

power stations designed on imported coal. Ministry of Coal is regularly impressed upon to enhance production of domestic coal in the country.

**Violation of environmental safeguards measures by
hydro-electric projects**

894. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report based on a study undertaken to assess the efficacy as well as the implementation of Asian Development Bank's (ADB) safeguard measures to address public concerns related to environmental issues has revealed that the hydro-electric projects in Himachal Pradesh are violating its own safeguards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a group of eminent activists, intellectuals and environmentalists has written to ADB to stop funding to such hydro-electric projects which are completely ignoring ecological impacts; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (d) Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL), a State Government Undertaking, has informed that the statutory Environment Impact Assessment study report prepared by a credible independent third party did not find any irremediable impacts or violations and no violation has been reported by any statutory body till date. HPPCL has further informed that a report from some people, who are also supporting an appeal before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and another court case before the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh alleging few violations, has been received by them. Further, a group of people with unverified credentials has written to Asian Development Bank (ADB) to stop funding based on unsubstantiated allegations. HPPCL has stated that preliminary verification of these allegations reveals that the report is not based on facts and appears to be motivated and biased.

Power shortage in eastern States

†895. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the eastern States of the country would have to face reduction in allocation of power due to increase in power consumption in Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (d) As per agreement signed between Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) and Government of India, the surplus power from the hydroelectric projects in Bhutan shall be exported to India. The surplus power so exported has been allocated in India to the States of Eastern and Northern Regions. The availability of power to India from the hydro power projects located in Bhutan is, therefore, dependent on the requirement of power in Bhutan. A 10,000 MW initiative has been launched by Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) and Government of India for completion by the year 2020. Three projects namely, Punatsangchu H.E. Project Stage-I, Punatsangchhu H.E. Project Stage-II, Mangdechu H.E. Project aggregating 2910 MW are under construction in Bhutan and the remaining projects are under various stages of development. With the commissioning of these projects, the demand for power in Bhutan is not likely to surpass the enhanced generating capacity. Government of India has given thrust to acceleration in generating additional capacity in the country and a capacity addition target of 62,374 MW was fixed by the Planning Commission for the Eleventh Plan during the mid-term appraisal of the Plan. Projects aggregating 40,131 MW have already been commissioned during the Eleventh Plan so far and the remaining projects are under construction.

Review of targets under RGGVY

896. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey/review of the targets fixed and achievements made under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has set any time limit to achieve the target of electrification in all the villages of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), the targets are fixed at the start of the respective year based on the benchmark execution time and implementation bottlenecks. The Ministry of Power and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited regularly monitor the achievement with reference to targets set. The targets and achievement of un/de-electrified villages and release of Below Poverty Line (BPL) connections for the sanctioned projects under RGGVY during the last three years and current year, is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The electrification works for the sanctioned projects under RGGVY in the country are expected to be completed by the end of year 2012.