

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) In August, 2005, Government of Bihar had requested for enhancing allocation of power from NTPC stations in the Eastern Region (ER) from the prevailing level of 960 MW to at least 1250 MW. The allocation from NTPC stations in ER were reviewed and allocation of Bihar was enhanced to about 1019 MW w.e.f. 15th November, 2005.

Work on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh transmission line

1854. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRÓDIA:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Power Grid Corporation of India propose to work on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh transmission line; and

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard would be taken and what would be the cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) prepared a Feasibility Report for construction of 220 KV transmission line from Srinagar (Alistong) to Leh via Drass, Kargil and Khalsti at an estimated cost of Rs. 633.79 crores (Second Quarter, 2004 Price level). However, no decision has been taken to execute this project.

Rural electrification programme in Bihar

1855. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vast majority of rural population still has no access to electricity and is dependent on kerosene lamps and lanterns;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated for electrification of 25000 remote villages/hamlets;

(c) the reasons for not electrifying a single remote village of Bihar under remote village electrification programme as on 30.11.2004;

(d) the list of 273 remote villages of Bihar identified for electrification under remote village electrification programme, district-wise; and

(e) the progress made so far in this regard and the megawatt power required to provide electricity in all villages of Bihar along with the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. As per 2001 census there are about 7.8 crore rural households in the country having no access to electricity.

(b) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana covers all villages except those where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) is implementing the Remote Village Electrification Programme for electrification of such remote un-electrified villages numbering 25,000 through non-conventional energy sources.

(c) MNES has reported that Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) had submitted initial proposal to them for electrification of some un-electrified villages during 2003-04 and 2004-05. MNES advised BREDA to submit firmed up proposals which they did not submit and hence those could not be taken up.

(d) MNES has received a tentative list of 273 un-electrified villages from BREDA for electrification through non-conventional energy sources. The list has been referred by MNES to Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Ltd. for verification as to whether it will be covered under RGGVY or Remote Village Electrification Programme depending on the feasibility of cost-effective grid connectivity.

(e) There are 1.201 crore rural households having no electricity in Bihar as per 2001 census. As reported by REC Ltd., for providing electricity to these 1.201 crore households, the power requirement is expected to be about 3100 MW, which in turn will involve an investment of the order of Rs. 16,500 crores, depending on the type of generation projects to be commissioned.

Increase in the cost of power production

†1856. **SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:**

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to rise in coal prices the cost of power production is also increasing in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.