

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu: Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

Shri R. Girirajan -- Need to take necessary steps to reduce the T&D losses and provide adequate financial support to develop state of art power infrastructure in Tamil Nadu with a reduced rate of interest.

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SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the peak electricity demand in Tamil Nadu is expected to touch 22,000 MW during summer and steps are being taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to ensure uninterrupted supply. Recently, during Cyclone Fengal, a total of 12,265 electricity poles were damaged, but they were replaced in record time. Ahead of summer, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) and TANGEDCO officials have identified overloading issues in 6,536 transformers across the State, of which 5,407 have already been fixed. Sir, 48 new substations have been installed to strengthen the power grid along with the proposal to commission 20 power substations throughout the State of Tamil Nadu to provide uninterrupted power supply.

According to the Load Generation Balance Report (LGBR) of the Southern Regional Power Committee (SRPC), Tamil Nadu's demand in April is expected to be 20,600 MW, against the availability of 21,488 MW, resulting in a surplus of 985 MW. But, in the evening, the requirement would be 20,700 MW as against the availability of 16,003 MW, leading to a deficit of 4,697 MW.

As per Economic Survey of India 2021, India's Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses have been over 20 per cent of generation, which is more than twice the world average. If only the Government reduces the T&D losses, the power supply will see the brighter side. Tamil Nadu being one of the top industrial States in the country, its power supply and demand too is high and the per capita consumption too is on a higher side.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to take all necessary steps to reduce the T&D losses and provide adequate financial support to develop state of art power infrastructure in Tamil Nadu with a reduced rate of interest. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri R. Giriraj: Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. P. Suneer (Kerala), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala) Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

Shri Niranjan Bishi--Demand to introduce more National-Level Schemes for the comprehensive development of tribal community in Odisha.

Demand to introduce more National-Level Schemes for the comprehensive development of tribal community in Odisha

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI (Odisha): Thank you, hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important matter for the development of tribal community in Odisha. The Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY), initiated by the Central Government, aims to uplift tribal villages by enhancing their infrastructure and providing essential services. The evident challenge of weak service delivery in tribal-inhabited areas necessitates prompt attention. While the PMAAGY Scheme contributes to the distribution of basic services in tribal villages, concerns arise over the significant decrease of 63 per cent in fund allocation to Odisha from the Financial Year 2022-23 to 2023-24. Moreover, Odisha's fund allocation is comparatively lower than other States.

The Odisha Government led by hon. Ex-Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaikji had implemented various schemes, such as the Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement Programme (OPELIP), the Special Development Council (SDC) & Tribal Sub-Plan to uplift the tribal community. However, there remains a pressing need for increased Central intervention and assistance in this endeavour.

To address this issue, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, could consider allocating more funds to Odisha under The Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana Scheme, the Special Development Council & Tribal Sub-Plan. Additionally, launching special programmes and schemes, in collaboration with NGOs, civil society organizations, and local tribal leaders, can enhance the effective implementation and monitoring of development programmes and fostering community participation.