

Power shortage in States

*39. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been acute power shortage in various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra, and short supply of power to farmers in those States has resulted in heavy damage to the crops; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken for adequate supply of power to the farmers in these States in order to save their crops?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) Power generation from April, 1983 to January, 1984, has increased by 6 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of 1982-83. However, due to the increase in demand being higher than that of supply, power shortages have occurred in various parts of the country.

Andhra Pradesh had no shortage of power till January, 1984, and was providing assistance to other States. The present power shortage in the State has mainly arisen due to closure of Srisailem hydel power station for attending to the sluice gates. However, power supply to farmers has been maintained without any cut and no damage to crops has been reported.

There is a power shortage in Tamil Nadu, but power is supplied for 6 to 8 hours per day to the agriculture sector and no damage to crops has been reported.

The power supply position in Gujarat is satisfactory. The supply to farmers has been maintained at 16 hours per day and damage to crops has not taken place.

There is a power shortage in Maharashtra due to prolonged outages of certain thermal stations, but no cuts

have been imposed on supply of power to agriculture sector.

In view of the importance of agricultural production and the high priority accorded to it, the Central Government has advised the State Governments concerned to maintain adequate supply of power to the agriculture sector.

Elections to the Lok Sabha and Assembly Constituencies in Assam

*40. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to State Question 100 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 1983 and state by when the elections to the Lok Sabha, and Legislative Assembly constituencies in Assam where elections have not so far been completed are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): The Commission has intimated that in view of the report which the Commission has received from the State Government of Assam to the effect that the conditions in the State are not conducive even to undertake intensive revision of electoral rolls and that there is still tension in many areas the Commission is not in a position to state as to when the pending elections in Assam would be completed.

Employment through Employment Exchanges

94. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state;

(a) the number of persons who secured employment through the Employment Exchanges, State-wise, during the last three years; and

(b) the number of persons who got employment in Central Government services/undertaking during