

The details of the load shedding during the last three years are as follows:—

Years	Load Shedding	
	No. of days	No. of Mega Watt Hours of load shedding
1977-78.	57	7,647
1978-79	100	11,340
1979-80	131	29,546
(upto Feb., '80)		

The availability of power has gone up but the load demand has also gone up. The increase in load shedding during the last two years is primarily due to the increase in load demand and the non-availability of assistances from Northern Grid.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

**New power projects in Tamil Nadu**

395. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have received any proposal from the State of Tamil Nadu for the construction of new power projects;

(b) when these proposals were sent and the number sanctioned out of them; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in getting the remaining projects sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) to (c) A statement showing the various proposals received from Tamil Nadu for setting up of new power projects, date of receipt of the proposals and the present status of examination of the projects is attached. [See Appendix CXIII Annexure No. 28].

**Vacancies of Judges in High Court and the Supreme Court**

386. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE

AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the Supreme Court and various High Courts at present and the number of posts likely to fall vacant this year; and

(b) by when Government propose to fill those vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) There are two vacancies in the Supreme Court. As on 14th March, 1980, there were 51 vacancies of High Court Judges (including 17 new posts sanctioned from the dates these are filled). 4 vacancies will arise in the Supreme Court and 21 vacancies in the High Courts as a result of retirements during the remaining period of this year.

(b) No time limit can be fixed in this matter. However, expeditious consideration is given to proposals received from the Chief Justices of the High Courts and the State authorities.

**River Valley Project in Bihar**

387. SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated expenditure to be incurred on the River Valley Project in Bihar and by what time it is likely to be completed; and

(b) the amount spent so far on its construction and what are the reasons for the delay in the completion of this Project?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Gandak River Valley Project.

The latest estimated cost of the Bihar portion of the Gandak Project is Rs. 350.93 crores.