

[Shri Ram Surat Prasad]

(6) Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating to Reports on Action Taken by Government on Reports of the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT

SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA (Chamarajanagar): I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

12.14 hrs.

\*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1976-77  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up further discussion on Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Energy.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): Sir, the House knows the budget demand for the Ministry of Health was to have followed the Demands for the Ministry of Energy. But, when my friend, Dr Karan Singh, approached me with a request to reverse this order, I readily agreed for two reasons—firstly, I thought it was logical that Health should precede Energy and secondly, because Dr. Karan Singh has made a very powerful plea in favour of stepping up power generation although in the cause of family planning.

Sir, my colleague, the Deputy Minister, Prof. Siddheshwar Prasad yesterday spoke and so many of the points covered by the hon'ble Members in respect of rural electrification have been covered by him. That has made my load easier although even now I find that a very wide spectrum was covered in the debate and

I shall do my best, as I said yesterday, to cover as many points as possible.

I was rather overwhelmed by the warm and generous references which were made by hon. Members to the efforts of the Ministry of Energy. I can only say that it is the workers, the engineers, the managers—both in the coal and power sectors—who deserve this appreciation of the House and on their behalf I would like to thank the hon. Members who have been so generous.

I hope that this appreciation coming from such an august House will encourage all concerned to put in greater effort in future.

But, Sir, there is always an exception which proves every rule and I find that the hon. Member from the CPI(M), Mr. Modak painted a different picture. But then it has never suited his party to remain in the main-stream whether inside the House or outside and he has been true to form, if I may say so. He did not see any improvement in the power sphere. Now, if he chooses not to see with his eyes open there is nothing I can do about it. I am sure that he remembers 1973-74 and the earlier part of 1975 when many parts of this country were suffering due to shortage of power. Everyday we had references in this House. We had debates and questions all dealing with this shortage and the ill-effects of shortage on production. Particularly now when power goes not only for industries but for agriculture and is basic to development, to creation of employment, the concern of the House is natural; but since July 1975 the picture has changed. And it has changed all over the country and areas which were very badly hit earlier like Northern India and Southern India