

that we should accept whatever the Minister says in this regard? I would like to lend my support to my friend Mr. George Fernandes. The Gulf surcharge was imposed in a specific condition when temporarily the international oil prices had shot up to 40 dollars per barrel. Now the oil prices had slumped to around 22 dollars. There is really no justification for the continuity of Gulf surcharge when the international prices had slumped from 40 dollars to 22 dollars. My friend Mr. George Fernandes had asked a simple question. . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This question was already put by him. Please ask a different question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : In the light of the changed situation, will the Government now drop the Gulf surcharge so that the prices automatically come to normal?

MR. SPEAKER : This question was already asked by him.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : can only say that it is a suggestion for action.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Mr Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to say that the farmers are not able to get diesel because its rate has gone up. They have to buy it in black market to meet their requirement. I want to know when does the Minister propose to reduce the price of diesel in order to provide relief to the farmers.

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : All our efforts will be to help the farmers.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA : In clear terms the Congress Party pledged before the country that within 100 days diesel and kerosene prices would be reduced. There is no answer to that question. Is the Government going to reduce the prices of kerosene and diesel within 100 days?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The Hon. Member himself has answered my question by referring to 100 days.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : What is the percentage of central taxes plus Gulf surcharge in the price structure of per litre of diesel and kerosene?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I need a separate notice for that.

Maximisation of Power Generation

*43. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have recently discussed with the State Electricity Boards various steps to maximise power generation ;

(b) whether there have been some differences over the role of the National Power Distribution Corporation and whether the same have since been sorted out ;

(c) the details of the fresh measures Government propose to take to maximise power generation ; and

(d) the extent to which the position is likely to improve as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Union Government regularly holds discussion with State Authorities at the time of formulating annual plans and clearance of various projects regarding the steps to be taken to improve the overall performance of State Electricity Boards, including maximisation of power generation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The measures taken by the Government to maximise power generation include ; (i) increase in the Plant Load Factor of Thermal Power Stations ; (ii) Steps to reduce T&D losses ; (iii) installation of capacitors to improve voltage profile ; (iv) Renovation and Modernisation Programme of old thermal power stations ; (v) training for Engineers and Operation and Maintenance personnel for reducing unplanned outages of power plants ; (vi) introduction of productivity linked incentive scheme for generation and assistance to SEBs in procurement of requisite quality and quantity of coal and also spare parts from indigenous and foreign sources. These steps which were continued during the past, are being followed in the present plan period. In addition,

new generating capacity is proposed to be added during the 8th Plan.

(d) The overall energy shortage in the country is likely to come down to about 3% by the end of the 8th Plan, as against the energy shortage of 8% during 1990-91.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: When the country is facing an unprecedented power shortage, though there have been efforts to maximise power generation, these have had limited success. There seems to be complicity of various States and Central agencies with regard to power generation. In view of this fact, I would like to know the steps that have been taken to formulate a national power policy with regard to generation and distribution of power both conventional and non-conventional, and to maximise power generation.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Continuous inter-action is maintained with the State Electricity Boards for maximising generation through various meetings. Monthly meetings of the operation coordination committee are held in which all the SEB regions participate. Secretary (Coal) and Special Secretary (Power) also meet the Chairmen of SEBs individually as well as through organised meetings on regional and national levels to discuss maximisation of power from generating units. Secretary (Coordination) is taking weekly meetings on every Friday. He reviews the coal supplies to thermal power stations so that generation level is maintained and no power station faces closure due to lack of adequate coal supplies. Every year conferences of Power Ministers and

Chief Ministers are held to discuss various issues relating to power sector including maximisation of power generation. The last Power Ministers conference was held in September, 1990 and the last Chief Ministers conference was held in February, 1991. The Conference of Chief Ministers discussed the role of SEBs in power development and their financial problems. I have also called a meeting of the Chairmen of the State Electricity Boards in August, 1991.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Karnataka is also facing acute shortage of power. There are some projects which have already been taken up to produce more power. For example, Kaiga Nuclear Power Project. But it is facing problems due to opposition from environmentalists. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what is the Government view on the environmental problem and what steps have been taken to expedite the Kaiga Nuclear Power Project.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Sir, this question does not come under my Ministry.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated that he is trying to provide adequate electricity as per the requirement. The Kota Thermal Power Plant has to remain closed for four-five days consecutively due to non-availability of coal in adequate quantity. If coal is made available, it is of inferior quality. Three days back, the Chief Engineer of the Plant visited your

department but your Ministry made no effort to supply coal of better quality. As such, your department is requested to supply coal of a better quality so that there can be more power generation in that area. Keeping this in view will be Hon. Minister extend assistance to Kota Thermal Power Plant so that it may generate more power for the nation?

[*English*]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Sir, this question does not come under my Ministry. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I had allowed you to ask the question and you are talking something else.

[*English*]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Karnataka is one of the power deficit States in the entire country. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Central investment in power sector in respect of Karnataka is far below than the national average and if it is so what steps the Government propose to take up to wipe out such discrimination?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir Mangalore Thermal Power Plant is under consideration and Government is trying its level best to augment the power supply to Karnataka.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: There is acute shortage of power in Delhi,

resulting in blackout. What steps are being taken by the Government to supply more electricity to Delhi?

[*English*]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : I want a specific answer. . . (*Interruptions*) I want to know whether it is far below than the national average or not. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, it is about the maximisation of power. It entirely comes under this question. The Minister should not be so technical in answering questions.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Minister, are you interested in replying to his question? . . .

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You will be allowed one by one.

[*English*]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country is divided in five zones—North, South, East, West and North-East and in this zone of South, my Government, in 1989, proposed to set up the Mangalore Thermal Power Corporation. It will involve thousands crores of rupees. We try to exploit power where it is available and then try to transmit that power to some more regions in that zone.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, now-a-days, there is a heavy power-shortage in Delhi and in certain areas, there is no power supply for

28 hours. Therefore, through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister of Energy the steps he is going to take to supply more electricity to Delhi?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Kalkadasji, again you will see that he does not answer. This is a general question and you are asking a specific question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to the generation of electricity.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : O.K. you put the question if you are interested . . .

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Will you please indicate the places where the shortage of power exists? There is power shortage in Delhi; so will they provide more electricity? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You are getting up again and again. It is not right when others are asking questions.

[*English*]

If I call out your name, you will please get up and ask the question, but not like this please. Others are also disturbed.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Sir the Hon. Member's question does not arise out of this question . . . (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK : The Minister has no right to say that "question does not arise". He can say that the question is not related to the subject.

[*English*]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Sir, it has been stated that the Hon. Minister had discussions with the State Electricity Boards. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the State Electricity Boards could not maximise the power generation due to paucity of funds and due to heavy losses incurred by them.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : No, that is not a fact, Sir. If the Hon. Member asks me this question, I would say that today the Plant Load Factor is the lowest in Bihar. This is the job of the State Electricity Boards and the State Electricity Boards are autonomous bodies. Therefore, I cannot reply this question .. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Khuranaji ..

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Either you say that no question should be put about electricity; there is heavy shortage of electricity in Delhi and you say ..

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question.

SHRI KALKA DAS : What happened to my question ?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot extract answers and replies from me also. You have to get them from the Ministers.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Please state whether the question regarding Delhi is relevant or not ?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : If the answer is not satisfying, you can have your own interpretation of the answer. It is not necessary all the time for me to interfere.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Mr. Speaker, are you protecting me ? Electricity is an important subject. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I am asking Shri Khurana to speak.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is what was the target of power generation during the Seventh Plan and how much has been achieved and the total net loss incurred by all the boards ?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the target of power generation during the Seventh Five Year Plan was 22,245 M.W. which was achieved and the target during the Eighth Five Year Plan was fixed at 38,000 M.W. but when you came to power, it was catastrophe .. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The words used by the Minister, I will look into.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Delhi-Bombay Flight Via Allahabad

*44. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Allahabad-Delhi flight has been regularised and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government are considering to introduce a flight from Delhi to Bombay via Allahabad; and

(c) if so, when it is likely to be introduced ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK) : (a) Indian Airlines has temporarily suspended its service to Allahabad because of operational constraints.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated by the Hon. Minister that Indian Airlines has temporarily suspended its services to

Allahabad because of operational constraints. I would like to know those operational constraints and the time by which the services to Allahabad will be restored by removing those constraints ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member is aware that the gulf-war started in August 1990 and a big number of our aircraft were deployed to repatriate the Indians residing there. Particularly, the Air-buses were used there. To maintain the services on high density routes, the Boeing 737 were withdrawn from the low density routes and that is why the service to Allahabad was temporarily suspended.

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very simple issue. Now, there is no chance of Gulf like situation arising. Keeping the reply now given by the Hon. Minister in view, I would like to request him to restore the Airlines services to Allahabad by considering the issue sympathetically so that the people get the facility of air transport.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure the Hon. Member that we would make attempts to consider each and every issue sympathetically. Some local residents of Allahabad also came to see us in this regard. Some Congressmen also came to me and said a lot of things in this regard. For the last two weeks, we have been making efforts to review the issue and I would like to tell the Hon. Member that the