

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 29th April, 1974 the 9th
Vaisakha, 1896 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr.
Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rural Electrification During Fifth Five Year Plan

*151. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:† SHRI
SARDAR AMJAD ALI : SHRI
IBRAHIM KALANIYA : SHRI
HARSH DEO MALA VIYA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND
POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation made for rural electri-
fication programme during the Fifth Five
Year Plan, period; and

(b) what are the names of the States where
the projected 20 new Rural Electric Co-
operatives are proposed to be set up during
the Fifth Five Year Plan, the areas to be
served and the funds allotted to these Co-
operatives ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND
POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR
PRASAD) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid
on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The proposals for the Fifth Five Year
Plan have not yet been finalised. However, in
the draft plan the proposal is to provide Rs.
1098.24 crores for the rural electrification
programme.

(b) Six of the proposed 20 new Rural
Electric Cooperatives would be in the States
of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh,
Rajasthan and Orissa. In Andhra Pradesh the
cooperatives will be in Cudapah and
Visakhapatnam Districts. The loan assistance
for these two schemes is Rs. 119.86 lakhs and
Rs. 115.80 lakhs respectively. Location and
financial and-

location for the remaining Cooperatives have
not yet been finalised.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: In view of the
fact that to-day the country is passing through
a period of power crisis and national
production is suffering due to shortage of
power and in view of the fact that the target
for rural electrification in the Fourth Plan
could not be achieved due to bad planning
may I know from the hon. Minister how he is
going to implement the rural electrification
programme in the Fifth Plan? Also why not
the Government utilise the power available
from sugar industries ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD :
The hon. Member has put two different
questions. One is about the shortfall in the
implementation of the rural electrification
programme during the Fourth Five-Year Plan.
We have initiated certain steps and we are
discussing this in great detail with the
different State Electricity Boards and State
Governments and we hope that our
performance during the Fifth Five-Year Plan
will certainly be better. We are also taking
steps to monitor different equipment and
materials which are being used for the rural
electrification programme and we hope that
during the Fifth Five-Year Plan, our perform-
ance will certainly be better. As far as use of
the power which could be spared and which is
being used by the sugar industry is concerned,
we had a preliminary discussion and we think
it will not be possible or it will not be
economically viable to use this power for
other industries.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Sir, in view
of the fact that power generation in Northern
Indian States was neglected in the preceding
Plans and the Northern Indian States had
placed different proposals for power
generation which had not been okayed by the
Central Government so long, may I know
from the Minister whether the needs of
Northern Indian States will get some special
consideration while finalising the Fifth Five-
Year Plan and whether there is any proposal
for formation of rural electrification co-
operative's in these Northern Indian States

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD:
Sir, in the Northern Indian States there

†The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri N. R. Choudhury.
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is already one rural electrification co-operative in U.P. We have taken up this matter for more rural electrification cooperatives with other States and we are waiting for the proposals. The moment we receive proposals, they will be fully examined by the Rural Electrification Corporation and we hope that in those States more rural electrification co-operatives will come up. As far as the general question of power shortage is concerned, this question has been discussed many times in this House and we are again having a Calling Attention discussion to-day and on that occasion the whole position will be explained to the House.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : In view of the fact that States in the Eastern region of the country have remained extremely backward with regard to rural electrification, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any additional emphasis is being given during the Fifth Five-Year Plan in order to financial allocation as well as approval for projects for the Eastern States ? Along with this, may I also know whether you are identifying growth centres in the rural pockets while you give approval to the projects, without giving any helter-skelter approval for projects ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : Sir, the answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As far as the second part of the question is concerned, we have taken up this matter with the State Governments and we have pointed out during the Annual Plan discussions and during the Fifth Five-Year Plan discussion that it will be better if the State Governments could spot out certain growth centres and lay more emphasis and concentrate rural electrification on such pockets in such areas. As far as general slow progress of rural electrification cooperatives is concerned, we have constituted a committee to go in some detail as to why the rest of the States have lagged behind in rural electrification. We hope that after getting the report of the committee, we shall be able to do much better.

श्री इब्राहीम कलानिया : माननीय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गुजरात राज्य के अमरेली डिस्ट्रिक्ट से कोडीनार रूरल

इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी के लिए कोई दस्तावेज आई है ? यदि हां, तो इसके बारे में कोई निर्णय लिया है ?

प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : इसकी सूचना मेरे पास नहीं है ।

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : The ; honourable Minister has referred to a rural electrification cooperative in Lucknow, UP. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether, in view of the fact that this is a rural cooperative, care has been taken to enrol peasants as members of this cooperative. If so, what is the total number of peasants so enrolled and what is their contribution by way of share capital ? I would like also to know whether, in future organisation of your rural cooperatives, in regard to receiving contributions from peasant members, you would accept contribution received from them as share capital through shramdan. Supposing a peasant cannot pay money to you and he offers to do some work, equal to the amount he has to pay as his contribution towards share capital, would you accept his shramdan ? What has been the system in this cooperative you have organised ? And in your Fifth Plan, which is very much delayed of course, would you give preference to shramdan contribution by the peasants by way of their contribution to the share capital ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : The honourable Member has made certain good suggestions and I will pass them on to the Rural Electrification Corporation and in consultation with the State Electricity Board they will examine those suggestions and see to what extent those could be implemented.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Sir, my question was this : In the rural cooperatives which have hitherto been organised, has there been a system of accepting peasants' contribution through shramdan, and, if so, what is the contribution so given ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : There are some broad features of the cooperatives and after a committee went into the constitution of the cooperatives in 1972 and made certain recommendations, the Board of the

Rural Electrification Corporation took certain decisions and one of the guidelines was that with regard to capital cost of cooperative projects, among the sources of capital contribution from members conversion of part of security deposit and service connection charges has been included and this would constitute about Rs. 10 lakhs out of Rs. 150 lakhs. As my colleague said, the • ' of shramdan being included is not covered and this is a suggestion that will have to be considered by the Board.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Here is an article by the...

MR. CHAIRMAN : May be, there is an article, but there is an answer also. Please sit down. Mr. O. P. Tyagi now.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Here the article and shramdan contribution is there..

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not allow you. When he has given the answer, it is enough.

श्री ओइम्प्रकाश त्यागी : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने अभी वक्तव्य दिया है कि इसके लिए आपने पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में धन निश्चित किया हुआ है और कुछ प्रान्तों में सहकारी समितियाँ भी बनाई हैं जो कि विद्युत् उत्पादन करेंगी तो इसके साथ ही क्या आप इस संबंध में भी प्रकाश डालेंगे कि देश के तमाम प्रान्तों में समान रूप से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों का विद्युतीकरण होगा ? दूसरे आपने बताया है कि कुछ प्रान्तों में को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटीज बनाई हैं और कुछ में नहीं बनाई तो तमाम प्रान्तों में को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटीज बने और समान रूप से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों का विद्युतीकरण हो इसके लिए पंचवर्षीय योजना में आपने कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है ? कितन-कितन गांवों में इलैक्ट्रीफिकेशन होगा, इसके लिए कोई लक्ष्य आपने बनाया है ? यदि बनाया है तो क्या है ?

श्री० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : जैसा मैंने अभी प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया कि पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में अन्तिम रूप नहीं दिया गया है इस

लिए इस समय यह कहना कठिन है कि किस सूत्र में और कितने राज्यों का विद्युतीकरण होगा और कितने गांवों का विद्युतीकरण होगा। लेकिन जिन राज्यों में को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटीज नहीं बनी है इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि उन राज्यों में ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण का काम नहीं हुआ है।

ग्राम विद्युतीकरण का काम हर सूत्र में वहाँ की राज्य सरकार वहाँ के जो बिजली बोर्ड बने हुए हैं उनकी मार्फत कराती है और सभी राज्यों में ग्राम विद्युतीकरण का काम हो रहा है। लेकिन एक साल पहले ऐसा अनुभव किया गया कि अगर इसके लिए सहकारी समितियाँ बनायी जाएं तो शायद इसमें ज्यादा प्रगति हो सकती है इस लिए नमूने के तौर पर सारे देश में ऐसे 5 सहकारी समितियाँ बनाने का निश्चय हुआ। अब उनके अनुभव के आधार पर ऐसा विचार किया गया और सोचा गया कि राज्य सरकारें इस संबंध में फैसला करके इस प्रकार की सहकारी समितियाँ बनाएं। राज्य सरकारों को लिखा गया है कि सहकारी समितियाँ बनाने का कोई प्रस्ताव जब हमारे सामने आ जाएगा तब अन्तिम रूप से निर्णय लिया जाएगा। लेकिन जहाँ तक ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण का सवाल है, राज्य सरकारों और बोर्ड विद्युतीकरण का काम तेजी से आगे बढ़ाने के लिए प्रयत्नशील है।

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON : In the answer given to this question, it has been said that during the last two years, the Rural Electrification Corporation has given loans to Maharashtra and Gujarat State Electricity Boards. May I take, it that it is because the other States' Plan outlays are adequate and that is why other States have not asked for loan ? Or, is it because loans have not been sanctioned yet in respect of applications made by the other State Electricity Boards ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD: The hon. Member is referring to another question which is very specific on this point; Other States have asked for loans and they have also got loans.

SHRI SAN AT KUMAR RAH A : From the statement I find that in the Fifth Plan Rs. 1,098 crores have been allocated. I want to know on what basis this sum has been allocated. While allocating this fund, has the Government taken into account the need for removing imbalances and disparities that exist in the matter of electrification in different States ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : As regards the second part of the question. Government is taking that into consideration while formulating the Plan proposals. As regards the first part, we have said that this figure is not the final figure. It is just a proposal for the Fifth Plan.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : In view of the fact that the rural electrical co-operatives are doing good work and they have carried out this concept nicely, may I know the following from the hon. Minister ? The outlay for the Fifth Plan is only Rs. 200/-crores per year. Looking to the large number of villages, this amount will be totally inadequate in the light of large areas to be irrigated. Will the Minister, therefore, consider the question of increasing the quantum to cater to the needs of large number of pump sets, motors and extension services ? But in view of the large-scale shortage of power in the various states in the Northern, Southern and Eastern sectors, will he agree to the proposal to allow them to have captive diesel sets or coal-based sets ? Otherwise this concept will only be limited to the extent of power supplied by the Electricity Boards in various States. Will the Minister agree to this proposal ?

SHRI K. C. PANT: The outlay proposed for the Fifth Plan is Rs. 1,098/- crores and not Rs. 200/- crores.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Rs. 200 crores per year.

SHRI K. C. PANT : That is right. But this has to be viewed against the outlays in the generation sector and transmission sector and a certain balance has to be kept. Merely increasing the outlay in the rural electrification sector without corresponding increase in the generation and transmission sectors will not produce the desired results. The second suggestion will have to be viewed in terms of the cost of power. If diesel sets are costly, then it will affect the economy of these co-operatives.

It is because if they are going to supply very high-cost power to the villages, naturally, to that extent, it would not be able to work and it would not be able to work if the grid power is very much costlier than this. Then it would be in the interest of the co-operatives to have these small sets as captive sets. So, it is in this context that this idea will have to be considered and we want the co-operative idea to spread in this field and that is why we have been encouraging this. Even in the past, amongst the five co-operatives which my colleague has mentioned, one of the difficulties which at least one of the co-operatives has come across is the high cost of power—in fact, two of them have come across this—and the high cost of power is one of the difficulties faced by the two co-operatives which are not functioning as well as the other three. So, this has to be kept in mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Niren-Ghosh.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Not on this question. I want to put a supplementary on the next question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Next question.

Code of conduct in elections

♦152. SHRI O. P. TYAGI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission framed a code of conduct in 1971, for preventing the misuse of official machinery in elections;

(b) whether it is proposed to accord legislative recognition to the rules laid down in the said code of conduct; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY): (a) The Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties and candidates issued by the Commission on 30th December, 1971, contained a provision that "the ruling party will ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official