

made available by Central Ministry of Health and Family Planning to the Health Department in West Bengal is not being spent or rather could not be utilised by the fag end of the year.

There is cry and clamour that there is no fuel. I think it is certainly in somewhere, the responsibilities lie, to look into the problem. The problem of this management comes from the mal-administration. There is very important problem—the problem of bureaucratic dictatorships. The engineers do not get the materials and equipment which they require. The problem is solvable. Last week some friends invited me to attend the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce. They raised same question. They cannot do many things for want of materials. This is being referred to ministries time without numbers. All the time there is non-availability of materials and if it is made available that is being delayed.

The problem is largely the problem of administration. So I would request you to high light this in this Seminar. What I like to impress upon you is that a minister can intervene when things are brought to his notice. So we should think in terms of gearing up and improving the administration and bureaucracy. The things which we cannot get due to weakness of the economy etc. we need not lament over that. But there is cause of lamentation if the problems are solvable but not solved. These things should be probed into their depths. You will discuss not from the administration point of view but to draw attention of the people to the shortcomings, failures and defects in running a Government and the machines. I hope the deliberations discussions and the decisions arrived at, will help us in choosing the line. I am very glad indeed, for you have invited me to be amidst you. I thank you once again.

Presidential Address

By

M. L. Khanna

I am thankful for inviting me to preside over the deliberations of the seminar on Rural Electrification. I will speak from my experience in Haryana, where we had in the beginning of the year 1968-69, about 22000 applications for installation of tube wells. These were pending mostly because of lack of electricity. In some case, electrical connections were found unjustified according to financial norms of about Rs. 750 for each H P of connected load. To tackle the situation, we issued demand

notice to all the applicants who are within the radius of 3 miles of net work. The decision accelerated the rural electrification programme so much that within 3 years, we connected 60,000 more tube wells in the State. To surpass the complexities of financial justification, we increased the agricultural tariff from 9.38 paise per unit to 15 paie per unit and the farmers gladly accepted the revised tariff, because they got the connection. We do not charge anything for the service line. The

farmers lifted all the materials, in their own vehicles, free of cost to us. Our cost of connecting a tubewell now is about Rs. 3000 which is the lowest in the whole country.

Rural electrification has many indirect advantages to the State and the people and the cost of electrification is hardly anything compared to the benefits. The farmers have other avenues now, for doing extra work in the processing undertakings. The migration problem gets solved automatically and this saves the exchequer quite an amount which otherwise will be required to settle them in cities. The State Govts may take this factor into consideration while liberalising its loan

policy to the state electricity boards. If the economic well-being of our rural population improves, they can plough back the wealth in other developmental work.

I recommend to the industry to manufacture ubewell motors with built in type capacitors. The ISI may also do something in this respect. Single phase distribution line can also be planned. Operation of 3 phase motor with single phase supply will contribute towards cheaper rural electrification.

In the end, I thank the distinguished guests and the delegates for the patient hearing to all the views.

Discussors of Papers of Session : S-1

(Papers published in vol. 46. No 4.)

1. Shri B. N. Niyogi of Geological Survey of India :

13000 villages are to be electrified in West Bengal. One small tube well irrigates 5 acres. The economic viability of the rural electrification will definitely improve if large heavy duty tubewells, which can irrigate 100 acres are installed.

To improve the load factor and to make rural electrification programme economically viable co-ordinated scheme of dispersal of small scale industries, development of rural cottage industries may be considered.

2. N. C. Tyagi, Deputy Director, I. S. I

On standardisation of materials and equipment, it has been mentioned of initiative by

R. E. Corporation to formulate standard specification. When the Indian Standards Institution has all the facilities for making quick (even emergency) standards, why not R. E. Corporation also take help of I. S. I. for standardisation.

3. Shri A. N. Lahiri, Consultant :

For medium and low voltage transmission poles has there been a study made, on the comparative cost of tubular, pre-cast concrete and light-section mild-steel construction?

In working out the profitability of any rural electrification scheme, what depreciation is generally fixed?

Besides Sarvasree A. Bhattacharjee & A. Parekh also participated in the discussion.