

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Prof. Kurien is saying.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, this is too much. Please take your seat. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir it is not that I am not associated with the feelings of the hon. Member from West Bengal, but let us take it up during 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: My region is also Mumbai.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: That belongs to all of us alike.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is not merely the wish of Bengal Members, but of the entire House.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Let us take it up during the 'Zero Hour'. *

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien, please put your question. I have already said that I would allow them in the 'Zero Hour'. Now, please ask your question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I am supporting them.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not supposed to support them. You may now put your question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I abide by your ruling Q. No. 562.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Transmission and Distribution System

*562. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be please to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation has drawn plans to invest around Rs. 13,000 crore in the transmission and distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Power Grid Corporation has also sought an additional loan of Rs. 4,000 crore from certain other sources;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether the Government have approved Corporation's programme for expansion; and

(f) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE Minister of POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The amount required for completing the ongoing schemes and for taking up new schemes is Rs. 5,700 crores and Rs. 7,235 crores respectively. An additional investment of Rs. 5,000 crores will be required for the construction of the transmission system to evacuate power from the 6x660 MW thermal power plant proposed to be established at Hirma, in Orissa, which would supply power to the States of Northern and Western Regions.

(c) and (d) POWERGRID has already contracted loans for Rs. 2,921 crores. It proposes to raise Rs. 7,641 crores through loans from foreign multilateral/bilateral funding agencies and Rs. 2,300 crores loans from domestic financing institutions.

(e) and (f) The Government has delegated powers to POWERGRID to sanction projects costing upto Rs. 100 crores. All the ongoing projects have been approved. POWERGRID has proposed to take up 27 new projects during the Ninth Plan Period. Government approval for the 17 projects involving investment over Rs. 100 crores will be accorded after the projects have received techno-economic clearance. The remaining 10 projects involving investment of less than Rs. 100 crores will be approved by the POWERGRID Board.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I have gone through the hon. Minister's reply to the question. He has stated that

Powergrid has already contracted loans for Rs. 2,921 crore from abroad. It is a well known fact that in our country the loss due to power transmission is on the very high side. It is more than 21 per cent. But in other developed countries and even in developing countries, the loss due to power transmission is much less. It is as low as three to four percent. Please see the loss of electricity that we are making on this account. If we are able to reduce this power loss alone, I am sure, the shortage of power in the country can be rectified. But I am neither seeing anything in his reply nor any effort being made from the Government's side or from the side of the Powergrid Corporation to reduce the transmission loss.

When there is no much development in technology and when you are contracting for loans from abroad, why is it that you do not consider this aspect and try to bring technology so that the power transmission loss could be reduced?

I would like to ask a question in three parts: (a) What is the percentage of transmission loss in our country? (b) What are the steps that the Government is contemplating to reduce the transmission loss? (c) What is the amount earmarked for offsetting the power transmission loss?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am grateful that the hon. Member has drawn the attention of the House to the high transmission and distribution losses. The figure that the hon. Member has indicate is not just about transmission loss only. It is for both transmission and distribution. The losses in the arena that the Powergrid looks after are within the international standards as indicated by the hon. Member. But with regard to the transmission, what is called the sub-transmission, and the transmission in the State sector, in 1995-96, on an average, it is in the region of 22.67 per cent throughout the country.

We are taking steps in this direction. We have a programme for upgradation of transmission and distribution systems of the States. We are giving both technological advice and assistance and also subsidised interest loans to the Power Finance Corporation to upgrade and modernise the transmission and distribution systems in the States. Fortunately, the transmission of the National Grid is new and extremely efficient. But that alone will not do. One has to improve the transmission systems in the States to ensure that we are able to achieve international standards.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It was a question asking specifically about the total percentage of losses in transit.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Was it for the national transit or was it about the total?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Total.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: In 1995-96, the total is 22.67 per cent.

PROF. 'P.J. KURIEN: And in transmission?

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: All right. I seek your protection. My question had three parts, namely, (a), (b) and (c). He has ignored parts (b) and (c). Have you earmarked some amounts for meeting the transmission loss for making it up? What are your specific plans? I asked about that also but you did not answer to that. I think, you do not have the answer. If you do not have it right now, you kindly write to me. If it is readily available, then, please tell me.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: We do not need to earmark any amount. In fact, it is one of our priority sectors. In the power sector, as and when the State Electricity Boards are asking us for loan assistance through the Power Finance Corporation, we are, in fact, sanctioning these loans on a priority basis.

There is no problem with earmarking amounts. The situation is that almost 50 per cent of our Budgetary support is towards transmission and distribution. We are giving assistance to the States where they do not have money. Many States have taken up transmission and distribution improvement as their first priority. I do expect that by the end of the Plan period we should be in a much better position.

The question which, I think, Shri Sharad Pawar wanted me to reply was on the energy loss at the national level. We are, at the moment, less than three-and-a-half per cent as against a world average of four per cent. So, we are in a very good position at the national level.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien has to ask his second supplementary.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, those of us reside in Delhi know about the impact of the power failure. Everyday

there is power failure and it is happening even in the houses of the MPs. When I enquired from the concerned Department. I was told that the main lacunae for this was the distribution system.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien, please understand that there are twelve Members who want to ask supplementaries on this question. Please stick to the time.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I would abide by your ruling. But I am raising an important issue.

Sir, everyday there is a power failure. It has been said that the power failure is due to the lack of efficient distribution system. Further, it has also been stated that it is due to our using obsolete technology in this.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this power failure is due to the inefficient distribution system and use of obsolete technology or not. If so, what corrective steps are being taken by the Government to rectify the position?

Sir, the second part of my supplementary is this. Out of the projects that have been sanctioned by the Government, there is no mention of the Southern Grid, especially of Kerala's Kayamkulam Thermal project. This Kayamkulam Thermal project is being commissioned now. How much amount has been sanctioned by the Government for the transmission grids of this project? I would like the hon. Minister to answer these two specific supplementaries. I have used very few sentences for this.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am constrained to agree with the points made by the hon. Member that, including Delhi, we are having a substantial amount of—if I may say, no power cuts - power failures because of inefficient distribution system. The reason is not only the case of poor local distribution system but also the Plan, which was enunciated over four years ago, for putting a ring transmission system around Delhi has not yet been complete.

Sir, I can say that on medium term basis, we are going through the installation of a 400 kva Barnauli SS and a sub-station, namely, Bawana—Barnauli—Ballabgarh line with a 400 KVA ring which would complete this ring. It is my hope that this ring would ensure that there is, at least, efficient transmission grid around Delhi which was a requirement to ensure even power flow into Delhi just like the traffic flows in the Ring Road.

Sir, with regard to the augmentation of the system of distribution and reduction of T&D losses, various options are being worked out. The Delhi Government and the Delhi Vidyut Board have taken a decision that they would privatise certain areas of Delhi's distribution system to bring in investment and also modernise the manner of distribution and collection of revenues.

Sir, the ICICI has been given the consultancy. They have sought 40 weeks' time. We are in the process of trying to convince them that a much shorter time period will serve the purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Bawana Phase-I and Bawana Phase-II have been lying closed for the last 2 years. Get them started.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I say this categorically that we are applying our mind to a problem which has got an historical background. It is my hope that with the support of the Members of this House, within the next couple of years, we should be able to solve most of our problems.

With regard to the question of Kayamkulam, I do not know if my good friend did or did not hear me out carefully, but Kayamkulam is an on-going project in the Southern region for which Rs. 202.7 crore have been allotted. Funds are made available to it and we hope that Kayamkulam-I should be ready by 1999, which would be capable of transmitting 1000 M^W of power. We would have reached the stage of getting our 2000 MW expansion plan of Kayamkulam-II whereby we would also have a very powerful transmission link there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand it. He is the second signatory. He has to put his supplementary.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister has emphasised on several occasions that in the Ninth Plan he would wish to achieve 40,000 MW power generation. In spite of his giving promises and taking active part also, I could not understand how 1040 MW power project in my Constituency, Visakhapatna, could not be started till now. The hon. Minister had promised to the people of Visakhapatnam that he would be able to start 1040 MW power project before the end of this month and he had gone to Visakhapatnam for its inauguration

also. Till now, it has become a *Endamaavi*, as is called in Telugu, which means seeing the water from distance. Nothing is moving, it is static. I understand that there is gross difference in the thinking of the Ministers of Railways, Finance and yourself. Whatever may be the differences in the interest of the nation and in the interest of power generation, the Minister should make it clear as to what action he is going to take in this regard. The Minister should assure the House as to when exactly he is going to start the Hinduja Power Project. When would the Minister start 1040 MW power project giving new life to the people of Visakhapatnam? When would the Minister going to have Mahanadi Coal Linkage Agreement? I believe that without this agreement the project cannot start. I would like to have a clear and categorical assurance from the Minister.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I have given an assurance that the Cabinet have taken a decision and the decision of the Cabinet would be implemented to the effect that the counter-guarantee drafts should be made available to the three counter-guarantee projects by the end of this month. I am pleased to inform the House, through you, that at least with regard to the Hinduja National Power Corporation Project, the draft counter-guarantee has been initiated by the Finance Ministry for an agreement with the lenders and sent to the company. Now, it is only a case of signing the tripartite agreement between the State Government, the company and the Central Government for executing the final counter-guarantee and for them to move into financial closure. It is true that there is a small bottleneck with regard to finally signing the contract between MCL and the company, it is my hope that we would be able to sort this out very soon.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: When exactly do you hope to do it?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Let me complete. It will be done very soon, well before the company would every reach a stage of financial closure.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has stated in this reply that during the Ninth Five Year Plan period, it is proposed to undertake 27 new projects under the power grid. Government's approval

on them is subject to the acceptability of the techno-economic reports on these projects. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many of these are meant for Madhya Pradesh, out of the 27 new projects which are to be undertaken and what is the state-wise break of these projects?

[*English*]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: With regard to the State of Madhya Pradesh, the Sipat project is expected to be commissioned in the year 2003; the Load Dispatching Communication, Western Region, by 2002; and the Western-Eastern Inter-regional link by 2001. The cost of the Sipat project is Rs. 1000 crore; cost of the Load Despatch Communication of Western Region is Rs. 298 crore; and that of the Western-Eastern Inter-Regional Link is Rs. 680 crore. This is with regard to the projects in Madhya Pradesh. The Sipat project is cleared in status, loan funding has been announced. The Load Despatch is before the PIB and the Western-Eastern Inter-Regional Link, at the moment, is pending with the Central Electricity Authority for TEC clearance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now-a-days, Madhya Pradesh is in the grip of power Crisis. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, please sit down.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board is reeling under severe power crisis. It supplies power to other States but is not being paid the electricity charges by them.

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Sir, Kerala is facing a lot of problems in the fields of electricity generation, transmission and supply. Kerala is having only a 400 kv line from Udumalpet to Thrissur. An agreement has been signed now according to which an additional power of 200 mw is going to come to Kerala. This cannot be realised unless a new line of 400 kv is laid. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a proposal to construct a new 400 kv line from Talcher to Kerala.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: There is a proposal for Talcher II project. It is expected to be commissioned in the year 2003. The amount of money allotted to it is Rs. 3589.17 crore. It is, at the moment, proposed to be taken to the PIB for consideration.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Thank you, Sir, for giving me the first chance during the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Transmission lines are planned taking into account the projection of loads coming to the various load centres and the amount of power carried from generating stations to the load centres. I want to know whether it is a fact that the transmission lines commissioned, either with foreign assistance or loans, are not carrying the projected load of power to the different load centres. I say this because some load comes at the time of planning and afterwards it is found that the load is not available. In such cases the whole investment that is made in the transmission line becomes a bad investment. Has any assessment been made in this regard for the transmission lines already commissioned with foreign loans? Is it a fact that the transmission lines commissioned with foreign loans are not carrying the required quantities of power as envisaged during planning?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: To the best of my knowledge, none of the transmission lines which are commissioned for specific loads is showing any signs of failure of carrying the load. It true that there have been cases where the expected load centre growth has not taken place, especially in the Eastern region. I do not want to go into a batting exercise to say why they are not. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: There are other regions also. If the Minister is not well-prepared, he should not confine himself to some regions only. He should have rational outlook.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Let me make one thing clear. As rightly pointed out by the hon. Member, Shri Anil Basu, it is correct that there are times when it takes place. As I said, transmission lines which have been built according to specifications are capable of functioning up to specifications.

But there are two sides in a transmission line. One side is generation and the other side is Load Centre. If one of them is delayed in coming up, then the utility of transmission lines comes down. There have been cases where Load Centres have not grown. I can give very harsh reasons but I do not want to. But there is a growth

problem and when it does not happen, one should look at the overall economy in that place.

There are times when delay in commissioning of generation projects causes certain problems. But these are very few and in fact we start the construction of transmission lines only when we see that the generation plant and the Load Centre are picking up. Therefore, it is not that it has not happened. We are now on a very safe wicket on this matter.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister, the other day placed on the Table of the House the rules of Central Electricity Authority in regard to distribution. According to his own statement, the NTPC power which is being given through grid system cannot be supplied to any consumer at the NTPC rates directly by the NTPC. Unfortunately, in the name of export-oriented units for Ferro Alloys industries, which is not even exporting one kilogram, are supplying and charging at the rate of Rs. 1.50 per unit. Thus, Electricity Boards are being deprived of Rs. 2 per unit.

For example, the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board is losing Rs. 600 crore. The hon. Minister has to protect the electricity Boards. The hon. Minister has no right to directly supply the power at the NTPC rate. The Hon. Minister has directed the State Electricity Boards to give it. It is an important question Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Already half-an-hour is over. Even though it is an important question, you can straightway ask the supplementary. I know, it is serious but you should also consider the time constraints. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: He was in Vishakhapatnam on 18th June. The hon. Chief Minister A.P. has gone on record saying this. I would request the hon. Minister to review the supply directly. What is the situation? Is the hon. Minister going to review or stop supplying for Rs. 1.50 per unit, which is not proper? The electricity Board was put to loss. Will the hon. Minister make good the Rs. 600 crore loss to the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is true that under the Act, the NTPC is not a distributor or a licensee to directly give supply but the Act also so provides that the State Government, on the recommendation of the SEB, can give consent to any generating unit to give direct supply to a particular industry or a consumer. These cases, in fact, are cases which have taken place well before our Government came into office. My good friend

who asked the question, it is his party which gave the direction. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: I am asking the Government, not the party.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is his party which was in power gave the direction. Let me make it clear that this is done only when the State Government recommends and gives consent. We are very categorical about it. We do not do it directly unless such a situation arises. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: The State Chief Minister has requested you to review it. ...*(Interruptions)* It has appeared in the Press. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am sorry to say that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has not written a letter to me or made a request to review it. In case such a letter comes, I shall look into it.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: You never mentioned about the rate at which you are supplying. That is more important.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The rate, as I said, would be the NTPC rate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: It is not the SEB rate. SEB rate is Rs. 3.75 per unit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is the NTPC rate.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, out of the projects taken up by the Power Grid, how many 400 kv Sub-stations and 132 kv Sub-stations have been installed in Orissa

Secondly, the 6/660 MW project...

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only one supplementary and no second supplementary.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, this is in continuation of that.

Sir, I would like to know when would the 6x660 MW project, which is coming up in the State of Orissa, evacuate power and when is the project contemplated to be completed.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, the situation as in Orissa is that there are three projects. The Load and Despatch and Communication Centre of the Eastern region which is expected to be completed by the year 2002. The amount of money sanctioned is Rs. 210 crore. The Talcher project is to be completed by 2003. It is of Rs. 3,589.17 crore and the Western-Eastern Inter-Regional Link is of Rs. 680 crore.

With regard to Hirma Project or the 6x660 MW Thermal Power Plant, we have run into a little problem because the Government of Orissa is insisting on 12 per cent free power being given in addition to the coal royalty. It has never happened in any other thermal project, thereby raising the tariff to a non-saleable situation. The purchasing States in this Inter-State Project refuse to take on the burden on this 12 per cent. So, until that is sorted out, there is no way in which the dates for the Hirma Project can be given.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Northern India has not been covered in this question. ...*(Interruptions)* Thereafter, wherever there is need of power, there ...*(Interruptions)* Northern India assumes greater significance in this matter as it caters to the grain requirement of the country. There the power is required. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not so.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You do not allow any Member from northern belt to raise questions. That is not fair.

THE Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND Minister of TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Bhajan Lal ji, the train has already left.

[English]

Festivals of India Abroad

*563. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Festivals of India were organised in various countries in the past;