

Demand for giving subsidy for installation of windmills in Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to bring before this august House the continuous power shortage in Tamil Nadu and I request the Government to take necessary action to boost installation of windmills, with subsidy and bank loan facility, in the State of Tamil Nadu. Severe power shortage has hit industrial production in this State recently. Many industries have cut down the production as much as 30 per cent and especially sectors like textile and leather are among the worst hit, and the loss in production is around Rs.4,000 crores in the last year. The sustained peak demand, which was increasing 200 to 300 megawatts every year, has phenomenally increased by 500 to 600 megawatts for the past two years. In addition to these woes, it is estimated that, on an average, power shortage may vary from 1,500 megawatts to 3,300 megawatts during the current year. In this State, which is generating only 10,000 megawatts of power through all sources as against its actual requirement of 12,300 megawatts till today, the shortage is expected to increase in the current year and next year also. Even though Tamil Nadu has the potential to generate 20,000 megawatts of wind power, the existing wind turbine generators produce only 4,500 megawatts. The cost of erecting a windmill is Rs. 2 crores. So, I request the Government to take immediate action for providing subsidy and loan facility for installation of windmills in Tamil Nadu so as to avert the impending power shortage, at least, in future and to save the industries and textile units. Thank you.

Delay in appointment of judges of Supreme Court due to lack of accommodation

SHRI O. T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Sir, the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in April, 2008. The Bill was passed by the Houses of Parliament on 22nd December, 2008. The hon. President gave her assent to the Bill on 5th February, 2009. With the enactment of this Bill, the number of Judges in the Supreme Court has been raised from 25 to 30. But the Act has not been implemented in view of lack of accommodation for the five Judges who are yet to be appointed. The arrear of cases in the Supreme Court has already crossed the mark of 50,000. In this situation, delays in the appointment of five more Judges will further increase the pendency of cases in the Supreme Court. It has been reported that the Supreme Court had written to the Ministry of Urban Development for providing five Type-VIII bungalows for the Judges to be appointed in view of the increased strength. However, the Ministry of Urban Development had expressed its inability to provide the requisite bungalows. Since then nothing has been done to provide suitable accommodation for the Judges so that their appointment can be materialised. It has also been reported that the Chief Justice of India is not recommending appointment of Judges in view of lack of accommodation. The Bill for increasing the strength of the Supreme Court Judges was introduced in April, 2008. Since then more than one year has elapsed. There was enough time for the Government to arrange the accommodation.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for placing the requisite number of bungalows at the disposal of the Supreme Court so that the process of appointment of Judges can be expedited. Thank you.