

Title: Discussion on the Energy Conservation Bill, 2000. (Not concluded)

14.58 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item No.11. The time allotted for the Energy Conservation Bill is two hours.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Madam, I beg to move* :

"That the Bill to provide for efficient use of energy and its conservation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The Government introduced the Energy Conservation Bill before Parliament some time back. This Bill was referred later to the Standing Committee of Parliament.

We are all aware – we were also discussing even this morning – that we are really short of energy in the country. The shortages of energy throughout the country are colossal. In fact, all parts of the country are suffering from commercial energy shortage, whether it is the Eastern, Western, Northern or Southern part of the country. Therefore, generating more and more energy is required.

At the same time, it is also important that while we must generate more energy, it is also necessary that we must conserve energy. It is not enough that we keep on meeting our energy requirements by creating more capacities; it is also necessary that we conserve energy and make energy resources available for us. This is why, the Government has thought it imperative to introduce this Energy Conservation Bill.

15.00 hrs.

Madam, you are aware that despite the best efforts that we have made, India continues to be one of the high energy consuming countries in the world. This is despite the fact that the *per capita* consumption of energy in India is one of the

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

lowest in the world. If you really look at the energy efficiency of India, if you compare it with Japan, it is 3.7 times higher than that of Japan and if you compare it with the USA, it is 1.5 times higher than that of the USA. Therefore, for many reasons, we really need to have energy consumption as a mission, as a programme that all the parties in the country must pursue. To provide a legal framework to this initiative, we thought that we must introduce a proper Bill in the Parliament and that is how this Bill has been introduced.

There is one estimate which says that the potential to conserve energy in India is as high as 23 per cent. In fact, the manufacturing sector itself can save as much as 30 per cent; the agricultural sector can save as much as 25 per cent and the commercial and household sectors can save as high as another 25 per cent. Therefore, we have now decided that each of these consumers who consume more power should be – whether it is the manufacturing sector consuming 5 MW of power and above or whether it is other sectors consuming 500 KV of power and above – treated as a designated customer. Those designated customers would be subjected to energy audit. The energy audit will bring out the potential for energy conservation. The implementation of this report would bring out saving of energy substantially.

We are also proposing that there should be more and more consumption standardisation and labelling for some of the household equipments like air-conditioners, geysers, heaters, microwave ovens and other household equipment which are mainly energy guzzlers. Therefore, we are proposing a two-phase approach. One is labelling, to begin with, which will create an awareness, which will be mandatory. When a consumer buys a product, he is making an informed choice that this particular equipment is, probably, going to consume more energy than what is required. There will also be mandatory requirements for all these to reduce the energy consumption over a period of time.

Madam, we are also proposing an energy consumption building code for some of the newly coming up buildings in the country. You are aware that mass housing schemes have been launched. Many housing complexes are coming up. If they follow an energy efficiency code for them, it will be very good. I saw recently one building which is constructed by TERI, which is not very far from here. I would request my colleagues in the Parliament to please pay a visit to that place to find out that that building does not have any air-conditioning facility and it has much better ambience than one of the best-constructed buildings using more energy. Therefore, if you can introduce a code like this, this would also bring down consumption of energy in a significant way.

As I said, when this Bill was referred to the Standing Committee of Parliament, we received very good support from

all the hon. Members of the Committee and they made as many as 32 very useful recommendations. I am very happy to say that we have accepted all the 32 recommendations. In fact, I am introducing some of those recommendations as official amendments and we are incorporating some of the recommendations in the rules that will be framed because they do not require a change in the law itself. We will be introducing some of the recommendations through administrative actions. I have accepted all the recommendations. In fact, I am very happy to say that the entire House was almost unanimous to introduce a Bill like this.

I would also like to add one thing here which is not even part of the recommendations of the Standing Committee. We do not intend to introduce the inspector *raj*. We do not want that enforcement of this law should be made in a manner that would create more hardship for the people whose premises are going to be searched or who are going to be subjected to some verification. Therefore, we are also proposing that there should be a self-regulatory organisation which should be set up. These self-regulatory organisations themselves will regulate on their own because saving energy is also making a good commercial sense. I think we have decided to follow this path.

Therefore, Madam, I would now request that this hon. House may pass this Bill unanimously.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for efficient use of energy and its conservation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Madam, I support this Bill. But, at the same time, I would like to make certain comments upon the way in which the Government is thinking on this subject. Actually we are going on the path of global economy. When the foreign investors are coming to India, they first of all want to know as to what are the regulations that we are having in each and every field.

They feel that India is having multiple and plenty of rules and regulations, and bureaucratic regulations are also made, and they have to jump through all these things and, in the meantime, they would be out of the market. That is the feeling of the private sector now, especially of the multinational companies which are ready to invest money in India. I feel that this job of making regulations and monitoring is to be gradually handed over to the people who are actually benefited, who are, as the hon. Minister said in the enactment, the designated consumers and the designated agencies. This should be a part of their duty; this should not be a part of the Government's duty and this should not be a part of the bureaucracy's duty.

Now, we are saying that we are going to curtail the expansion of the bureaucracy. The hon. Finance Minister had announced in his Budget Speech that the Government was going to downsize the bureaucracy and one Joint Secretary and the downward staff would be removed. Now, I feel that the Joint Secretary, who is dissected from the bureaucracy is again replanted in this Commission. This is a new method. You are not going to penalise any Joint Secretary or anybody who is working under him. He is going to be benefited by some other building, which is having better air-conditioning, more modern furniture and he will have new cars. He can purchase new cars because you have given about Rs. 20 crore as Consultative Fund and also he can spend Rs. 25 lakh immediately on office furniture. Then, there is going to be an expenditure of Rs. one crore every year.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Energy, who is very energetic, very young and very dynamic, to one point. He can think that more and more bureaucratic control should be taken away whenever the Bills are coming before Parliament. This Bill is totally a part of the bureaucratic asylum. They want to go in some other way. When they are going to retire or are at the verge of their retirement, they want to have some more free enterprise where they can meet their own friends, who will be coming as *ex officio* members there, sit together and make some regulations.

I find that in clauses 13 and 14, very extensive guidelines are given, but I do not find anything positive as to how you are going to make it because the word 'energy conservation' sounds very high. You have converted the Energy Management Centre to Conservation Centre. Why do you not have the same name, that is, Energy Management Centre which itself is a very good term and which gives a lot of meaning that the Centre is going to manage things which are going to be there under their control in the energy sector? But now we are making it as Conservation Centre. What conservation are they going to do? They are going to have a lot of regulations; they are going to have another police *raj*; they are going to inspect it; and they are going to send their own inspectors, whom they may call as Energy Managers. They will demand certain things. If you are violating certain rules, then you have to pay something. I feel that these are the things which should be considered.

We are not living in a colonial country where police *raj* should go on; we are living in a global economy. When you want to go in for a global economy, the bureaucracy should also have the same thinking. Tell people that these are

the rules that we expect you to obey and if you violate them, you will be penalised by such and such method. By whom? They will be penalised by their own association, by their own agency, by their own members. We will not sit there because the bureaucracy will say 'you go like this or you travel like this'. I find this type of thinking throughout the Bill. Therefore, I would request that you may not have that type of thinking now for this Bill, but I would like to request you that while making rules, you kindly make it soft, make it clear, make it transparent and make it very quickly understandable so that the people who are coming for the business can do business and do not become lawyers to complicate their own rules where they are going to fall down.

Therefore, I would request you that you have made a very good system of making a Director-General – that is a very good thing – who can manage the things because you have taken it away from the Department so that he can manage it. But he is going to have a Bureau. He is going to be a coordinator. What is he going to coordinate? He is going to coordinate with the designated consumers and the designated agencies.

That is also defined. What job are they going to do? Their job is to recommend, utilise the existing resources and the infrastructure. In which way are they going to help the people? In which way are they going to help the people?

We have to remember that we have entered the regime of market economy where the market is going to control everything. If a refrigerator consumes less energy, then people are going to purchase that refrigerator. You need not regulate it because the market is going to regulate it. They will advertise to the effect that if you purchase this particular refrigerator, then your electricity bill will be less, and you can even utilise solar energy and so on. They will advertise that the refrigerator runs on non-conventional energy. That is how the market works.

In an open market era, you want to say that you are going to look after even labelling. It is very interesting, when you read the case. It shows how we are not changing our mindset even in the age of global economy. The revolution cannot happen only in FICCI or in federations of merchants. It has to happen in the bureaucracy as well as in the legislature. I will read a section which shows how deeply we want to regulate people. It says:

"To recommend to the Central Government the norms for process and energy consumption standards required to be notified under Section 14(a);

To recommend to the Central Government the particulars required to be displayed on label, on equipment or on appliance or manner of that display under clause (d)."

Why should we undertake such a work? We are not sitting here to say that they should stick such and such label because that is the work of the market. We are thinking as if we are regulating everything, manufacturing everything and our product is going to compete with other things. Taking advantage of WTO, lots of things are being dumped here. How are you going to manage it or label it? Plenty of things are coming from China. You cannot label it because it has been sold away. In the past, we had a regulated economy and, therefore, these types of things were looked into. Now, you have to create awareness and disseminate information on efficient use of energy.

Are the people not living in the rural areas? You want to totally neglect agriculture. There is no word about agriculture in the entire Bill. There is no word about sericulture in the Bill. Do you not think that they are going to use energy? Are they not going to benefit by this? Are they not going to get the benefit out of new inventions, appliances or the apparatus which transmit energy? Without energy, nothing can happen. The state of affairs in the world we are living in is such that a man cannot take birth without the use of energy; a man cannot be cremated without the use of energy. Therefore, the entire thinking has to be changed.

Whose duty is it to promote research and development in the field of energy? We are no longer living in a socialistic pattern of society; we are living in a market-driven world. People are going to do research and they are going to come out with new things in order to compete in the market. Otherwise, they will not survive. We have an open market economy.

Then, there is this ambitious thing of coordinating with the autonomous bodies for the inclusion of such curriculum in their syllabus. The Human Resource Development Minister can address this issue. Instead of saffronising it, they can be asked to have the education in their own way. It need not be mentioned in the Bill. In clause 14, the same thing has been repeated again. It says,

"The specific norms for process and energy consumption standards for any equipment, appliance which consumes, generates, transmits or supplies energy"

In my opinion, we cannot do anything like this.

It is because the entire thing is going to be dumped here and it would not be possible for our officers to do it. The supervisory agencies would not be able to find out as to what are the things that are coming into the market. Therefore, we have to do away with all these things and there should not be normal regulations. There should only be broad guidelines that could be implemented very quickly by the officers. But if very stringent and very detailed regulations are made, then I am afraid that this could be one of the reasons for this country for not being able to get enough foreign investment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nachiappan, I do not mind your speaking for a few more minutes, but you have three more speakers from your Party. You have to share time with them also.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the aspect of overlapping of State powers. Clause 15(d) says, 'designate any agency or designated agency to co-ordinate, regulate and enforce provisions of this Act within the State'. Now, the hon. Minister intends to give powers to the States so that they could co-ordinate with the Central Government and create an environment where the regulations could be made by both the people. But I am afraid that there is no State for the Central Government. The territory is totally held by the State. So it is better to give the States full powers and the Centre can guide them.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to another aspect and that is – it is mentioned in clause 4 of the Bill – about the Governing Council, its *ex officio* Chairperson and its *ex officio* members. I have mentioned earlier that there has been no mention of any representation from the Agriculture Department in the Governing Council. Members from the Agriculture Department have not been included as *ex officio* members. The agriculture sector is going to consume a lot of energy in all respects because we are predominantly an agricultural economy. Therefore, they should be made a part of the Governing Council so that they can also enjoy the prospective benefits and help in developing a better world. There is a provision in the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission whereby a Member of the Planning Commission sits for the selection of the Members. I would like to suggest that, likewise, a Member of the Planning Commission should also be a part of that and do some thinking about the broader aspects and future development. This should not be done only for purposes of policing alone, this should have a broader aspect. The hon. Minister has included it in certain clauses of the Bill but there should be planning for development of this field.

Finally, I would like to give my suggestions regarding the penalties. In clause 26, the penalty imposed for each failure has been mentioned as rupees one lakh and this amount would multiply according to the counts. When somebody violates some regulations that costs the exchequer a few crores of rupees, in such cases the defaulter would very easily pay a lakh of rupees and get away. There should be some stringent penal provisions. If there are stringent penal provisions, then people would be afraid of violating the regulations. Clause 33, read with clause 26, mentions about the defaulting companies. I would like to ask as to who is going to implement this? It is a very vague thinking. If the fine is not paid, then it would be recovered by applying the provisions contained in the Revenue Recovery Act. It is a very old system of recovery. There should be some mechanism devised whereby very quick recovery could be done. There should be some agency like the Debt Recovery Tribunal and the like. We have to work out quickly as to how the money could be recovered from the violators at the earliest.

With these submissions, I would finally like to request the hon. Minister that a new look may be given to this Bill. However, as it is, I support the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made very good points but you have to leave something for others as well.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I would just like to submit for the information of the House. The hon. Member has made very useful suggestions. While making introductory reforms, it was said that we intend to introduce self-regulatory framework but it is not a part of the Bill. We really wish to introduce it for the reason which the hon. Member has cited, that is to obviate the need to create a new Inspector Raj. We really do not want that and, therefore, we are really going to introduce it.

On a point of information for agriculture, it is definitely a thrust area and about 25 per cent of the potential is there in agriculture. One of the ways to reduce the consumption of electricity in agriculture is to bring about energy conservation there. We can do that by having better-manufactured products like the pumps or pumpsets. So, they are actually going to benefit us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prabhu, you may reply at the end. You will have a plenty of time to reply.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (BHILWARA): I rise to support the Energy Conservation Bill, 2000. This is a very important piece of legislation. It should have been mooted quite a few years ago. Never mind, it has come now.

Every country in the world has a similar Conservation Act. Japan has it. US has it and there it was started in the

seventies. Japan also had it much earlier. It is more required in India than in the advanced countries. Everybody in this House knows that there is a big gap between demand and supply. We have been trying to bridge this gap for a very long time and this Bill is one such effort or reform which will do the needful.

The scenario in the power sector is getting worse because everybody wants electricity. There were times when most of the villages did not want electricity. They did not even think that they required electricity. But now everybody wants it. In Bihar, as you know, most of the villages are still not electrified. In Rajasthan, we still have about 20 per cent villages that are not electrified.

There are two or three things which we can do. We can have a lot of power generation and bridge the gap between the demand and supply. But there is a constraint on generation. The gestation period in generation is very long. Moreover, the foreign investment in generation is not coming to the extent we require. Secondly, there are a lot of transmission and distribution losses. Everybody knows that there is a lot of theft also in this field. Big industries and even small consumers are indulged in it. They are not paying money for the utilisation of electricity. So, that is another issue.

Coming to this piece of legislation, conservation really means that everybody, who is a consumer, should save it. Hon. Member from the other side was rightly saying that if industries save electricity, it would benefit themselves. So, they would themselves be interested in saving the electricity. What is the Government going to do?

Suppose, there are two industries in the same manufacturing line and one is consuming more electricity than the other. In such a case, I would suggest that there should be some sort of regulation like, those industries which are unnecessarily consuming more electricity should be checked. That can only be checked by a Bill of this kind. It is true that the old industries will have a problem. They will not be able to use the innovations in saving electricity.

It is because their plant is old and they have old theories. So, for those people it is going to be a problem. But they have kept a provision in the Bill for such industries to amend and change their ways. They have given them a time limit of 5 years or 10 years. Then they would start realising themselves that they are not very competitive. If they are consuming more electricity than other industries, then they become uncompetitive. So, they themselves will amend. But the legislation was required to tell and educate them. If they still do not listen, then there has to be some sort of a penalty on them because we have to conserve electricity. For developing the country, electricity is the most important thing. Without electricity nothing moves. We want to have an economic growth of seven to eight per cent. But if there is no electricity, how can we achieve this? That is why I would say that this piece of legislation should have come 20 to 25 years ago. But now that it has come, I welcome it and I congratulate the Minister.

Then, there are other things also which I want to talk about. This Bill is more educative. They will be telling the industries the ways to conserve electricity. Then, there are other things. For example, there is a provision of code in the building laws. Now, in the buildings, there would be air conditioners which people were talking about. If there are 10 air conditioners and if one of them is saving electricity and the others are not, a consumer would not know that. That is the point I want to make to my friend who was mentioning about air conditioners and refrigerators. Now, a consumer would not know which air conditioner is consuming less electricity than the other one. So, it becomes a duty of the Government to see that the manufacturer does not give any information which is wrong. All this will be labelled. If it is found that it is a wrong information, he could be penalised. If somebody goes and buys an air conditioner, and he realises that it is consuming more electricity than what has been specified on the label, he can be penalised about it. That is the work of this Bill.

Sir, lastly I will just say one thing. The Director-General of the Bureau should not be a bureaucrat but he should be a technocrat. Otherwise, IAS lobby is so strong that they want to take over everything. They want more and more jobs where they can put their Secretary and Joint Secretary level officers. Why can we not have a technocrat on it? Why do we require an IAS officer here? The Minister should see that the Director-General is a technocrat.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will not only be an IAS, it will be a retired IAS officer.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE : Madam, very rightly there is a great potential for energy conservation in agriculture. Now, if an uneducated farmer goes to buy a pump set he would be able to know, through the label, how much electricity it would consume. So, more saving can be done in the agriculture sector. Then there are some industries which have electricity as a raw material. These are the industries which need this conservation most. That is where this Bureau will really have to work hard and see that they do not consume more than what is required.

In the end, I feel that it is a very important piece of legislation. It should have come quite a few years ago. Even if it has come late, it has come at a time when we need conservation of electricity the most.

I would also like to add that electricity is one commodity which cannot be saved. You can have rationing on petrol or the CNG. But in the case of electricity, you cannot store it. It has to be used when you make it. So, conservation is required more in the case of electricity than in the case of any other fuel.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH (MACHILIPATNAM): Madam, thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Energy Conservation Bill. I rise to support this Bill which in all aspects is a very progressive legislation. It is often said that energy saved is energy produced. The Bill in fact reveals this very idea which is very basic and should form the cornerstone of our energy policy.

Our country is suffering from serious infrastructure bottlenecks. The first and foremost among them is in the power sector. Besides a lot of pilferage and theft in power, transmission and distribution losses have reached alarming proportions and the wastage of energy, particularly electricity, is going unnoticed. India is chronically a power-deficit State with huge imports of oil like petroleum which is adding to our burgeoning import bill. It is therefore imperative that energy conservation should be accorded a high priority in our policy.

This Bill contains several salutary provisions like setting up of a Bureau of Energy Efficiency. It is a step in the right direction. However, the proposed Bureau should be vested with more powers to enforce measures for efficient use of energy. The National Energy Efficiency Programme which was initiated during the Eighth Plan has to be streamlined so as to make it more effective and result-oriented.

The Energy Conservation Programme had to address two aspects; one was on the supply-side saving measures and the other on the demand-side saving measures. However, the Bill has addressed only the demand-side of the problem and no measures on the supply side have been contemplated. In a country like ours where there is a huge gap between supply and demand, increased efficiency in the use of the available energy resources holds key to the problem. In this backdrop, on the supply side, steps should be taken to renovate and modernise our thermal power stations and also reduce transmission and distribution losses, which account for huge and colossal loss of energy. Our thermal power stations are using old and obsolete technology and there is an urgent need to infuse new technology and funds for improving their efficiency.

Madam, this is a very good Bill which is also necessary in view of the big gap between demand and supply. Conservation of energy is very important in every field of life. Without electricity or other types of energy, we cannot have any sort of progress in our country.

In this connection, I would like to make the following suggestions for the effective implementation of energy conservation measures. Firstly, in the Schedule of the Bill which shows the list of energy intensive industries, only a few industries have been included. It is very important and imperative that bulk consumers of energy and other energy intensive industries like railways, textiles, chemicals, transport sector, petroleum refineries, hydel power stations should also be included here.

Secondly, the Government should give import duty concessions to energy efficient equipment imported by the manufacturers so as to give fillip to the energy conservation efforts. Excise duty concessions should also be given to all those industries which are manufacturing energy saving appliances used for domestic and industrial purposes.

Thirdly, to impart professionalism in the working of the Bureau, professionals drawn from the industry and academic institutions should be included so that their expertise could be used in formulation and implementation of energy conservation strategies.

1538 hours (Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav *in the Chair*)

Lastly, in the name of energy conservation, no authority should conduct surprise inspections in households, lands belonging to agriculturists, premises of the small scale industries and so on and penalise them. This is one way of increasing corruption among the officials who conduct inspections on households, lands of agriculturists, small scale industries and so on.

With these few words, I would conclude my speech.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN): Sir, the subject and object of the Bill can never be opposed. The Bill dated 9th February, 2000 is being discussed today, that is, the 16th August, 2001. This shows the priorities of the present Government. As said by Shri Virendra Pal Singh, this Bill should have been discussed long back and passed. However, I will take this opportunity to point out some of the most important suggestions which the hon. Minister may kindly take into consideration and implement at the time of framing the rules. I would like to quote item No.3 (a)(x) of the Statement of Objects and Reasons which is very important.

"prepare educational curriculum on efficient use of energy and its conservation for educational institutions, boards, universities or autonomous bodies and co-ordinating with them for inclusion of such curriculum in their syllabus."

Incidentally, today, we are going to discuss a very important item, namely, saffronisation of education in this country. I request the hon. Minister not to give this work to the Ministry of Human Resources Development because they will introduce *Vedic* methods of conservation of energy by *yoga* and will make a mess of the Bill which has been drafted and introduced by one of the most important and esteemed Members of this House, late Shri Kumaramangalam.

Let us pay homage to Shri Kumaramangalam by introducing science and not saffronisation. I would request the hon. Minister to refer to para 3 (v) of the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It says:

"Take necessary measures to create awareness and disseminate information for efficient use of energy and its conservation. "

These two objectives are very important and maximum should be done to achieve these two objectives. Once George Bernard Shaw said:

"From experience I have learnt that I have not learnt anything out of experience. "

The same is the case here. Whenever we create a new authority, why do we always keep the headquarters at Delhi? After all, we have got a big country. We have a list of energy-intensive industries, like aluminium, fertiliser, iron and steel, cement, pulp and paper, alchemy, sugar, petroleum, chemicals, etc. I would like to know whether these things are available in Delhi. We have got many States where all these industries are situated. You have got States with desert, you have got States with sea shore, you have got States with several industries, and you have got States which produce petrol. These States have got the right to have this headquarters. So, I would like to say again that it is not necessary to have the headquarters at Delhi. ...(*Interruptions*)

There is a contradiction in the Bill. In the Bill, dated 9th February, 2000, it is mentioned that proposed provisions would be effective from a future date after infrastructure and institutional mechanism are set up, whereas in item no. (1) (3), it is said that different dates may be kept for different provisions of this Act. I have not come across any Act where different dates are kept for different provisions. This would create confusion. Let there be one single date for the entire Act so that no loophole is left for the industrialists.

Another most important thing is the clause on penalty. We had a very bad experience in the Income Tax Department where the provision of penalty was kept. The provision was that, if the offence is proved, then the penalty will be maximum of six months' imprisonment. The maximum penalty was fixed, but the minimum was not fixed. As a result, some courts in this country used to punish the guilty up to raising of the court. The judgement would be announced at 4 o'clock and the court would be over at 5 o'clock. So, in essence, he has stayed there for only one hour. Here it is said that there would be a penalty which shall not exceed one lakh rupees. So, the officer can levy only one rupee or he can levy one thousand rupees. This again gives scope for corruption. Why can you not fix the minimum penalty? Thereafter, you can fix the maximum penalty also. If a petrol pump owner commits any default, his licence is cancelled. Then, why is the penalty so low here? That is my question.

I would like to say something on the composition of the Board. As the two hon. Members who spoke before me pointed out, the Government is taking care of retired bureaucrats.

In any case, there is a representative from each of the following Ministries: Power, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Coal, Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Consumer Affairs. You have totally forgotten the *Gramin Vikas* and Rural Development Ministry.

India is a vast country. 70 per cent of the Indian population is even now living in the villages. You gave the figure saying that there is scope for saving and conserving energy to the extent of 25 per cent in the case of agricultural sector. One of the main items you need is fertilizer. You know where fertilizer is being used. My feeling is that the Ministry of Rural Development should be adequately represented in the composition of the Council.

One main item which is missing in the entire Governing Council is the scientist. Is this not the work of a scientist? You have not bothered to include even one scientist, as has been pointed out by my colleague Shri Vijendrapal Singh. Why should a retired IAS person necessarily head every Commission or every Board? He can be a scientist or a technocrat. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take care of it and see that at least two or three scientists

are there from the Power sector. Further, agricultural scientists can be of help to the Government. Now, all the Western countries have decided that they would not purchase any foodgrains or other items which are produced by using chemical fertilizers. So, more and more countries are going to depend on organic fertilizers. If these things are not taken care of while constituting such an important Council, the very purpose of this Bill would be defeated. So, I request that the hon. Minister should take care of it. The Headquarters should be in a State where all the industries are situated. He should include scientists in the Council or Board or whatever name he must have given.

The most important thing is about penalty imposed on the corporate sector. We had our experience in the Department of Company Affairs where monetary penalty was fixed. They will pay the penalty and go on violating the rules. Mr. Minister, do not give them a free hand. I would request you to fix such stringent penalties so that any industrialist or anybody from the corporate sector should be afraid of violating the law of the land.

With these words, I conclude.

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाली) : सभापति महोदय, ऊर्जा संरक्षण विधेयक पहले से ही लम्बित था। कमेटी में भी गया, जहां इस पर विचार-विमर्श किया गया। कई सुझाव दिये गये। माननीय मंत्री जी भी इस विधेयक में रुचि ले रहे हैं कि किस तरह से बिजली की समस्या हल की जाये। उन्होंने एक अच्छी परिपाटी शुरू की है। पूर्वांचल के सभी सांसदों की एक बैठक बुलाकर सब से जानकारी और बिजली समस्या के समाधान के लिये सुझाव मांगे हैं। जैसे जिन्दगी के लिये सांस की जरूरत होती है, यदि सांस बंद हो जाये तो जिन्दगी नहीं रहती, उसी तरह से विकास के लिये बिजली सबसे ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण चीज़ है। बाबरनामा में बाबर ने लिखा था कि हिन्दुस्तान के लोग लकड़ी जलाकर रोशनी पाते हैं। लेकिन आज बिना बिजली के नहीं रहा जा सकता। आज कमप्यूटर्स, आई.आई.टी. वगैरह शुरू हुये हैं। आज बिजली की अनिवार्यता है। माननीय मंत्री जी पुराना विधेयक लेकर आये हैं और यह महसूस किया गया कि ऊर्जा का संरक्षण होना चाहिये। हम पहले सरकार से अपील करते हैं कि पहले सरकार बिजली का संरक्षण करे। श्री गोपाल सिंह नेपाली ने अपनी कविता में कहा है:

मुसाफिरों से क्या मांगें, धरती से मांग, गगन से मांग।

सूरज की जो किरणें आती, उनसे एनर्जी आती है, उसका संरक्षण पहले किया जाये। समुद्र की लहरों में जो बिजली है, एनर्जी है, उसका संरक्षण किया जाये, उसका संयोजन किया जाये, उसका इस्तेमाल किया जाये। उसके बाद हवा में जो एनर्जी है, उसका संरक्षण किया जाये। उसका इस्तेमाल सरकार करके देखे।

अभी ऊर्जा संरक्षण विधेयक आया है। आज जरूरत है ऊर्जा पैदा करने की। ऊर्जा पैदा करने से संबंधित आज सुबह का प्रथम सवाल था, माननीय मंत्री जी उसका उत्तर दे रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि 2012 तक एक लाख मेगावाट एडीशनल कैपेसिटी चाहिए। उसके लिए आठ लाख करोड़ रुपये की पूंजी चाहिए, पूंजी नहीं है। आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो टारगेट था, उसका तीस परसेन्ट हुआ। नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में तीस परसेन्ट से बढ़कर चालीस परसेन्ट हो गया। एनर्शन विदेशी कम्पनी से भी पूंजी निवेश कराकर देख लिया। उसके बाद हिन्दुस्तान दरिद्र होने की तरफ चला गया। हमें लोग सिखा रहे हैं कि आप ऊर्जा संरक्षण करिये। ऊर्जा संरक्षण के क्या मायने हैं, इसके मायने हैं ऊर्जा का दुरुपयोग रोकना। ऊर्जा की चोरी रोकी जाए। ऊर्जा का दुरुपयोग क्यों होता है, कहां होता है और कौन करता है। बिजली का इस्तेमाल उपभोक्ता करते हैं। उपभोक्ता अज्ञानता में कर सकते हैं, बेइमानी से कर सकते हैं अथवा चोरी से कर सकते हैं। विधेयक में प्रावधान है कि एक सोसाइटी रजिस्ट्रेशन के अधीन ऊर्जा प्रबंधन केन्द्र था, उसे लेकर ऊर्जा संरक्षण ब्यूरो बना देंगे और उसे कुछ ताकत देंगे। उसके बाद केन्द्र सरकार को अपनी ताकत चाहिए। कौन ज्यादा पावर लेना चाहते हैं और फिर ऊर्जा संरक्षण को भी पावर देना चाहते हैं। पावर लेने की लड़ाई है। लेकिन असली लड़ाई पावर पैदा करने की और उसे बचाने की है।

सभापति महोदय, इसमें एक प्वाइंट अवेयरनेस का है। लोगों को अभी की टेक्नोलोजी के बारे में जानकारी होनी चाहिए। ऐसी मशीनें पैदा हों जो कम बिजली खर्च करके ज्यादा काम कर दें। यानी जो ज्यादा बिजली सोख रहे हैं, वे कम में काम करें। जैसे कि कोई गाड़ी ज्यादा डीजल और पेट्रोल खींच लेती है और कम किलोमीटर जाती है। यह मशीन की खराबी है, मशीन की त्रुटि है। इसलिए जहां अनुसंधान करके कम बिजली में ज्यादा काम हुआ है, वह ऊर्जा संरक्षण है। वे कहते हैं कि हमें ताकत दीजिए। आपके पास पूरी ताकत है, सारी पावर है। राज्य सरकार को अधिकार है, भारत सरकार को अधिकार है। बीच में आप ब्यूरो बनाना चाहते हैं, ब्यूरो इसमें क्या करेगा, हम जानना चाहते हैं। जो विधेयक आया है, उसके बारे में सुन रहे हैं कि बड़ा भारी विधेयक आया है, इससे बिजली संकट का कुछ समाधान हो सकता है। यह ठीक बात है कि बिजली का दुरुपयोग होता है, पानी का भी दुरुपयोग होता है। जो कि नहीं होना चाहिए। आज अनाज का भारी दुरुपयोग हो रहा है, अनाज कीड़े खा जाते हैं। एफ.सी.आई. में अनाज सड़ गया है। सभी जगह संरक्षण की जरूरत है। सदुपयोग करने की जरूरत है, गांधीयन थ्योरी की जरूरत है। गांधी जी कहते थे कि दुरुपयोग मत करिये। वह सफाई के लिए लिफाफे के ऊपर के कागज का इस्तेमाल करते थे। उसी तरह से ऊर्जा संरक्षण होना चाहिए। आप कहां-कहां संरक्षण चाह रहे हैं। कैसे संरक्षण होगा, यह समझने की बात है। सैन्ट्रली एयरकंडीशंड कमरे ज्यादा बिजली सोख रहे हैं। इंडस्ट्रियल प्लान्ट्स, लोहा और स्टील पैदा करने वाले कारखाने ज्यादा बिजली सोख रहे हैं, उन्हें ज्यादा बिजली की आवश्यकता है। जो बिजली खर्च करते हैं, वे उसके दाम भी देते हैं। उन्हें सिखाया जाए कि कम बिजली में ही हमारा उत्पादन हो जायेगा। उस तरह की टेक्नोलोजी, उस तरह के अनुसंधान की जानकारी आज लोगों को दी जाए। अन्यथा कहीं-कहीं अज्ञानता से बिजली का दुरुपयोग होता है, बेइमानी से दुरुपयोग होता है या बिजली की चोरी होती है। लोग बिजली की चोरी कर लेते हैं और दाम नहीं देते हैं। कहीं कांटा फंसा देते हैं, मीटर में खराबी करते हैं, इस तरह से बिजली की चोरी होती है।

सभापति महोदय, इस ऊर्जा संरक्षण में कहां पर सरकार का फोकस है और आपको क्या ताकत चाहिए जिससे ऊर्जा का संरक्षण हो जाए। जो बड़े-बड़े होटल हैं, वे ज्यादा बिजली सोख रहे हैं। वहां सैन्ट्रली एयरकंडीशंड रूम्स हैं। जिस कमरे में लोग नहीं हैं, उस रूम को भी ए.सी. से ठंडा किये हुए हैं। इन सबके द्वारा बिजली का दुरुपयोग रोकने के लिए इसमें उपाय कहां है। इसलिए जहां फोकस होना चाहिए, वहां नहीं है। यह अलग बात है कि बिजली ज्यादा पैदा हो, उसमें ज्यादा पूंजी निवेश हो।

सभापति महोदय, आज सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता पनबिजली को देनी चाहिए। हमारे पास जो लाखों-लाख बिजली पैदा करने के स्रोत हैं, पोटेंशियल है,

पानी बह रहा है, उससे बिजली बनाई जा सकती है लेकिन हम उसका इस्तेमाल नहीं कर रहे हैं। इसलिए उस बहते हुए पानी का संरक्षण कर उससे बिजली पैदा करने का सरकार उपाय करे। नदियों की धारा बह रही है ऊपर से नीचे की तरफ, उसका संरक्षण करना चाहिए। हवा में जो एनर्जी है उसका संरक्षण करना चाहिए। समुद्र की लहरों में एनर्जी है, उसका संरक्षण करना चाहिए और सूर्य में भी एनर्जी है, उसका भी संरक्षण करना चाहिए। सरकार जो बिजली पैदा कर रही है, मशीनों के जरिये, उसका संरक्षण या उसका दुरुपयोग रोकना या चोरी रोकना मेरी समझ में नहीं आया। क्या है यह कंजर्वेशन ऑफ एनर्जी? हमने पढ़ा था कंजर्वेशन ऑफ मैटर्स -- पदार्थ की अवनाशिता का नियम कि पदार्थ अविनाशी होता है, उसी तरह से एनर्जी भी अविनाशी होती है लेकिन एनर्जी को बचाने और उसका दुरुपयोग रोकने का सुझाव आ रहा है, उसमें फिजूलखर्च रोकने का सुझाव आ रहा है कि आमदनी जब घटे तो खर्च पर कटौती हो। लेकिन इनसे कहां खर्च पर कटौती संभव है? ये हर चीज पर खर्चा बढ़ा रहे हैं। हर जगह देखिये खर्चा बढ़ रहा है। बिजली के संरक्षण के संबंध में लोगों में अवेयरनेस पैदा की जाए, जानकारी दी जाए और जो राटूपाल जी पढ़कर सुना रहे थे कि किताबों में और पाठ्यक्रमों में लोगों को जानकारी हो कि बिजली का कम इस्तेमाल हो या सदुपयोग करना चाहिए और बिजली का दुरुपयोग न

हो और बिजली बरबाद न हो इसकी अवेयरनेस हो और लोगों को साधन से सुसज्जित करने का और लोगों को सहयोग करके मदद करके उस तरह की मशीन देने की और समझाने की जरूरत है जिससे बिजली का दुरुपयोग न हो वह सही बात है। असली मामला तो बिजली की चोरी का है और ट्रांसमिशन और डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन लॉसेज का है। उसके बाद एक जगह से दूसरी जगह ट्रांसमिट करने में गड़बड़ होती है। फर्ज कीजिए कहीं 1000 मैगावाट बिजली का जनरेशन है। बिजली को स्टोर करके रखने का अनुसंधान तो अभी तक नहीं हुआ है। उसका जब तक ट्रांसमिशन, डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन और इलैक्ट्रिफिकेशन ठीक नहीं होगा तब तक जो बिजली पैदा होगी उसका दुरुपयोग होना निश्चित है। इसीलिए मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि इस कमी को दूर करने का सरकार की ओर से क्या प्रावधान किया गया है? जब उपभोक्ता के यहां बिजली जाएगी तब वह बिजली का दुरुपयोग या चोरी करेगा। इसलिए उसका भी उपचार होना चाहिए। इस मोटे बिल को देखकर हम आश्चर्यचकित हैं कि ब्यूरो पहले से था ऊर्जा प्रबंधन आयोग है, सोसाइटीज रजिस्ट्रेशन ऐक्ट में एन.जी.ओ. होगा अब फिर कह रहे हैं कि ब्यूरो बना देंगे। फिर ब्यूरो को अधिकार होगा, केन्द्र सरकार को भी अधिकार चाहिए, राज्य सरकार को भी अधिकार चाहिए, ये अधिकार लेकर क्या करेंगे। बिजली जलाने से रोकेंगे, बिजली को खर्च करने से रोकेंगे, उपभोक्ता का क्या करेंगे? इस मोटे बिल को देखने से हमें नहीं लगता है कि इससे कुछ लाभ हो सकेगा। असली कमी तो ऐनर्जी की कमी है।

₹ (व्यवधान) ये विरोध कर रहे हैं, इनका बनाया हुआ नहीं है, पहले से लंबित था उसी को इन्होंने चाहा है कि सदन के सदस्य पास कर दें। कौन कहेगा कि बिजली का संरक्षण न हो लेकिन बिजली का उत्पादन बढ़ना चाहिए। बिजली के ट्रांसमिशन और डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। किसान के लिए ये कह देते हैं लेकिन किसान को बिजली मिल ही कहां रही है कि वह उसे बचाएगा। हम लोग महसूस करते थे कि जैसे सूर्य की रोशनी है, जैसे हवा है, उसी तरह से बिजली रहेगी और आम लोग उसका इस्तेमाल करेंगे मगर अब हमें पाठ पढ़ाया जा रहा है कि बिजली का संरक्षण करिये।

16.00 hrs.

सभापति महोदय, संरक्षण तो हर चीज का होना चाहिए। केवल बिजली का ही संरक्षण नहीं, बल्कि संरक्षण पानी का भी होना चाहिए, संरक्षण अनाज का भी होना चाहिए। हर प्रकार की संपत्ति का संरक्षण होना चाहिए। किसी भी चीज का दुरुपयोग नहीं होना चाहिए। सबका सदुपयोग होना चाहिए। ₹ (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : रघुवंश प्रसाद जी, अब आप समाप्त करिए।

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : सभापति महोदय, अनुसंधान को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाना चाहिए ताकि ऐसी नई-नई मशीनें बनें जिनसे बड़ी-बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज और होटलों में बिजली की खपत कम हो। विलासितापूर्ण जीवन जीने के लिए जिन उपकरणों पर बिजली बहुत ज्यादा खर्च की जाती है, जिनमें ज्यादा खपत होती है, उनके प्रयोग पर रोक लगनी चाहिए। जब ऐसा होगा, तभी बिजली का संरक्षण होगा। ₹ (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : रघुवंश बाबू समाप्त करिए।

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : सभापति महोदय, बिना इनर्जी के कुछ भी नहीं होता है। कंप्यूटर बिना इनर्जी के चलने वाला नहीं है।

आप हमें बार-बार बैठने के लिए कह रहे हैं, क्या हमारा भाग आगे जारी रहेगा ?

सभापति महोदय : नहीं, आप तो वैसे भी कन्क्लूड कर रहे थे। आपका भाग समाप्त माना जाता है।

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री प्रमोद महाजन) : आप इतनी बिजली कंजर्व मत करिए कि अगली बार भी आपका भाग जारी रहे।

सभापति महोदय : आपका भाग समाप्त हुआ माना जाता है।
