

appeals against the orders of CERC and SERC for speedy disposal of such matters.

Rural Electrification Development Fund

1581. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA:
SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a separate Rural Electrification Development Fund;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how the fund has been utilized during this year so far and the plan further utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) There is no separate Rural Electrification Development Fund for rural electrification programme. Rural Electrification Schemes are formulated and implemented by the State Government/State Electricity Boards out of State Plan funds. However, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is being provided by the Central Government to the State for rural electrification programme.

During 2002-03, the following funds have been allocated as ACA to carry out the rural electrification works;

- (i) Under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) Rs. 600 crores.
- (ii) Under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojnas (PMGY) - Rs. 2747 crores for all the six components of PMGY including Rural Electrification as Additional Central Assistance. The State Governments have to make interse allocation of funds for rural electrification depending upon their priorities.
- (iii) An outlay of Rs. 164 crores has been provided under a new Interest Subsidy Scheme called Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP).
- (iv) Funds under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) are also Released to the States through NABARD for rural electrification works.

[31 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

- (v) 100% grant is available for providing single light point connections to the rural families living below poverty line under Kutir Jyoti Programme. This grant is routed through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Rs. 100 crores have been provided for the year 2002-03 for Kutir Jyoti Programme.
- (iv) REC also supplements the resources of the State Governments and provides financial assistance to the States for augmenting the system Improvement Scheme and Load Intensification.

Jobs in NHPC

1582. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHPC has inserted an advertisement in 'Employment News' dated 22-28 June, 2002 wherein a DD/Pay Order for Rs. 250A was required to be submitted along with the application for General category candidates;

(b) whether it is also a fact that applications were to be sent through Registered Post/Courier; and

(c) if so, under which rule has the Corporation prescribed the said conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. NHPC had inserted an advertisement in the Employment News of 22nd June, 2003 wherein a Demand Draft/Pay Order for Rs. 250/- was required to be submitted along with the application for General Category candidates.

(b) and (c) The applications were invited and were required to be forwarded to a Post Bag at the Amar Nagar Post Office, Faridabad, against which the Postal and Telecom Department accepts mail only through ordinary Post. In Accordance with the rules' for the Corporation, there is a provision for charging an application fee from general category candidates which varies on year to year basis and is charged to meet the expenditure on various components relating to recruitment process.