

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please take your seats. Next Question.

Bifurcation of Northern and Southern Region of PGCIL

*104. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Northern Region and Southern Region of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) were bifurcated in two sub-regions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for bifurcation;
- (c) whether there is a similar plan to bifurcate other regions also; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has reported that regions were bifurcated keeping in view the parameters like geographical spread including difficult terrain, size of transmission system and number of sub-stations.

PGCIL, based on these parameters, decided to bifurcate the Northern Region in 1991-92 and Southern Region in 2001. States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (including present day Uttaranchal), Delhi, and parts of Haryana were placed under Northern Region-I with regional headquarter at Faridabad (since shifted to Delhi in June, 2003). States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh and parts of Haryana were placed under Northern Region-II with regional headquarter at Jammu.

Southern Region-I consists of Andhra Pradesh and Parts of Karnataka. Southern Region II consists of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and parts of Karnataka. The headquarter of Southern Region-I is at Secunderabad and that of Southern Region-II is at Bangalore.

(c) and (d) In view of the parameters mentioned above, at present there is no plan to bifurcate other regions.

SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister of Power,—the Southern Region consists of Andhra Pradesh and part of Karnataka whereas Eastern Region consists of West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand — does the geographic spread itself require bifurcation of the Eastern Region. As regards the transmission system and sub-stations, Northern Region has 20 southern Region has 23 sub-stations and the Eastern Region has 22 sub-stations. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this should be bifurcated or not.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, in the main answer, I have already stated the parameter is like geographical spread, including the difficult terrain, size of the transmission system and number of sub-stations.

Therefore, Sir, these four ingredients are taken into account before making sub-division of the North and South regions. There is no hard and fast rule as such. We can revisit it as and when the necessity arise. Where we faced the unwieldy situation, we have divided it. In such eventuality, it can be revisited.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Pension to Freedom Fighters

*105. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for payment of pension to Freedom Fighters had been introduced at the inception of our Republic;

(b) the salient details of the scheme so introduced especially eligibility criteria, rate of pension per individual/dependents, mode of payment etc., and revision, if any, made therein till date;

(c) whether the Freedom Fighters belonging to Azad Hind Fauz (INA) were equally eligible to the pension scheme at its very inception or at subsequent stage;