

Increase in Electricity Production through Non-Conventional Sources

259. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state the details of increase in production of electricity in the country, particularly in the North-Eastern region, during the Ninth Five Year Plan, through Non-conventional energy sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): About 3882.82 million units of electricity is estimated to have been generated so far during Ninth Five Year Plan through various renewable energy sources such as Small Hydro, Wind, Biomass Co-generation, Biomass Gasification, Solar Photovoltaic and Urban & Industrial Wastes Programmes in the country, which includes about 3.5 million units in North-Eastern region through Small Hydro Power. In addition, 11870 nos. of Solar Lanterns, 2003 nos. of Solar Home Lighting systems, 201 nos. of Solar Street Lighting Systems and 15 nos. of Solar Pumps have been installed in the North-Eastern region during Ninth Five Year Plan.

Setting up two Thermal Power Projects in Bihar

260. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foundation stones of two thermal power projects to be located at Barh and North Karnpura in Bihar were laid by the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, what are the projected dates for completion of these projects; and

(c) how these projects are going to be financed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The foundation stones for two Super Thermal Power Projects one at Barh in Patna district and the other at North Karanpura in chatra district, Bihar were laid by Prime Minister in March, 1999.

(b) and (c) The projects with a capacity of 2000 MW each have been identified as mega power projects to be implemented .by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). NTPC has taken up

various site specific studies for these projects for preparation of Feasibility Report. These projects are envisaged to be commissioned during 10th and 11th Five Year Plans subject to timely availability of various linkages/clearances and financial tie-ups. The sources to finance these projects would be identified while finalising the Feasibility Report.

Electrification of Villages

†261. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the 5.76 lakh villages in the country have been electrified;

(b) if so, what is the total number of villages which were electrified by the end of March, 1999;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the rural areas domestic consumption of electricity is only upto 34%; and

(d) if not, what are the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) According to Central Electricity Authority, out of total 5,87,258 inhabited villages, 5,04,823 villages have been electrified as on 31.3.1999.

(c) and (d) As per the 1991 census about 31% houses in the rural areas have been electrified. Further progress would depend upon various external factors such as pending demand and financial capacity of the domestic consumers to avail connections in addition to procedures/policies being adopted by the State Electricity Boards/ Power Departments for the release of connections.

Setting up of Power Project in Assam

262. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received by Government to set up a power project in Assam;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.