

equipment factories. When they are commissioned and are in full production we will be able to get all our generating equipment indigenously. Otherwise we will have to import.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a fact that because of the failure of some foreign countries to supply power generating equipment in time there has been a set-back in the programme?

Shri Alagesan: I will not be able to say offhand.

Power Shortage in the Country

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〔 **Shri Daji:**

*802. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
〔 **Shri H. P. Chatterjee:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that are being taken to overcome power shortage in various States;

(b) whether any detailed scheme has been chalked out; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. A. Mehdi): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

A number of power projects have been sanctioned for implementation during the Third Five Year Plan in each State to meet the increasing load demands. Action is also being taken to expedite the release of foreign exchange for import of necessary plant and equipment for such power projects. The construction of inter-State links and development of regional grids have also been approved to enable transfer of surplus power being made to deficit areas.

2. A Study Team consisting of a representative each of the Planning Commission, the Central Water and Power Commission and the Ministry of Irrigation and Power recently

reviewed the progress made in the implementation of power schemes in the various States and suggested steps for the removal of the bottlenecks, and for expediting the completion of works. Such reviews are proposed to be made periodically. Proposals to meet the immediate requirements of certain States which are experiencing acute power shortage are also under consideration.

Shri Daji: Will the Minister tell us what are the important bottlenecks pointed out by the committee that was appointed to look into the non-implementation of some of the schemes?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: Mostly, during the Second Plan, it was paucity of foreign exchange in the early stages.

Shri Daji: The statement says that a committee was recently appointed to go into the power schemes and suggest steps for the removal of the bottlenecks and for expediting the completion of works. It was not one bottleneck, but bottlenecks—for the removal of the bottlenecks and for expediting completion of works. What were the bottlenecks?

Mr. Speaker: He has said that.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): The most important bottleneck was that of foreign exchange. That is why my hon. colleague pointed out that. The other bottlenecks are: timely supply of cement and steel, arranging for import of other plants and equipment. These are the things. These are considered at a point meeting of the authorities concerned with representatives of the Central Ministry and these things are ironed out.

Shri Daji: It is said that proposals to meet the immediate requirements of certain States are being taken up. Which are the States? What are the immediate requirements? What steps are the Government taking in this respect?

Shri Alagesan: At present, acute shortage is felt in Andhra and Mysore States. We are considering whether it will be possible to import a few 10,000 kw. gas turbines to tide over the short-term difficulties.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether the Government will be able to overcome the difficulties about power shortage during the Third Five Year Plan and whether steps are being taken.

Shri Alagesan: Demand according to the load survey that has been conducted goes on increasing. We are trying to meet the increasing demands. Even so, perhaps the demand is always overtaking what we are able to do. I do not think that it will be completely possible for us to overtake demand during the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri H. P. Chatterjee: The Minister has suggested several ways. My question is this. Industrialised states like West Bengal are suffering very much. Is he in a position to state how long he will take to remove the acute power shortage?

Shri Alagesan: It is also true that there is power shortage in the D.V.C., Bihar and Bengal area. To remove the power shortage, there are various schemes sanctioned in the various States. They are being progressed and everything that is necessary is being done.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that after the publication of the Third Plan, three schemes in the private sector are formulated by the Government, and if so, may I know whether the Government would allow these private sector enterprises to arrange for foreign financial help on their own?

Shri Alagesan: Only there was one proposal by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.

Shri Hem Barua: There are three.

Shri Alagesan: They were permitted to instal additional capacity of

50 megawatts. Each case is being determined on its own merits. There is also another proposal by the Hindustan Aluminium Ltd. to have their own power generation installed. That is under consideration.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if it has come to the attention of the Government that some of the schemes proposed by the West Bengal Government for the removal of power shortage and which had the approval of the Central Water and Power Commission, have been cancelled or dis-approved by the Planning Commission like the Azimganj power scheme or the Jaldaka scheme?

Shri Alagesan: If a specific question is put, I shall be able to answer.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार को यह पता है कि यू०प० में ५,००० से ज्यादा ऐल्कोगन्स एंड्रिकल्चरल कंसन्स को पड़ो हुई हैं विजली के लिये, और अगर रिहब डैक की विजली बिरला कंसन्स से हटा कर इन ५,००० कंसन्स को दे दी जाय तो यह कमी पूरी हो सकती है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर पहले पता नहीं था तो अब जरूर पता चल गया है।

Shri Iqbal Singh: What steps are the Government taking to remove the power shortage in Punjab? All the power generated in the Punjab is given either to Delhi or the Nangal fertiliser factory. There is no surplus power in the Punjab.

Mr. Speaker: There is already a complaint that Punjab is much too power-hungry.

Shri Iqbal Singh: Most of the power is taken by Delhi and the Nangal Fertiliser Factory.

Shri Ansar Harvani: The Parliamentary Secretary has described one of the bottle-necks as foreign exchange. The hon. Minister has added a few more bottle-necks. May I know whether the organisation of the Ministry itself is not one of the biggest bottle-necks in the production of power in this country?

Mr. Speaker: That is only a reflection. That is not a question to be put.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: In the statement it has been stated that:

"The construction of inter-State links and development of regional grids have also been approved to enable transfer of surplus power being made to deficit areas."

In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister that there is scarcity of power in Andhra Pradesh, may I know whether any arrangement has been made to transfer the surplus power to the deficit area of Andhra Pradesh at the moment, till the gas turbines are received.

Shri Alagesan: We are making arrangements to have a grid established for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore and Kerala.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Shri Warior: May I ask for one general information?

Shri Hem Barua: May I make a humble submission?

Mr. Speaker: I find that after I have allowed about ten supplementary questions, there are still about a dozen hon. Members who want to ask supplementary questions.

Shri Warior: I want to ask a general question, not any particular question. All the questions that have been so far asked have been relating to particular States. But I want to ask a general question seeking some general information.

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed already about ten questions, and I cannot spend more time on one particular question.

Shri Hem Barua: I do not want to put a question, but I want to make a humble submission to you.

When I put my question earlier, I said that there were three power

schemes. The hon. Minister has admitted that there are two power schemes in the private sector. I wanted to know whether these private enterprises would be allowed to arrange foreign finances on their own or not. The hon. Minister has not replied to that point.

Mr. Speaker: That question was answered long ago.

Shri Alagesan: I replied that each question will be considered on its own merits.

Primary Health Centres

*803. **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the accepted policy of the Government to open primary Health Centres in each Community Development Block area;

(b) the progress so far achieved in reaching the target; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the facilities to the Village Panchayat level?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 58].

(c) No.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Do Government feel it expedient to start a maternity centre at the village panchayat level?

Dr. D. S. Raju: No, it is not possible to start it at the panchayat level.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know by what time, according to the phased programme, if any, that the Ministry has, the blocks will be covered by such health centres?

Dr. D. S. Raju: By the end of the Third Plan, we hope to provide the