

[Translation]

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decision which you have taken to discontinue the quota of gas and telephone is a good decision indeed. In my view, this quota should have been discontinued much earlier. Please also please stop the allocation of Rs. one crore from M.Ps. quota. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very good.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have gone to the next question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Sir, this is a wrong thing.

Shortage of Power

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*64. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV:

will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious crisis of power has arisen in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and other States recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain the proper balance between the demand and supply of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) During the period November, 1996 to January, 1997, there were some grid disturbances in the Northern Grid which affected the power supply to Delhi and other States in the Northern Region.

In the period April, 1996 to January, 1997, there was an energy and peaking shortage of 2.5% and 7% respectively in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The energy and peaking shortage for the corresponding period in the country was 11% and 17% respectively. The State-wise position is given in Annexure-I and II. enclosed.

(b) The reasons for the power shortage, inter-alia, are as under:

- (i) Growing gap between demand and supply of power;
- (ii) Decline in Hydel power generation; and
- (iii) Disruption in gas supply on the HBJ Pipeline which

was partially shut-down from 1.1.1997 to 23.1.1997 thereby affecting power generation by Gas based power plants.

(c) The measures being taken to maintain balance between demand and supply include the following:

- (i) Increase in generation from existing plants by improvement of Plant Load Factor (PLF);
- (ii) Capacity addition;
- (iii) Renovation and modernisation of existing plants;
- (iv) Demand side management measures;
- (v) Reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses; and
- (vi) Inter-State/Inter-regional transfer of power.

Annexure-I

Statewise Actual Power Supply position in the country During the Period April '96 to January '97.

(All figures in MU net)

Region/ State/system	April '96-January '97			%
	Requi- rement	Availa- bility	Shor- tage	
1	2	3	4	5
NORTHERN REGION:				
Chandigarh	755	754	1	0.1
Delhi	11,980	11,684	296	2.5
Haryana	11,745	11,189	556	4.7
Himachal Pradesh	1,931	1,911	20	1.0
Jammu & Kashmir	3,918	3,207	711	18.1
Punjab	18,635	18,299	336	1.8
Rajasthan	16,135	15,154	981	6.1
Uttar Pradesh	34,155	29,605	4,550	13.3
N.R.	99,254	91,792	7,462	7.5
WESTERN REGION:				
Gujarat	31,460	28,922	2,538	8.1
Madhya Pradesh	26,460	23,705	2,755	10.4
Maharashtra	49,430	46,847	2,583	5.2
Goa	1,062	1,062	0	0.0
W.R.	108,412	100,548	7,864	7.3
SOUTHERN REGION:				
Andhra Pradesh	32,900	25,571	7,329	22.3
Karnataka	20,230	14,944	5,286	26.1
Kerala	9,445	7,256	2,169	23.2

1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	29,800	25,633	4,167	14.0
S.R.	92,375	73,404	18,971	20.5
EASTERN REGION:				
Bihar	8,005	5,799	2,206	27.6
DVC	6,965	6,759	206	3.0
Orissa	8,805	8,529	276	3.1
West Bengal	12,860	12,493	367	2.9
E.R.	36,635	33,580	3,055	8.3
NORTH-EASTERN REGION:				
Arunachal Pr.	136.4	70.1	66.3	48.6
Assam	2527.2	2302.0	225.2	8.9
Manipur	331.4	308.1	23.3	7.0
Meghalaya	336.4	336.4	0.0	0.0
Mizoram	151.3	130.5	20.8	23.7
Nagaland	150.1	129.1	21.0	14.0
Tripura	400.2	306.8	93.4	23.3
N.E.R.	4033.0	3583.0	450.0	11.2
All India	340709	302907	37802	11.1

Annexure-II

State-wise Actual Peak Demand Vs. Peak met in the country during the period April '96 to January '97

(All figures in MU net)

Region/ State/System	April '96-January '97			
	Peak demand	Peak met	Shortage	%
1	2	3	4	5
NORTHERN REGION:				
Chandigarh	166	166	0	0.0
Delhi	2,230	2,073	157	7.0
Haryana	2,170	1,826	344	15.9
Himachal Pradesh	525	515	10	1.9
Jammu & Kashmir	900	746	154	17.1
Punjab	4,020	3,695	325	8.1
Rajasthan	3,010	2,707	303	10.1
Uttar Pradesh	6,680	5,346	1,334	20.0
N.R.	18,180	15,116	3,064	16.9
WESTERN REGION:				
Gujarat	6,000	4,974	1,026	17.1
Madhya Pradesh	6,200	4,395	1,805	29.1
Maharashtra	9,200	8,332	868	9.4
Goa	198	198	0	0.0
W.R.	21,000	17,402	3,598	17.1

1	2	3	4	5
SOUTHERN REGION:				
Andhra Pradesh	5,940	4,540	1,400	23.6
Karnataka	4,110	3,205	905	22.0
Kerala	2,040	1,551	489	24.0
Tamil Nadu	5,410	4,528	882	16.3
S.R.	16,350	13,066	3,284	20.1
EASTERN REGION:				
Bihar	1,820	997	823	45.2
DVC	1,580	1,253	327	20.7
Orissa	1,930	1,677	253	13.1
West Bengal	2,800	2,488	312	11.1
E.R.	8,000	6,365	1,635	20.4
NORTH-EASTERN REGION:				
Arunachal Pr.	51	40	11	21.6
Assam	511	511	0	0.0
Manipur	78	61	17	21.8
Meghalaya	102	102	0	0.0
Mizoram	49	49	0	0.0
Nagaland	42	39	3	7.1
Tripura	88	68	20	22.7
N.E.R.	875	802	73	8.3
All India	63,222	52,491	10,731	17.0

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MAHTA: It has been said in the reply that

[English]

"(b) The reasons for the power shortage, inter-alia, are as under:

(i) Growing gap between demand and supply of power;..."

[Translation]

For solution, it has been said that;

[English]

"(i) Increase in generation from existing plants by improvement of Plant Load Factor (PLF)

[Translation]

You can imagine that when population of the country is increasing, the demand will also go up. Was the Government not aware that the demand will increase in proportion to the population? And, hence, it should have

taken pre-emptive steps ...*(Interruptions)* When such a situation arose due to the decline in hydel power, the State Government of Bihar submitted its report to the Central Government for the Koel Karo project. The Central Government had put three conditions before the State Government. These conditions were that the State Government will have to buy entire power generated at a reasonable rate; arrangement shall have to be made for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons and the law and order condition will have to be kept under control. Despite the fact that the State Government accepted all the three conditions, the project is still pending with the Central Government even after so many years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: The work on that project is yet to start. therefore, I would like to know whether the project is under consideration of the Government and the time by which the work work would be started?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as rightly said, there is a decrease in the hydel generation of 6.2 percentage, even though there is an increase in thermal power of 6.1 per cent and in nuclear power of 12.7 per cent with an overall increase in generation of 3.8 per cent. But an overall shortage of power is there in the country, due to low power generation in the hydel sector. We can see the actual generation also.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, I have asked a specific question which is about starting of the Koel Karo Project.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Yes. I am coming to that.

MR. SPEAKER: He is coming to that.

(Interruptions)

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: The hon. Member first raised the question of decrease in hydel power generation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Madhukar, if you have any grievance or if you want a discussion, you can serve a notice under an appropriate rule. You cannot disturb the House like this. Now please sit down.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, it can be done like this. Half-an-hour discussion may be allowed on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, I am not talking about that matter. The Member has the right to give notice under rules. You have the right to do it and it is my decision to see whether it will be admitted or not. There is a limit.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not worry about that. He has the right to give notice and it is my right to decide on it. The matter ends there.

(Interruptions)

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, we are not able to take up the Koel Karo project due to paucity of funds. The hon. Prime Minister has already intimated this to the hon. Chief Minister of Bihar.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: What is your answer regarding the release of Rs. 10 crore for starting the project? Only if you answer this question, I will ask my second supplementary. The Central Government wants to release Rs. 10 crore for starting that project after all these conditions are accepted by the Bihar Government. That amount has not yet been released. What about that ?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: All conditions are not accepted by the Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I think a lot of discussion has taken place between you and the hon. Minister.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: No, Sir. Not like that.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Only after discussing all the conditions, at present the Central Government is not accepting the proposal of the koelkaro project. The hon. Prime Minister has already sent this information to the hon. Chief Minister of Bihar. It is due to the paucity of funds with NHPC.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chun Chun Prasad Yadav.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, I have not asked my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask your second supplementary quickly.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that efforts are being made to increase the capacity. Though coal is available in Bihar in plenty, yet the Government did not set up any new plant there to increase the capacity ever after so many years. I want to know the attitude of the Central Government towards it. What is the justification in carrying the coal hundreds and thousands of kilometres away from Bihar to be burned in the power plants outside the State than to set up a power generation plant in Bihar itself? I want to know the views of the Central Government to set up new capacity plant for generation of power in Bihar. According to the table given by the hon. Minister the requirement of the State is 8,000 MW and that too we are not able to make available to the consumers. I would like to know the steps contemplated by the Central Government to get out of this mess and to add new capacity in Bihar so that coal may not have to be transported to distant places?

[*English*]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, as far as Bihar State Government is concerned, they are actually drawing more than their allocation from the Central sector. And we are also taking up a project of 2,000 megawatt capacity at Nabi Nagar. That mega power project is coming up in Bihar.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from Delhi, other State like Bihar, U.P. etc. are also facing power crisis. Power shortage is being felt everywhere. On 11th last, Shri Tejendra Khanna, the LT Governor of Delhi had said Delhi was facing power crisis on day-to-day basis. The major reasons for power crisis was theft of power. He said that in order to check theft of power, unauthorised colonies would be given power connections. He further said that he had already held consultations with the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary. I would like to know from the Government whether the process to supply permanent power connections to those who steal power by putting a direct hook on the transmission line in unauthorised colonies has been started and if this process has not been started, the time by which this process would be started?

[*English*]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, the issue of giving permanent connections falls under the DESU. The Central Government has already handed over the DESU to the elected Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. That Government has recently constituted a new Electricity Board. It will take firm action to reduce the transmission and distribution losses. It will also look into the issue of giving new connections.

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, let the Minister please state about the arrears that are due to the Central Government by DESU.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: The outstanding dues from DESU to NTPC as on 31st January, 1997 are Rs. 817.80 crore. It includes a surcharge of Rs. 104.50 crore. The total comes to Rs. 922.30 crore. They have accepted Rs. 83 crore in NTPC's monthly billing. An LC has been opened by DESU for Rs. 60 crore. A shortfall of Rs. 23 crore is there.

Like that the outstanding dues for BTPS are Rs. 2,413.93 crore. The surcharge is Rs. 2,769.16 crore. The total comes to Rs. 5,183.09 crore. Out of these arrears, the Chief Minister has accepted Rs. 55 crore for monthly billing of BTPS. The payment received from DESU is only Rs. 45 crore. And a shortfall of Rs. 10 crore is there.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am confident that the hon. Minister will be able to grasp my question. According to the figures just now given by the hon. Minister there is a wide gap between the demand

and supply in Madhya Pradesh. There are very few industries in Madhya Pradesh and hence more than 80 per cent of the population of the State depend on agriculture. During the last 2-3 years there has been a sharp decline in the supply in Madhya Pradesh. When the BJP was in power in the State, some new schemes of generation of electricity were started but these schemes could not make much headway after the Congress Party came to power as corruption became the order of the day. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which the projects which are at initial stages in Madhya Pradesh would be completed and the time by which the funds for these projects would be made available?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question about Delhi.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, the overall gap between demand and supply is widening in the country. It is not so in the case of Madhya Pradesh or the Western region only.

It comes under the Western region. If the hon. Member sends the names of the two projects, I will examine it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is an important question. Everybody wants to ask a question. I cannot accommodate everybody here. We will have Half-an-Hour discussion on this subject.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, figures have been given in Annexure I to the reply given by the hon. Minister. If you see carefully, these figures give the position of requirement, availability and shortage in the country as a whole. Sir, since this question is very important, I want to draw your attention to it. According to the All-India figures, the requirement is 3,40,709 million units and the availability is 3,02,907 million units. I want to ask specifically about Bihar. The requirement in Bihar is 8,005 million units as against the national requirement of 3,40,709 million units. It is well known that every tenth person in the country is from Bihar. For Bihar, which has 10 per cent of the total population, the requirement is only 2.5 per cent. Similarly, availability for Bihar is 5,799 million units. It means that for 10 per cent of population, the availability is 1.6 per cent. Since electricity is a basic input, it is an essential requirement for development, whether it is agriculture or industry. In such a situation, I want to know through you, what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to remove this imbalance? Secondly, I would also like to know the criteria for assessing requirement. There is a lot of manipulation in it. If a person manages somehow with just one 'Chapati' a day, tomorrow, one 'Chapati' is taken as his requirement. Since the availability in the State is less, it does not mean that this is our requirement. Since this a policy matter, I request the hon. Prime Minister to reply to it. I want to know whether the criteria adopted by the electricity authority to assess the requirement would be changed in order to remove the regional imbalance?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very long question.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the requirement depends on the level of industrialisation and demands for other sectors. In order to promote more projects and reduce the demand and supply gap, the hon. Prime Minister had convened a meeting of all the Chief Ministers. We had sent to the Chief Ministers the Common Minimum Action Plan for the States. We have also provided a lot of incentives like, for projects up to Rs. 1,000 crore, the States need not come to the Central Electricity Authority. Again, in addition to that, we have proposed restructuring of the Electricity Boards and are insisting on the rationalisation of tariff as well.

Keeping in view the scenario in the power sector, this Government is giving more emphasis on the hydro-based projects. It is because, as has been rightly said by the hon. Member, there has been decline of 6.2 per cent in the hydro based power sector. Even though there has been an over all increase of 3.8 per cent in the power sector—6.1 per cent increase in the thermal power, 12.7 per cent in nuclear power—yet there has been a decline in the hydro-based power sector. This Government is going to improve the position of the hydel sector power projects.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: What is the criterion?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know that. We would have half an hour discussion on this subject. I cannot possibly accommodate everybody here now. We would have half an hour discussion on this.

Now, we are going on to the next question.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, the criterion is that.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you need not answer now. I am on the next question.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, we would like to know as to what is the criterion that has been adopted.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Nitish ji, we shall have Half-an-hour discussion on it. You can participate in that.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is a policy matter and the hon. Prime Minister should reply to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar, I can assure one thing that when we take up the discussion for half an hour on this subject, I would not ask you sit in the Chair.

Use of Propane

*65. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Supreme Court has directed the Government to make use of propane in automobile sector;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government propose to undertake a pilot project in this regard and use propane; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Supreme Court in its hearing on 9.12.1996 on a public interest litigation has desired that the Government should facilitate a private company to undertake an experiment as a pilot project on 50 number, each of 3-wheelers and 2-wheelers, with 2-stroke engines to ascertain whether propane could be an eco-friendly substitute and viable alternative to petrol-cum-oil, which is causing pollution at present.

(b) Steps have been initiated to comply with the order of Supreme Court.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Sir, I have two supplementaries to ask.

First, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has involved or proposes to involve the Central Research Laboratory in this research or not. If so, the amount allocated or proposed to be allocated for this purpose keeping in view the vital impact of this research on the entire economy.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, we have to abide by the Order of the Supreme Court. On 2nd December, 1996, the Supreme Court has directed the Government to report on the technical feasibility of using propane and the technology proposed by the private company.

An Expert Committee was set up on 3rd December, 1996. Subsequently the company filed an application in the Supreme Court saying that they were willing to undertake the pilot project at their cost. On this application, the Supreme Court has also directed the Government to facilitate the private company to undertake the experimental pilot project on 50 vehicles of two-wheelers and three-wheelers each. The Government is fully committed to providing all facilities to the private company.

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: This is not the answer to what I have asked. I specifically asked as to whether the hon. Minister or the Ministry of Petroleum