

The deficit in the crude oil requirements will have to be met through imports. However, all efforts are being made to increase the crude oil production in the country as well as to moderate the demand for petroleum products.

Rural Electrification of North Eastern Region

1259. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for slow progress in rural electrification in all the North Eastern States and Union Territories; and

(b) the number of villages and small towns electrified upto the end of 1980 and the target fixed for the Sixth Five Year Plan, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) In the North Eastern States and Union Territories of India, the progress of rural electrification has been somewhat slow as compared to the other States due to various reasons such as the remoteness of the areas, difficult terrain, transportation problems lack of infra-structure facilities and organisational set-up etc.

(b) The details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of inhabited Villages and Towns, State/Union Territory-wise, in the North-Eastern Region, Electrified up to the end of December, 1980 and the Targets Fixed for the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory.	Total number of villages	villages electrified up to the end of December 80	Total number of Towns	Towns electrified up to the end of December, 80	Target for electrification of additional villages during (1980-85)
1.	Assam	21,995	4,740	72	72	6,000
2.	Manipur	1,949	(*)322	8	8	500
3.	Meghalaya	4,583	624	6	6	882
4.	Nagaland	960	360	3	3	250
5.	Tripura	4,727	851	6	6	1,078
6.	Arunachal Pradesh.	2,973	(**)295	4	4	600
7.	Mizoram	229	28	2	2	104

* As on 30-6-1980

** As on 31-10-1980

Oil Exploration by Foreign Multinational Companies

1260. SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM;
SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH;

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a separate directorate is proposed to be set up to deal with multinational companies being engaged in oil exploration in the country and that the oil and Natural Gas Commission would not be associated with the oil exploration programme;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and