

Setting up of Husk Power Systems

2937. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Husk Power Systems (HPS) generates clean, safe and efficient electricity at affordable rates in some of India's most remote communities, and it is currently serving 130 villages, or more than 100,000 people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to establish it in other States; and

(d) whether there is any plan to establish HPS in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) M/s Husk Power System, Patna has set up 60 biomass gasifier plants for generating electricity using rice husk in about 200 villages/hamlets of West Champaran, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Lakhisarai districts of Bihar. Electricity is being provided in the evening to the villagers for 5-6 hours daily for lighting 2-3 lamps per household by charging ` 45-60 per month.

(c) and (d) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has been promoting biomass gasifier based power generating systems for meeting unmet demand of electricity in rural areas using agricultural residues including rice husk, in association with State Governments, NGOs, village level organizations, institutions and entrepreneurs through out the country. Central Financial Assistance of ` 15,000 per kilowatt is being provided for installation of biomass gasifier with 100% producer gas engines besides support for laying local distribution network after successful installation and commissioning of the system. MNRE is organizing interaction meets and seminars to promote such systems for power generation depending upon availability of agro residues and other biomass feedstock such as corn cobs, cotton stalks and bamboo in other States including Assam.

Irrigation system in Bihar

†2938. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Son Canal system is the oldest system of irrigation and it used to cater only to Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that water is being supplied to Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh at present therefrom as a result of which Bihar is not getting sufficient share out of it and irrigation is affected thereby; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard so that Bihar may get supply of sufficient water?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.