

the Government to provide job to atleast one person from each of such affected families in Rourkela Steel Plant.

(vi) Need to accord early clearance to Nabinagar Thermal Power Project, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad). Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bihar State is facing acute power crisis. Power is supplied only for two days a week to the people resulting in withering away of crops of farmers and closure of small scale industries. Resources of self-employment among the youths are vanishing and normal life of the state is disturbed

To solve the power crisis there is a proposal to set-up a Thermal Power Project with 1000 MW capacity in Nabinagar under my Parliamentary constituency.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to take effective steps for arrangement of power supply at the earliest by sanctioning the proposed Nabinagar Thermal Power Project in public interest.

(vii) Need to set up an LPG Bottling Plant at Jalpaiguri or Siliguri

[English]

PROF JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the acute shortage of LPG in the Divisional Headquarters, Jalpaiguri.

About 5000 applications seeking LPG connections are pending with the existing dealers. Irregular supply of LPG cylinders to the consumers is creating another crisis in the area which leads to road blocking by the people. The people of the area are very much agitated over these issues. This is not only the crisis in Jalpaiguri alone but same situation prevails in all the districts of North Bengal.

I urge upon the Union Government either to increase LPG quota to the existing dealers or to sanction more dealership in the area to meet the backlog and defuse the crisis of LPG cylinder supply to the consumers regularly. I also request to set up an LPG bottling plant at Jalpaiguri or at Siliguri at an early date to meet the demand of the districts of North Bengal.

(viii) Need to allocate sufficient funds for early completion of Madras Rapid Transport System Project

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul) : Madras being

one of the important metropolitan cities of India should have a circular Rapid Railway Transport System to avoid traffic congestion, maintain the ecological balance and for speedy transportation of commuters and the general public.

The Madras Rapid Transport System (MRTS) which envisaged by the Madras Area Transport Study Unit of Southern Railway during 1968-70 and was cleared by the Planning Commission in 1969 has not yet been completed. The project cost for Madras Beach to Luz Mylepore section was estimated at Rs. 160.21 crore in 1987 and it escalated to Rs. 252 crore in 1996 to cover a distance of 8.79 Km. The project has been completed upto Chepauk only and the same has been opened up for traffic.

The second phase between Luz to Vallachery to cover a distance of 10.32 Km. is yet to be taken up. The third phase from Vallachery to Villivakkam and finally from Villivakkam to Avadi via vellachery is to be taken up after completion of the second phase.

I request the Union Government to allocate sufficient funds in the ensuing Budget to speed up the project with a commitment to complete the project at least upto Luz by March, 1977 and the second and third phases to be taken up immediately for execution.

15.09 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :
CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION BY
PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF
JAMMU AND KASHMIR

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : I beg to move .

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in respect of Jammu and Kashmir, issued under Article 36 of the Constitution by the President for a further period of six months with effect from the 18th July, 1996."

Sir, the President's rule in Jammu & Kashmir is coming to an end on 18th July, 1996 and we want its extension for a short duration. Though we are asking for extension for a further period of six months, I would like to make it amply clear to this august House that the Government has already taken a decision to hold election as early as possible. In this

connection I have discussed with almost all the Opposition leaders and they have also agreed for extension to the President's rule in Jammu & Kashmir for a short duration.

One of the issues raised in the meeting with the Opposition leaders was about certain defects in the voters list. We have issued instructions to the authorities to see that summary revision can be made within a short period of one month. The other apprehension expressed by some of the political parties was about conduct of a free and fair election. Sir, I would like to compliment the Army and the Administration. They tried their best to conduct a free and fair election during the Parliamentary election. I will be failing in my duty if I do not compliment the Army people as well as the local administration and the Election Commission.

Sir, whatever little defects are there in the voters list, those are going to be set right in the summary revision. Nearly two lakh forms were distributed and more than 12000 people returned their forms with their addresses for registration.

Sir, I have recently visited Kashmir. There also all the local political party leaders have agreed to holding of election as early as possible. People in the valley, in a nutshell I can say, want peace. Peace can come only through holding of early election.

Sir, some people have raised the autonomy issue. In our Common Minimum Programme also, we have mentioned about the autonomy issue. I would like to again assure this House and also the other political parties who represented to me during my visit to Kashmir about what I said earlier. On that day I made it clear that it was better to have a discussion with the elected representatives of the new government so far as the autonomy issue was concerned. Sir, I am happy to inform the House that they have all agreed to it.

In this connection I do not want to make a long speech. Even though we have asked for six months' extension, most probably the election will be held sometime in September or before the end of the first week of October. The date has to be finalised by the Election Commission. I have made it clear during the discussion with the Opposition leaders on the 8th of this month that this is the purpose of extension of the President's rule for six months. I can assure the House that the election will be conducted as early as possible. The date has to be decided by the Election Commission in consultation with the Central Government. I cannot announce the date. I will only assure that the election will be conducted as early

as possible, if possible in September itself. With these words I request this august House to give its approval to the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in respect of Jammu and Kashmir, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 18th July, 1996".

Hon. Members, the Statutory Resolution is moved.
Three hours are allotted for discussion on this.

15.15 hrs.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. In the circumstance indicated by the hon. Prime Minister, I endorse the proposal of extension of the President's Rule. But the point which I would like to emphasise is that lot of things are being said about Jammu & Kashmir without understanding the dangerous implications of those statements.

Hon. Defence Minister went to Jammu & Kashmir. He said, "Shortly, we are going to introduce a Bill in the Parliament to give maximum autonomy to Kashmir." Hon. Home Minister made a statement that "if we want to retain Kashmir—Mark the words, if we want to keep Kashmir—we will have to give the autonomy." Look at the attitude of surrender. The Defence Minister says something, the Home Minister says the entirely different thing and now the hon. Prime Minister is saying something entirely different that 'we would consult the legislature.'

I wonder whether the background of the case has been adequately explained to the hon. Prime Minister; whether he knows in what circumstances the so-called autonomy was given. First, I think, the very fact that you have said is 'maximum autonomy'. What does it mean? I would challenge the other Benches to explain this to me.

From the very beginning, I would like to throw this challenge to those who have quoted maximum autonomy in the Constitution, to tell me what item to they want to add to the existing items which the State Government enjoys. Tell me one item. I am asking all those hon. Ministers, very experienced, to tell me one item that they want to add. Please, if you cannot tell me now, consult your officers that these are the items that we want to add to the existing situation.