

and that has caused so much of national wastage, because unnecessarily coal from Bihar was coming to Gujarat and it was not going direct to Bombay. We could have easily avoided it by taking steps

SHRI D K BOROOAH Whatever may have happened in the past, now we have decided that the entire production will go to the Government of Gujarat and they have distributed it between the Ahmedabad Elec. Company and the Dhuvaran Power House

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर ईंधन तेल की जो देश व्यापी कमी है उसकी पूर्ति सरकार कितने समय में कर देगी जिस से बाकी उद्योगों पर उसका असर न पड़े।

SHRI D K BOROOAH Could you kindly repeat it?

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR The shortage of fuel oil is causing hardship to the industry. When is the Government going to cover this gap?

SHRI D K BOROOAH Sir, actually this is not fuel oil. This is mostly used for power generators. We produce in this country about 2.8 million tonnes of fuel oil. We import about 2.4 million tonnes of fuel oil. This is mostly used for power generators.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN BIHAR

*267 **SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA**
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state

(a) the total amount of grants given by the Central Government for Rural Electrification schemes to the Bihar Government during the last three years, and

(b) the amount likely to be made available to that State for the scheme during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VARMA)

(a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) The programme of rural electrification is financed from the State Plan Outlay. During the Fourth Plan, additive finances are provided to the State Electricity Boards by the Rural Electrification Corporation which has been set up in the Central Sector. The year-wise details of the amount sanctioned by the Corporation as loan for Bihar State Electricity Board during the last three years are given below —

Year	Amount of loan (lakhs of Rs.)	Coverage	
		Villages	Pumpsets
1970-71	303.40	705	8835
1971-72	618.45	1225	17657
1972-73	809.51	1615	16930
TOTAL	1731.36	3545	43422

(b) During 1973-74 one scheme involving loan assistance of Rs. 65.96 lakhs has been sanctioned so far. Further loan assistance during the current financial year will depend upon the number of schemes sponsored by the Bihar State Electricity Board and approved by the Rural Electrification Corporation in accordance with the criteria prescribed by them.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA What was the total amount asked for by the State Electricity Board, for which we have sanctioned this amount?

DR. K. L. RAO The State Electricity Board has sent in a number of projects from time to time. Therefore, there is no particular finality. There are a number of

them pending for sanction. One of them has been sanctioned for Rs 63-65 lakhs. There are others pending. They are of the order of Rs. 5-6 crores.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA Sir, the physical targets for 1972-73 show that the pumping sets out of a total amount sanctioned of Rs 8 crores, were 16,000 as against 17,000 in 1971-72. Why has this figure gone down? Moreover, what is the total amount of rural electrification in Bihar as compared to the whole country?

DR K L RAO The rural electrification in the village of Bihar is 13% as against India's 23.6%—about half way—and the number of pumping sets electrified so far in Bihar is less than a lakh—about 84,000.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA Then, Sir

MR CHAIRMAN : No third question please

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि बिहार राज्य के इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड की ओर से बार बार यह आग्रह करने पर भी बिहार का पावर के मामले में जो वाजिव कोटा होना चाहिए और बिहार के गांवों को इलेक्ट्रीफाई करने के लिए जो साधन होने चाहिए वह नहीं है और यहा तक कि सभापति जी, बिहार विधान सभा में सर्वसम्मति से प्रस्ताव कर के केन्द्र सरकार में, मांग की गयी है कि वहा पर एक एटामिक पावर स्टेशन होना चाहिए, लेकिन मंत्री जी खुद कहते हैं कि देश के अन्य राज्यों की तुलना में बिहार सब से कम गांवों में बिजली पहुंचा सका है, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हू कि क्या मंत्री जी अधिक से अधिक राशि का आवंटन कर बिहार को दूसरे राज्यों की तुलना में लाने की कोशिश करेंगे और यदि हा, तो इस के लिए वह क्या व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं ?

DR K L RAO The question the hon. Member has asked is about atomic power stations. In Bihar there are coal fields very near and, therefore, atomic power stations are not generally located in such areas

and that is why the Planning Commission has turned down the suggestion for an atomic power station. Therefore, we have to develop thermal power stations there in Bihar and quite a large number of power stations are yet to be constructed in the Fifth Plan and adequate power built up there from the thermal stations. Now, with regard to the assistance for rural electrification, Bihar State has been given quite a large amount by the Rural Electrification Corporation nearly 18 crores have been sanctioned and the work has still to be implemented. We are fully aware of the backwardness of Bihar from the point of view of rural electrification and that every assistance should be given to it. It has also to be seen that proper implementation also takes place, that is to say, the projects sanctioned must be completed and more and more villages must be electrified, and then further assistance will be given.

श्री कमल नाथ झा : सभापति जी, अभी मामनीय मंत्री जी ने उत्तर दिया कि मुझे मालूम है कि बिहार बहुत पिछडा हुआ है और हम समझते हैं कि यह सभी को मालूम होगा कि हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में

श्री सभापति : जो सब को मालूम है उसे बताने की जरूरत नहीं है।

श्री कमल नाथ झा सब से पिछडा हुआ स्टेट होने पर भी बिहार इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड की ओर से आर बिहार गवर्नमेंट की ओर में जो योजनाएं बिजली के सबध में केन्द्र में आती हैं उन के सबध में उन्होंने कहा कि वहा में बहुत सी योजनाएं आयी हैं और उन में से एक की अभी क्लियरेंस उन्होंने दी है और उस के लिए महायता भी दी है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हू कि बिहार राज्य के पिछडेपन को देखते हुए और यह देखते हुए कि उत्तर बिहार कृषि प्रधान है और दक्षिण बिहार उद्योग प्रधान है क्या यह आवश्यक नहीं है कि केन्द्र की ओर से टर्निशियेटिव ले कर पूरे बिहार की उन्नति के लिए केन्द्र की ओर से वहा की परियोजनाओं को

शीघ्रातिशीघ्र चालू किया जाय और वहा की योजनाओं को पूरा किया जाय स्पेशल ट्रीटमेंट जो बैकवर्ड एरियाज को देने की नीति है उस के मुताबिक ?

DR. K. L. RAO : I agree with the hon. Member that special attention has to be paid to Bihar both for power generation and for rural electrification and that is what exactly we are trying to do and as I have submitted, the Rural Electrification Corporation has made a very good gesture by sanctioning as many as Rs. 18 crores. The work has got to be done and if implementation is done more money will be forthcoming from the Rural Electrification Corporation for the electrification of villages.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he would advise the Rural Electrification Corporation to open regional offices, one for the south, one for the east and one for western India to enable them to clear the schemes submitted by the States without delay ?

DR. K. L. RAO : That is exactly what is being done but these regional offices will be in the areas which are backward, not in the rest of the country but in areas of the eastern sector like Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam.

श्रीमती प्रतिभासिंह : सरकार ने एक पावर स्टेशन सैक्शन किया था कटिहार में जिसको कि वेस्ट बंगाल में शिफ्ट कर दिया गया है तो क्या सरकार सोच रही है कि उसके स्थान पर एक दूसरा पावर स्टेशन बिहार में—बिहार के पिछड़ेपन को देखते हुए—करे ! और अगली पंचवर्षीय योजना में पांच पावर स्टेशन समस्त भारत में लिए गए हैं जो कि केन्द्र द्वारा चालू होंगे तो मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि उनमें से कोई बिहार में भी स्थित किया गया है या नहीं ।

DR. K. L. RAO : No generation project has been sanctioned for Katihar. It is very unfortunate that as an emotional issue has been raised but any way if the Bihar State Government wants to have a power

generation project at Katihar the Government of India will have no objection to that. At the moment we are thinking that probably quicker power generation will be possible by expanding the power generation at Barauni.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : According to the reply given in this House on 26th February 1973, the various power systems in the eastern region comprising Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Damodar Valley Corporation are inter connected by 132 kw. lines. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the order of power which Bihar is allowed to draw from this eastern region ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Bihar is surplus at the moment and it is feeding power to other sectors; it is not drawing any power from other sectors.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS OF PRIVATE COMPANIES

*268. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH :†

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :
DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Company Law Board or his Ministry take into consideration the professional qualifications of the persons while approving their names for the Board of Directors in private companies ; and

(b) if not, on what other considerations they are selected to ensure effective management of a company ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA) : (a) and (b) Under the Companies Act, the approval of the Central Government is required only to the appointment of Managing

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kota Punnaiah.