

lems concerning inadequate availability of fuelwood for the rural poor. The Government have taken several steps to augment the supply of fuelwood particularly in rural areas and also towards conservation and efficient utilisation of already available fuelwood. These include (1) the programmes to increase the fuelwood through identification of fast growing species and planting of such species on as large area as possible including marginal lands (2) conservation and efficient utilisation of fuelwood including provision of improved chulhas at a substantially subsidised rates to the rural poor setting up of biogas plants, both family size and community/institutional type, popularisation of solar cookers, and promotion of integrated energy centres in the country.

In order to bring these systems within the reach of rural poor, the Government has also been providing financial incentives and subsidies.

News Report Regarding power Shortage in State

431. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has seen a press report which appeared in the Times of India dated the 20th March, 1984 under the heading 'Power shortage in States persists' wherein it has been alleged that inter-state rivalries and unwillingness of some States to share their surplus power, different power tariffs in various States, avoidable delays in the creation of a national power grid and bureaucratic indecisiveness seem to have combined to offset the gains of the 7 per cent increase in the power generation in the country during 1983-84;

(b) what are the names of the States having surplus power;

(c) which are the States which have imposed powercuts on the consumers and are unable to meet the demand of agriculture sector; and

(d) what efforts are being made by Government to remove the hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Government have seen the report which appeared in the Times of India date 20th March 1984.

(b) Most of the States are at present either self sufficient or facing a shortage of power in varying degrees. During 1983-84 Andhra Pradesh had from time to time supplied its surplus power to Orissa, M.P. and Karnataka. The surplus power in Meghalaya is passed on to Assam which in turn supplies power to other States/Union Territories in the region besides North Bengal. In some cases despite shortage conditions in a particular State power has been transferred to a more needy State to mitigate its shortage. Some of the important net energy exchanges during 1983-84 were from Maharashtra to Karnataka, Karnataka to Kerala, Andhra Pradesh to Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh and from Singrauli STPS in the Northern Region to Bihar in the Eastern Region. The tariff for such exchanges of power are either decided bilaterally by the State/organisation concerned or by the Regional Boards.

(c) At present Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and U.P. in the Northern Region Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in the Western Region, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in the Southern Region, Orissa and West Bengal in the Eastern Region are having power cuts. In Bihar, there is no statutory power cut and the shortages are met by resorting to load shedding depending upon the day to day availability. Most of the States are meeting the demand of agricultural consumers. In order to limit the peak demand in the deficit States, grouping of feeders, staggering in supply of power etc. are resorted to.

(d) It is not correct that the gains of an increase in power generation by 7.6 per cent in 1983-84 have been off-set. Efforts are being made to rationalise tariff structures by consultation with the State authorities concerned and to improve the integrated operation of power systems by strengthening inter-state transmission grids.