

every State. For example, there are sectors like steel, power and cement etc. There are special allotments for the core as well as the non-core sector in each State. The reply of hon. Minister is not correct. The hon. Minister should have told about their actual requirement, the quality of coal allotted to them and what is the actual supply? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This question is about the irregularities. It is not a question about the requirement of the States.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a list of the power sector. The State Governments should have at, at least, one month's stock of coal for their various coal sectors like power, steel etc., but they do not have stocks even for five to six days. The coal supplied is also of sub-standard quality. Required quantity of coal has not been supplied to the D.P.L. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, statewise, allotment and supply of coking as well as non-coking coal vis-a-vis their requirements.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Question disallowed.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It is a very relevant question. The question is, is it according to the requirement or not?

MR. SPEAKER: I disallowed it.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will also put questions. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mandal, please sit down. There are other questions also. We have consumed fifteen minutes on this question alone. You cannot be allowed to raise things in such a manner. Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: I will sit, but (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Not in this way. First, take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want it to be discussed, I will fix it up for a Half an Hour discussion.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: I obey you. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, first. If one question taken fifteen minutes then only four questions can be taken up in an hour. The question is how many questions you would like to take up, four, six or eight?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to discuss it, you can give a notice for Half-an-Hour discussion. I shall allow that. You people have not read the rule. You want to do it in this hour alone, but there are other people who want to put questions.

[*English*]

You give a notice, I will allow Half-an-Hour Discussion on it

(*Interruptions*)

Gas Pipeline from Bombay High to Southern States

*203. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter-Ministerial Group

set up for examining the question of Southern Gas Grid has taken any decision in regard to laying of gas pipeline from Bombay High to Southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds required for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, not like this. Shri Joshi, you should understand that I have allowed many other Members also. Shri Yadav does not belong to the Congress party.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have been a Deputy Speaker and you understand what is to be done. Please sit down. You ask for half an hour discussion, I will give you the time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I am not satisfied with the answer that has been given because it does not give much details. But I do not lose hope. I would like to know from the Minister whether some discussions have taken place after the Inter-Ministerial Committee has been formed for the purpose of starting a Southern Gas Grid. And if so, whether some kind of frame work has been made any may I know as to when we can expect the possibility of establishing a southern Gas Grid?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, there have been

persistent demands from the Southern States, the States which are very short of power supply and power generation. I would like to say that the Government of India will look into the aspect of creating facilities on the lines, as gas is taken to North from Bombay High through HBJ line. The Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and others have demanded that efforts should be made to take the gas for the purpose of industrial development of the states. The government of India, in its wisdom, appointed a Committee in May 1990, if I am correct, to undertake a study so as to find out whether such a project can be conceived and steps can be taken in this regard.

I am sorry to say that the committee has not been able to furnish the necessary study report to the government in order to enable it to take steps in this regard.

Only yesterday, for the purpose of informing the House, I had a meeting with the officials and I told them that it is very important that the report of the Committee should be submitted to the government so that the government can take a view on the matter and take the House into confidence as to whether such a thing can be done. I understand Sir, that the report is expected very shortly and I will take the House into confidence before I take any steps in this regard.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I am sorry that so far, the committee has not given any report to the government and therefore, we are unable to get any information as to what has transpired in the committee. Then, I would like to put this question. The ONGC had given a very good suggestion that a National Gas should be established which is of great benefit to the whole nation. I would like to know whether at least this report has been considered and whether the government has formed any opinion on this aspect. And if so, what would be the expected outcome from this?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, the proposal for a National Gas Grid is in a conceptual stage. It is true that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) had given

a report to the government about the National Gas Grid in 1984. This study was based on the proven gas reserves and the prognosticated gas reserves at that time. The report included a suggestion for a southern grid, a northern grid, a central grid, north-eastern grid and an eastern grid; but this proposal was not seriously followed. Meanwhile many of the elements of the proposed national grid have already been implemented, such as the HBJ pipeline, a pipeline in Andhra Pradesh, the pipelines in Assam, etc. The southern gas grid proposal is also a part of the original national gas grid proposal.

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: From the reply itself it shows clearly that the government is giving a step-motherly treatment to the southern States. I would like to draw the Government's attention to the representation of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra dated 30th August 1988 and the reply thereof from the Prime Minister dated 16th January 1989 wherein it is indicated that having regard to the surplus availability of gas it is now possible to consider construction of a branch spur line from the HBJ pipeline for supply of gas to Vidarbha and Marathwada areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether such a proposal is being considered or not.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: It is true that such a representation was made to the government by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. But all these things could be looked into when the final report of this committee is sent to the Government.

SHRI A. CHARLES: There is acute shortage of power in Kerala. Kerala mostly depends on hydro-electric projects. This is the only one way to help Kerala. May I know from the hon. Minister, in case the Committee is not giving a favourable report, if some private agencies come forward to take the gas, now being wasted, to Kerala, will that proposal be favourably considered by the Government?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: This is a suggestion of action.

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is generally stated that if you don't want to solve a problem, appoint a committee. It appears that the Committee has been appointed in May 1990 and so far the committee has not done any worthwhile work. I want to know who are the members of the committee, for how many times the committee meeting was held and whether the government will direct the Committee at least to submit an interim report in the next three months.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The inter-Ministerial group which has been constituted, which is referred as the committee here, has already met three times. They have been given very clear terms of reference. The proposal for a southern gas grid involves analysis of various data including the availability of gas as of now and as a result of the exploratory effort in the future. The Committee is headed by Dr. E.S. Sharma, Advisor (Energy), Planning Commission; the Joint Secretary (Exploration) in my Ministry is the convenor. It has as its members, the representatives from the departments of Fertilizer, Steel, Economic Affairs, Central Electricity Authority, GAIL, ONGC and EIL. My senior colleague has already directed the Chairman of the Committee that the report should be submitted at the earliest.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: The surplus gas from Bombay is worth nearly Rs. 5000 crores. This gas is now being wasted, without use. That can be used in southern regions which are away from coal fields to enable rapid industrial development of the South. For this a proposal is also being mooted that 1200 kms. pipeline could be constructed from Bombay to Tuticorin along with the Konkan railway route.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question. This is not correct.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: This is a suggestion Sir.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to give suggestions. Please ask a question. This is not correct. Please ask a question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to give suggestions. Please ask a question. That is not all. This is not correct. Please ask a question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to give suggestions. You have to ask a question. If I give you a chance, you should ask a question. You should not give a suggestion. Question please.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: I understand, Sir. The expert Study has already suggested the implementation of the gas grid, connecting southern region by a pipeline network. I want to know from the Minister as to whether the Government is considering the expert study suggestions for the implementation of the above proposal.

SHRIS. KRISHANKUMAR: Sir, all these suggestions will be considered by the present Committee. Several suggestions have been made by several experts as well as the chief Ministers of the southern States. All these will be considered by the Committee.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: The investment by the ONGC in Southern States is very minute when compared to the investment made in the Northern States for the pipelines in the Northern Region. Will the Minister consider, pending the expert committee meeting - already technical know how is available with the ONGC because they have already laid such lines in the Northern grid - conceiving the southern grid immediately, as otherwise the Southern States will misunderstand their intentions?

MR. SPEAKER: If you have understood, you can reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: One thing I have understood from the question. The hon. Member wants the Southern grid immediately, which is not possible.

[Translation]

SHRI S. SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central government is

committing a criminal negligence in respect of gas. Even the government has not thought about it fully. What is the utility of laying HBJ pipeline by investing more than Rs. 2000/- crore. What percentage of it is being utilised. Excess gas is being flared up at the source of gas field for the last several years. Has the government set up a committee in this regard or has it ever thought about its utility. Did the government think about using the excess gas for industrial purposes or setting up of a gas based power stations or using it as a fuel for vehicles. If so, when will the scheme be implemented?

[English]

SHRIB. SHANKARANAND: Sir, though the hon. Member has asked a very important question, may I tell the House that it has no relevance with the Southern Gas Grid? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: It is connected with gas. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The question before the House is about the feasibility of the Southern Gas Grid. HBJ line has nothing to do with the Southern Gas Grid. What the hon. Member says is this that the capacity having been created, has been awfully under-utilised; and there has been a demand from the industrial units but we have not been able to supply them. It is true that industrial units which were expected for the utilisation of the gas through HBJ line, have not come up and for that purpose we have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, to find out as to who are those people who have cornered this gas and who are those who have not been able to do anything to utilise this gas. They are taking steps in this regard. So, such Unit's gas commitment will be cancelled and that gas will be supplied to the needy people, who are ready and willing to have the downstream industrial units.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he talked about the Northern grid, Central Grid, North-Eastern Grid and Southern Grid. But the gas pipeline is going

through Maharashtra. We have requested some gas based industries outlet from the gas pipeline in Satpura ranges from where there are five tribal MPs. It is a tribal belt. But that suggestion has not been considered.

I would like to know this from the Minister. As there is a policy of the Central government that there should be *in situ* industries as far as coal production is concerned - coal based industries should be located in the coal producing areas - will the same principle be applied here with regard to the gas based industries and especially where tribal belt is there in Satpura ranges and the pipeline is going through that area. I want to know whether some outlet will be given and they will be encouraged to start them. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Minister is replying.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, a total of 45 million cubic metres per day of gas is being produced today. Government has already made commitments for supply of double the quantity - about 90 million cubic metres per day. So, it is not as if the commitment has not been made for the available production.

As my senior colleague mentioned, there has been delay in the establishment of downstream projects. Therefore, there is under-utilisation of gas along the HBJ pipeline. The availability of gas in any other state, in any other district, at a particular point depends upon carrying the gas to that point and the availability at that point. A gas linkage committee has been constituted with the Petroleum Secretary as Chairman. The gas linkage committee continuously assesses the availability of gas as against the applications made for its utilisation and takes appropriate decisions.

The Member's suggestions will also be considered by that committee.

Fishing Harbours in Orissa

*204. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals for setting up of fishing harbours in Orissa pending clearance with the Union government as on date; and

(b) the steps taken to clear the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). There are no proposals from Orissa on fishing harbours pending with the Central Government. However, four proposals for the construction of fish landing centres could not be processed for want of clearance to be furnished by the State government regarding the Coastal Regulation Zone under the provisions of the environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is the twelfth largest fishing country in the world with a turnover potential of Rs 875 crores.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gajapati, you need not give that information. Probably Minister knows that information.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Orissa State, to which I belong, has got a vast coastline of 480 kilometres comprising of four districts. At present, only one fish landing site at Dhamara in Balasore district is functioning. However, the proposed three other fish landing sites at Galapur, Astarang and Paradip have yet to be commissioned.

MR. SPEAKER: You know, it is very difficult for me to tell all the Members at all the times that they have to speak to the point. But if I do not say this thing, the time of other Members is consumed. Please excuse me. But come to the point.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Sir, what I want to stress on is that even if certain statutory provisions have not been furnished by the Orissa government, there exists Central Institute of Coastal Engineering and Fisheries in Bangalore. It is a Central Government body which can look into the technical aspects and expedite the ending