

## HALF-AN-HOUR-DISCUSSION

[English]

### Power Requirement of Rajasthan

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up half-an-hour discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after postponement of the Half-an-Hour Discussion for two or three times, I got the opportunity when you are the Chairman. I am very fortunate that Shri Sathe, who is a very competent and devoted Minister and a farsighted person, would reply to it. I am, therefore, fully confident that you would be able to resolve the serious crisis in Rajasthan.

Sir, my friend, Shri Viridhi Chander Jain, who is a devoted and talented person, had asked this question on the 4th March, 1986. Sir, this is a very important question. Rajasthan is in the grip of drought for the last four years. There have been no rains in Rajasthan for the last four years. Electricity is supplied to the State from distant areas. 74.5 paise are spent per unit from generation of power to its supply to the consumers. This entire expenditure is incurred by our State. We have to spend a sum of Rs. 69 crores as subsidy to the farmers. I am drawing your attention to Rajasthan because in your reply to the question, it has been stated that during the year 1984-85, 5903 million of units of power was made available as against the requirement of 6570 million units in Rajasthan. In this way, I think there was a shortage of 667 million units in power supply.

80 per cent of Industries in Rajasthan are not getting power. The water level in the wells has gone down to a depth of 200 feet. Power is not available in Rajasthan to draw water from the wells. Farmers are not supplied power even for as many as 4 hours or 5 hours continuously. You have admitted in your reply that you would not be able to supply power to Rajasthan. This is what you have stated in your reply.

I am happy that Shri Natwar Singhji,

who represents Rajasthan, is sitting here. Would he be kind enough to find out the real position and ask a powerful Minister like Shri Sathe as to when Rajasthan would be supplied 2271 million units in 1985-86 ? When will Rajasthan be supplied 3119 million units in 1986-87, 4900 million units in 1987-88, 4678 million units in 1988-89 and 5234 million units in 1989-90 ?

You have stated that this scarcity would continue and every year there would be short supply of power. I do not wish to compare the supply of power to other States, but what is the reason that Rajasthan is supplied less power and Uttar Pradesh, which has sent very important Members here.....

AN HON. MEMBER : U.P. is itself in difficulty and it has been supplied minimum power.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It could be judged from your physique.

Rajasthan has been supplied power from Singrauli. In 1983-84, Rajasthan was supplied 412.3 MW of power, whereas U.P. was supplied 1719.3 MW of power.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : You must take into account the population of U.P.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Rajasthan was supplied 500.2 million units of power in 1984-85, whereas Uttar Pradesh was supplied 3305 million units.

(Interruptions)

During the year 1985-86, Rajasthan was supplied 556.5 million units of power, whereas U.P. was supplied 2840.6 million units. This means that there has been 80 per cent of power cut. Even for the plans, Rajasthan has been provided very meagre funds.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if justice is not done to us, we would definitely highlight it. Rajasthan is facing a number of difficulties due to non-availability of power.

The point is that Rajasthan must be provided funds according to its requirements. Even in the Five Year Plan, we have been provided very meagre funds for power sector.

I know that the hon. Minister is a great man. He has very liberal attitude. He would certainly do justice with Rajasthan. Under the Plan, an allocation of Rs. 874.20 crores was made to Rajasthan, whereas allocation for U.P. was of the order of Rs. 3395 crores.

*(Interruptions)*

What I mean to say is that Rajasthan has been neglected in every respect. I would like to submit that there was total failure of rains in Rajasthan during the last four years. The people in Rajasthan are pining for a drop of water and water level in the wells has gone down to depth of 200 ft. Industries are being closed down, people are being rendered jobless and they are facing near starvation. By this you might have come to know the condition of Rajasthan. I am confident that Sath Saheb would make available the power from Singrauli. I would like to know as to what is the basis for distribution of power from the Central Sector? You made no effort to find out the quantum of power being distributed to each State. You have been discriminating between the various States in the distribution of power. I hope you will do justice to all.

Secondly, the agreement which has been signed is not being implemented. Our State is supplied power from Satpura. We would be supplied 1.25 million units of power from Satpura. That share of power is not being supplied to us and Mr. Singh has just taken over.

*[English]*

Mr. Shiv Charan Mathur has reminded Mr. Singh that Rajasthan was not being given power supply of his share on a regular basis.

*[Translation]*

There have been many Chief Ministers

in Madhya Pradesh. They admit, but do not supply power. They have constructed dams in the catchment areas. The water from Chambal would not flow into Jawahar Sagar and Rama Pratap Sagar in our area and our water reservoirs would remain dry and hydel power which was generated earlier would not be generated now. The agreement which is entered into with various States in different sectors is not implemented and the agreed share of power is not supplied. What should be done in such circumstances? There is the Bhakhra Beas Management Board in Punjab which is adopting a very adamant attitude. I do not know how this Board could be made to adhere to the provisions of the agreement in the matter of distribution of power? They do not supply us power. Now Uttar Pradesh would come to our rescue. Justice demands that power should be distributed honestly. This country belongs to all of us. We should get our share of power. We should be given funds. They want the State of Rajasthan to remain a desert area only. But this is not the policy of the Government of India. Shri Rajiv Gandhi wants upliftment of the downtrodden and the depressed and the affluent should be made to make a little sacrifice. These imbalances should be done away with. It should not be that we should be crushed. He says in his own style :

*[English]*

I do not want to read in detail. He says that 120 MW should be given to Rajasthan but the remaining ten lakh units will not be given.

*[Translation]*

They themselves admit; when Shri Arjun Singh was the Chief Minister, he expressed his inability to supply power. Now who would get it supplied?

Secondly, I would like to know how the Central Government would ensure the supply of power to us from those States with whom we have entered into agreement under the aegis of the Central Government? What shall we do? Power must be supplied to Rajasthan. If power is supplied to Rajasthan and there are good

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

rains, we are prepared to supply water-melon, quality Bajra, pedigree cattle, good quality milk and ghee to other states. But our requirement of power should be met. Even funds are not being provided to us. We have been demanding and we have requested many a times, but we have neither been provided power nor funds.

What do I want now ? How much power would be supplied to us ? You have been very kind.

210 MW from 3 Units of Kota Extension, 6 from Ramgarh gas turbine, 6 from Mangalore, 4 from Suratgarh, 2 from Anoopgarh, 9 from Jagasar, 2 from Pungal. What do I want ? I would like to ask the hon. Minister if priority would be given to the Thermal Unit in Kota in the Second phase, for which a sum of Rs. 200 crores is required so that power could be made available from the Atomic Power Plant at the earliest ? Today Sathe Saheb would not refuse. The Centre should entrust the entire Power Sector to one Minister only. Our Patil Saheb is also sitting. I would like to thank him...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Daga, this is half-an-hour discussion. You have taken more than fifteen minutes, leave the other fifteen minutes for the Minister to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It is your kindness to me. I would finish within half-an-hour.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you do not require the reply, you continue.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : He will give a detailed reply. He is a master.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then leave time for him also to answer.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I want that the proposed Third Power Plant may kindly be set up this very year. It should be set up on priority basis. The gas based plant proposed to be set up in Sawai Madhopur may also be set up this very year. You should spend our entire funds this very year, otherwise you would not be able to stop the large scale migration of people out of Rajasthan and the closure of industries in the State. I would like that Sathe Saheb, Natwar Singhji and Patil Saheb also should visit Rajasthan and see for themselves the condition prevailing there ? *(Interruptions)*. All right. It would be better if Alvaji also accompanies them, because a woman's heart is full of compassion. You should visit the State and see for yourself the treatment being meted out to Rajasthan. Rajasthan has also been provided less funds under the Plan. In the distribution also, Rajasthan has got less share. I hope that the hon. Minister would reply to all the five questions which I have asked and he would make an arrangement under which the requirement of power would be met in the coming years.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Daga has raised many important points relating to the problems of Rajasthan. As far as Rajasthan is concerned, it is true that Rajasthan will face shortage of about 2,000 million units by the end of the 7th Five year plan. Today it is having a shortage of about 667 million units. Now, the only way we can try to help Rajasthan is by expediting some of the projects. At the outset I may like to tell him that his suggestion is that Kotah project, 4th unit, which is included in the 8th Five year plan should be brought forward to the 7th Five year plan ; and I can assure him that as far as the Government of India is concerned, we are willing to do our best to bring it forward in the 7th Five-year plan itself. That will reduce the burden and provide about 210 MW of installed capacity for Rajasthan which will give approximately about 1,000 million units of power per annum. Similarly, if the projects that

we have in mind for the gas-based stations in the Northern region (that is, at Anta for 430 MW and Auriya project in UP for 600 MW is concerned) this will also enable Rajasthan to get from the Northern region a share of about 1,000 million units of power per year. That means that this shortage of 2,000 million units will be made good by these two, bringing forward Kotah and providing a share from the gas-based stations from the Northern region. So, this is what we are planning. But the more important thing is to do something on our own also in Rajasthan. For example, the transmission losses in Rajasthan are the highest today in the country. The national average is 21%. Rajasthan is having 24%.

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** This is because of the distances from Punjab and Madhya Pradesh from where power is coming.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** No ; I am talking of your distribution losses in Rajasthan. You know this very well. Sir, the hon. Member knows fully well that this term 'transmission loss' is, in fact, a cover for nothing but theft. So, transmission losses are in fact thefts basically. Technical losses may be about 10 per cent. So, if you can reduce them even to 15 per cent from 24 per cent, you will be making available about 1300 million units.

**SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :** Do you want an assurance from Mr. Daga ?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** I will be happy if he can do that, if he can persuade the State Government. And he himself is a very important Member who can persuade the Rajasthan Distribution System. It will make available about 800 million units worth of power. Some planning of internal distribution also is to be done.

Another way we can help is in terms of giving power from Central sectors like Singrauli etc. I do not think Shri Daga was sure in his remarks about U.P.'s share and Rajasthan's share. There are well laid down principles of sharing based on population, based on use, and those principles have not been violated. From the

Central sector wherever the plant is located how much is to be given to what State is laid down. Instead of comparing as to how much U.P. is getting, the best thing would be to compare as to whether Rajasthan is getting its share or not, agreed share. The States are also a party to this agreement. If the grievance is that you must have a higher share as a ratio, it is a matter that can be discussed because others also will have to agree, the northern region, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, all will have to agree.

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** What is the criterion of distribution ?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** I will tell you. I do not have the whole list of criteria, but as I said, there are certain well accepted norms like population and all these things. But what has happened to Rajasthan ? Rajasthan's share in Singrauli was 607.8 million units. Rajasthan got 638.9 million units. That means Rajasthan got additional units, nearly 225 million units. During the period from April 1985 to February 1986, the additional assistance amounted to 225 million units. How can you say that we were unfair or Rajasthan did not have a just share ? In fact it got more than what it was entitled to. Therefore, this allegation is not relevant.

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Look into that.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** This can be argued *ad infinitum*.

Let us now come to the question of whether there has been any cut in the rural power supply to the small scale industries. This is also one allegation. Now, the fact is that although the hon. Member, a seasoned, learned senior Member, Mr. Daga, has been saying that there has been 80 per cent cut for the consumers, the poor consumers, the fact of the matter is that majority of industries are small and medium. What is the position relating to that ? On medium industries which in fact account for the largest number in the State, there has been no

[Shri Vasant Sathe]

power cut in force in the State either in 1984-85 or in 1985-86.

In regard to agriculture supply also, in every State, we ensure 8 hours supply to farmers.

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** I will not discuss it. Let it be verified by a committee whether the figures are correct.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** I am also quoting from the report of the Rajasthan Government. What basis do I have ?

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** I request the hon. Minister to come along with me and visit Rajasthan. People will tell him what is the position,

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** There are other Members also, here from Rajasthan.

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** They do not want to take unnecessary confrontation.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Let us go by the facts. The facts are 8-hour supply every day to rural area for agriculture has been assured and there is no power cut either for the small industries or for rural supply. This is the position in Rajasthan. Whereas in other States, things are even worse. The total shortage in Rajasthan in 1986 is 8.4% as against 10% in the rest of the country. So, the shortage is there. We would have been happy if Rajasthan got 100% fulfilment of the demand requirement. But when we are looking at facts, we must see that Rajasthan is not given a treatment, compared to other States, which is less favourable. Therefore, these are the facts of the situation.

But I will agree that in the 7th Plan, although there are a number of outgoing schemes totalling to 995 mega watt on the various stages of execution out of these schemes, 385 mega watt of new capacity is expected to be commissioned in the 7th Plan and the balance of 210 mega watt would be beyond the 7th Plan period. Out of 385 m.w. programme for the 7th

Plan, the various projects that are going to be taken up are Mahee Bajaj which is already one of the units for 50 m.w. and has already come into commission. Based on the availability of power, as I said earlier, we will try to give power from Singarauli, Rihand, Narora—I am talking of the Central projects—and Chamera. We are going to set up Gas Turbines Projects also. Then, there are Atomic Power Station (RAPP) 2×220 mega watt and Singarauli 5×210 mega watt. There also, Rajasthan will have its share. Thus, we will try to assure the maximum that we can. Over and above this there is what is known as unallocated share of 15%. It is the policy of the Government of India that from this unallocated share whichever State has the biggest need, we will try to give from that also. In Rajasthan, we will try to give as much as we can, although we have to be fair to other States also. Therefore, I cannot commit that I will give this much percent or that much percent. But we will try to give maximum possible to meet the requirements of Rajasthan, as far as Central share is concerned.

Now, it is true that the first unit of Atomic Power Station, after commissioned, would meet the requirement of 210 m.w.

I think the Science & Technology Department and the Atomic Commission are doing their best and I am doubtful whether....

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Half-an-Hour is over. How many minutes more you want ?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** As you say, I am willing to sit down.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** How many minutes you want ?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** I will take about five minutes more.

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** I will also join.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** It is for you to decide.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Yes. You continue. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Jain alone can put a question, as per rules.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Half-an-Hour means any time.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Half-an-Hour means any time !

With these measures that are proposed, we believe that the position in Rajasthan would not be that dismal as was tried to be projected. As far as farmers in the rural areas are concerned. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Daga, you must hear the reply.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As I said, there is no discrimination against the farmers in the State. Thus, we will try to do our best to bring in the projects that are on schedule in Rajasthan and try to do our best to provide power.

He talked about Madhya Pradesh. From external sources where power is coming, one of the sources is Madhya Pradesh. They have an agreement. But the grievance of Madhya Pradesh is that Rajasthan is not paying for the power that they are getting.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : No, no, no.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : More than Rs. 40 crores are due. (*Interruptions*) I am conveying to you. I have written to your Chief Minister also. More than Rs. 40 crores worth of payment is due from Rajasthan. M.P. Electricity Board have reported that Rajasthan had to pay Rs. 34.5 crores to M.P. on 31.10.85 for power supply made by M.P. to Rajasthan. This is their contention. Please try to see. If you want more, M.P. can give you some more power. But if you want more power, you must pay for it. If Rajasthan, which is known to have the richest people in the country. . .

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : But the State is not rich.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : All over the world they are known ; it is the people

from Rajasthan who have lot of money. They are proud of them. If Rajasthan cannot pay, then which State can pay for the power ? Therefore, this also is a point which needs to be remembered. If you do this, you will be able to have the required power that Rajasthan would need and meet the requirement of the State.

With these words, I think the hon. Member will now be satisfied.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jain, you can put a question.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : I will speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. You cannot speak. You can only put a question.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : I know.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot say like that, Mr. Jain.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) ; My first question is what progress has been made in the efforts to seek bilateral assistance for the Palana Lignite Plant ? What progress has been made with regard to the proposal to obtain credit from West Germany ? When would it be finalised ? Efforts are being made for the Palana Plant for the last 20 years. Will it be established during the Seventh Five Year Plan or not ? Secondly, it has been stated in reply to the question that a 3 Megawatt Project in Ramgarh would be taken up in the Seventh Five Year Plan.....

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jain, you know the rules. You should put a question. You conform to the rules.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : First question and second question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : According to the rule you can put only one question.

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** I am the only member and this is a most important subject. I am putting relevant questions.

[Translation]

There is a proposal to set up a gas based Plant in Ramgarh, but it has not yet been decided at what rate gas would be supplied to the Plant. Unless gas is made available at concessional rate, this plant cannot be established. What efforts are you making in this regard? My third question is.....

[English]

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Yes, no more questions. The Minister may please reply to the questions. Nothing more will go on record. You have put a number of questions instead of one.

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** I will only put questions which are very, very important.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** No, you cannot ask. You can ask only one question. That is the practice.

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** 3 to 4 question are allowed and I am the only member. I will put relevant questions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** You cannot put questions one after another. He says that he knows the rule. Then let him conform to the rule. You can put only one question.

**SHRI VASANT SAHTE :** Let him put the questions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** The Minister cannot decide like that.

[Translation]

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** C part of my question is that details have

been given about the first Unit and the second Unit of the new Atomic Power Plant proposed to be set up. If work on war footing is undertaken on that Atomic Power Plant and if it is completed in the Seventh Five Year Plan, the power-crisis of Rajasthan could be solved to a great extent. What is your attitude towards this? It is correct that you have been providing us our share from Singrauli. I have no complaint about that, but when Rajasthan is facing a crisis and when both the Atomic Power Plants are not working, I would like to know if you are prepared to compensate us from the Central reserve?

[English]

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** As far as Palana is concerned, we are ourselves very anxious. We have cleared it from our side. It is a State project and it is in the State sector. It has not been included in the Seventh Plan. So there is no provision, unless Rajasthan itself makes a provision whether through bilateral assistance or assistance from Germany or any other country. As far as we are concerned, we will have no objection to its being included in the Seventh Plan and we will support it fully because if this lignite-based project comes up it will help Rajasthan.

Ramgarh gas plant—the question is of a small unit of 3 MW. But again its economics also will depend on the price of gas. This is with the Petroleum Ministry and Petroleum Ministry has to decide economic price for the gas. Only then this Ramgarh 3 MW unit will become viable.

As far as atomic energy project is concerned, it is for the Department of Atomic Energy to decide where they will have a new unit, what is their provision and whether they can have in Rajasthan a new unit. I am told that they are planning two units and I understand they will come in the Seventh Five Year Plan. At the same place two new units are being planned and that will ease the situation of Rajasthan substantially.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Please get it verified whether they get power for eight hours and there is no power-cut....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Please ask your State Government.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again at Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 21, 1986.

18.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 21, 1986/Phalguna 30, 1907 (Saka).*

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