the setting up of a nuclear power station in Bihar will be reconsidered.

MR. SPEAKER: With repetition, words lose their importance.

[*English*]

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: We do understand the contribution made by Bihar in respect of mineral resources. I would like to point out that mining of coal is actually subsidised by Government and so also is the transportation of coal. This rich resource that is available in Bihar should be utilised for thermal electricity generation. It would be more economic also because at the pit-heads thermal electricity would be cheap. I am glad that the Hon. Member is demanding a nuclear plant when many others are not crying against it. But still, I think, in the overall situation, it would be more economic if the thermal resources are developed for electricity generation and also hydal resources are tapped.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister has disappointed the hon. Members particularly those from Bihar. He has mentioned in his reply that there are coal based and hydel power stations in Bihar. Whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the consumption of electricity in Bihar is the lowest whereas that is the fundamental requirement of that State. Due to non-availability of this thing of thus fundamental requirement, Bihar is the most backward State in regard to the industrial and green revolution. In view of the potentialities of a nuclear power station in Bihar, I would like to urge upon the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister who are present here to assure us that they will meet the requirements of the people of Bihar in near future, because the per capita income in Bihar is the lowest one

along with lowest mark of its consumption of electricity. People of North Bihar live in perennial darkness. I want an assurance for the people of Bihar. In this context, the maxim, 'Near the Church, farther the Heaven' is a reality.'

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is so.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: Power generation is not in accordance with the installed capacity.

SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, In his his reply, the hon. Minister has mentioned the names of five places, but even these are not viable. May I know the reasons for which none of these places have been selected.

[English]

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: The places we had considered were Baradih and Gorla in Rohtas District, Dumri in West Champaran District and Kishanpur in Ranchi District. As far as Kishanpur is concerned, there is already a hydro plant going up there. In other places, non-availability of adequate quantity of cooling water was one problem. Another place was a flood-prone area where it would be dangerous to set up a nuclear plant. And another place was a very highly seismic area. And in yet other places of Gorla and Baradih, they are near the proximity of a major population area. It was for these specific reasons that the selection committee which went into it did not approve of these sites. This is apart from the general considerations priorities that I have mentioned.

Review of Technology Missions

*229. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review of the work done so far by each of the Five Technology Missions set up during the Seventh Plan has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the findings of the review and the precise progress made in streamlining the procedures and processes for actual implementation of the programmes taken in hand by the Departments concerned in cooperation with the States:

(c) whether the Mission on Telecommunication has been able to realise the objective of installation within 6 months of sanction of telecom projects like PCOs/COs and rural exchanges and improvement in the quality of telecom services including trunk services and speedy delivery of telegrams and the exact position in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reason therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (d). A Statement is given below:

STATEMENT

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) The findings of the review and progress made in streamlining the procedures for implementation of the programmes are given in the *Annexure-A*. below.
- (c) The time period of 6 months for installation of PCOs has not been laid down under telecom. Mission. This period varies from project to project.