

13.16 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Ministry of Energy—Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We go to the next item: Further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Energy. Shri Anil Basu to speak.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy is one of the most important subjects of the Union Government, about which we are discussing now. The Ministry of Energy consists of three important sectors i.e. Power, Coal and Non-Conventional Energy. But the time allocated for the discussion on this subject is very short. I would request you to allow me to speak on this very important subject and required time may kindly be allotted to me.

Sir, you are aware that energy is a basic input for the advancement of our country in all spheres. There is a direct relationship between the living condition of our people and the energy consumption. The Low *per capita* consumption of energy of our country shows that in spite of naming our country as a developing country, in the field of energy consumption we are far behind. Taking stock of the present economic situation of the country as on today, it will be seen that 50 per cent of our population is living below the poverty-line. 40 per cent of goods and services is available to the 10 per cent of the population while only 15 per cent goods and services is available to the 40 per cent of our population. 58 per cent of our population has no access to the three 'R's. More than four crores of educated unemployed youth have got their names registered in the Employment Exchanges and they are not getting any job. If we take the rural sector into consideration, the number of unemployed manpower in the country is nearly 12 crores today. The price of all essential commodities are sky-rocketing. Deficit Finance and infla-

tion have become the ornament of this Government. The position of Balance of Payments is causing a serious concern to us. Indiscriminate import has shown its result on the economy. India's share of disbursed and undisbursed outstanding medium and long-term external debt was estimated at Rs. 55,000 crores this year. The level of debt-servicing on this debt during the current year is estimated to account for 25 per cent of the current receipts. So, like some of the third world countries, we are going to fall in the debt trap of the imperialists countries if the present trend continues. I am not taking about the closure of the industries. There are 1,80,000 such industries today. Lakhs of workers are being retrenched. They are thrown out of jobs. So, it is crystal clear that the economic policy of this Government has become counter-productive. If we do not have a rationale economic policy, we cannot evolve a rationale energy policy. On both these counts, we are failing. That is why, the per-capita consumption of energy in our country is very low.

Now, coming to the coal sector, our country's estimated coal reserve is Rs. 170 billion tonnes.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): They are not listening.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): We are all listening.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Now, the estimated coal reserve of our country is 170 billion tonnes and of Lignite is six billion tonnes. Prior to nationalisation, the coal production was 70 million tonnes. After nationalisation, when more investment was made in the year 1976-77, it rose to 100 million tonnes. During the Sixth Plan period, an investment of Rs. 2,573 crores was made and the production at the end of Sixth Plan was 147.41 million tonnes. The total investment during the Seventh Plan was Rs. 6,700.58 crores and for the CIL, it was Rs.6,000 crores and for Singareni collaries, it was Rs. 580 crores

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and for research and development it was Rs. 12 crores. Now, the production of coal in 1977-78 was set at 179.9 million tonnes and the target was short of two per cent. During 1988-89, the target set for CIL was 196.26 million tonnes and the actual production during April-September, 1988 was 132.8 million tonnes. So, a gap remains to be fulfilled during January to March 1989 to the tune of 63.18 million tonnes. Now, it is clear that production target could not be achieved during 1988-89. So, the coal production target for 1989-90 has been re-assessed at 210 million tonnes, and however the demand will be 222 million tonnes. The gap of 12 million tonnes between the demand and the production will be met by imports drawn down of at pit-head stocks. Why is the question of imports coming? The pit-head stock as on 31st December, 1988 was at 28.4 million tonnes. The gap of 12 million tonnes can be met from the pit-head stocks which is 28.4 million tonnes. Why is it said that imports will be necessary?

Another important matter in this field is the production of metallurgical grade coking coal. The CIL's production was 23.6 million tonnes in 1986-87 and come down to 22.10m million tonnes during 1987-88. It further declined to around 19 million tonnes during 1988-89. Why did the production of metallurgical grade coking coal come down to such a level? To meet the demand, imports will be required. When our balance of payments position is so serious, can we afford to such imports by paying around R. 1200 per tonne for metallurgical coking coal of about nine million tonnes? Who is responsible for slowing down this production? Who is responsible for the drainage of vicious foreign exchange reserves of the country?

CIL is the main producer. What is most disturbing is the accumulated loss of CIL which is around Rs. 2500 crores since nationalisation. In fact since its founding in 1975 CIL has been incurring losses except miraculously in 1981-82.

Some important persons including our Hon. Minister tried to explain that the losses are because of excess work force and wage increase and less productivity. If the wages of the coal miners are seen in the historical perspective, there has definitely been a jump from one period to another constituting increase in real earnings if the corresponding increase in the cost of living is taken into consideration. Is this increase in real earnings responsible for CIL losses? The expenditure of the company on each worker—wages plus amenities etc.—increased after nationalisation from Rs. 27 per day to Rs. 107 per day, that is 4 times; but during the same period the price of the coal increased from Rs. 32 to Rs. 249 per tonne, that is 8 times.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: What about production?

SHRI ANIL BASU: I said earlier. It means you did not pay attention.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He is not interest in coal, he is interested only in energy.

SHRI ANIL BASU: I admit that wage earning consists a larger part in coal economy. But with mechanisation the wage earning is decreasing. Firstly it was about 63%, but now it has declined to 43%. So, if a reduction in wages could reduce costs and losses, both should have been eliminated by now.

On the contrary losses have been increasing from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 400 crores in 1987-88. Why is it so? This is because of the result that you went in for indiscriminate purchase of machinery. You purchased machinery worth Rs. 2000 crores of which Rs. 1000 crores have already been reduced to junk.

A very frivolous programme in CIL is internationalisation of the CIL's drive for mechanisation. This has created a problem with indigenous machinery production units. On the one hand it has been claimed that in

1986-87 CIL purchases of machinery and equipment from indigenous sources stood at Rs. 277.70 crores out of a total Rs.407.02 crores, that is 68.23%. In 1987-88 the purchases were Rs. 220 crores out of Rs. 250 crores that is 85%.

You will notice a peculiar thing. It is reported that 17 units in the country are purchasing machinery for mining industry with an installed capacity of Rs. 115 crores and all of them are running at a loss with a capacity utilisation of 45%. How is it that when the installed capacity is Rs. 115 crores of all the units, and the capacity utilisation is 45%. CIL is purchasing machinery worth Rs. 277.70 crores when the capacity is only Rs. 115 crores of all the mining machine building industry. What then is this indigenisation mechanisation which cannot provide work for the machine building industry in the coal sector and instead threatens the manpower in the mines?

Further the peculiar thing is that utilisation of the machines is even less than the man-power in the mines. The recent study of BCCL shows that only 32% of the capacity of the dumper; 37% of the shovel and 32% of the drill is being utilised. The Chari Committee and the important personnel in the Ministry as well as the Annual Report are all championing the cause of open cast mining and nobody wants to go to the under-ground mining. But is it the best solution to the problem of losses? According to the report in 1985-86 the cost of open-cast mining was 50% of that of the underground mining. In ECL it is 43%. In WCL it is 47% and CCL it is 32%. While in 1975-76 only 25% of the collieries produced from open-cast mines in 1987-88 the proportion had gone up to 65%. In 1986-87 the open-cast mines produced 88.09 MT whereas underground mines produced 73.27 MT of coal. In view of this why have losses not been reduced? In CCL and WCL the production is primarily based on open cast mining while in ECL it is underground mining. In 1985-86 the losses in CCL and WCL were to the tune of Rs. 83-84 crores and Rs. 99.5 crores respectively while in ECL the losses were to the tune of

Rs. 69.97 crores. If open-cast mining is the solution how these losses can be explained? All that I want to say is that if the policy is to go in for open-cast mining then you take proper steps in the right direction otherwise you find so many project are pending because of the land acquisition problem. So, if open-cast mining is the policy then make proper arrangements in the right direction. Machinery and manpower should be used properly. There should be perspective planning and employment should be given to the land loser. But that is not being done.

Secondly as regards open-cast mining projects there should be strict quality control because shovels and boulders are supplied in the name of coal. I am telling this because the result has become disastrous. Now more than worth Rs. 1200 crores bills of CIL are pending with the State Electricity Boards for clearance. On the other hand State Electricity Boards have put up their counter-claims of more than Rs. 500 crores as compensation for being supplied with bad quality of coal.

I want to put forward some of my State problems in regard to the coal sector. The Ministry has decided to set up Dankune Coal Complex but I want to know as to how many years they will take to complete the construction of the complex. You can see that there is no separate heading for it in the coal budget. It is clubbed with the CIL. The requirement of CIL and Dankune Coal Complex was pushed down from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 15 crores. In this situation, how are you going to complete the project?

Another important problem in the coal belt of Asansol and Raniganj is that of subsidence. After taking out coal, nobody cares for the human life and the entire area is going to be destroyed because of the policies and unscientific planning of Proper billing system is not there. Contractors are engaged here. They are spending crores of rupees and bogus bills and vouchers have been submitted. Cores of rupees have been paid to the contractors and the whole area is going to be destroyed because of the unscientific ap-

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proach of the CIL in this specific area.

Now, the next point is regarding the management and the workers relations. The total manpower of CIL as on 1.1.89 is 6,71,118 and this has been reduced by 5000 in comparison to the previous year. It is common sense that if production is to be increased, the productive forces should be given preferential treatment in terms of wages, incentives, promotions, accommodation, etc. But in the coal fields, you can see that the children of workers cannot go to schools because there are no primary schools in the coal belts. The teachers who are employed there are paid Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 by the Joint Committee. With such a salary, how can you expect the teachers to teach the sons and daughters of the workers? Nobody cares to look after these things and these workers are belonging to mostly SC, ST and Harijan communities. Their children are not getting any education because there is no proper schooling system in the coal belt areas. Even after 42 years of independence, there is no proper drinking water system in the coal belts. No proper drinking water system has developed in the coal belt areas.

In March, 1988, workers went on strike because the Government forced them to go on strike and production failed. But output increased after August strike which was by the workers themselves. There seems to be no effective ban on the recruitment of white collared staff. Temporary workers are not given the job permanently. They are not taken as permanent workers. Land losers are not given jobs but the recruitment of white collar staff is increasing. Female workers are also not given jobs and hence they are retrenched. The result is that BCCL manpower has risen from 1,42,000 to 1,70,000 today while the number of miners has decreased from 55,000 at the time of nationalisation to 35,000 today of whom only 25,000 remain present. While the number of miners is decreasing, the number of other employees is going up.

I must also point out that everybody speaks of the low productivity; from Minister of CIL Management, they talk of low productivity, and the Minister frequently tells us about that. But they have never spelt out the breakeven OMS. Does this mean that CIL does not know what the breakeven OMS point is, I do not think so.

Though there has been virtually no increase in productivity in the underground mines, which remained stationary at around 0.54 tonnes, the overall productivity in the open cast mines rose from 0.58 tonnes in 1974-75 to 1.06 tonnes in 1987-88. But these losses have not decreased in 1987-88. CIL attained a record of 11 per cent increase in production and productivity and at the same time the losses also went up to Rs. 400 crores. Thus, the CIL losses are not due to the number of workers or their wages, or underground mines or even to the low productivity, but it clearly shows that the factors responsible for losses are large scale corruption and wastage which are bleeding the organization white.

Sir, the coal mafia is supported by the ruling party at the Centre and there is a nexus between the management and the political godfathers. I would like to ask what action has been taken by the Ministry on the investigation report of Shri P. Rajagopalan submitted a decade ago to the Ministry. The report was not published, nor were its suggestions and recommendations implemented as it revealed a nexus among the CIL officers, contractors and their political masters.

What can explain the fact that CCL incurred a loss of Rs. 17.5 crores in the year 1987-88 with payment to contractors going up from Rs. 3.35 crores to Rs. 16.5 crores in one year, and overheads from Rs. 30.94 crores to Rs. 33.20 crores with production remaining the same? The same phenomenon is visible everywhere in ECL and BCCL.

I would also like to say that this being the election year, the management and others would perhaps be forced to collect funds for

election purposes....(Interruptions). I have not mentioned any party. But this is a fact.

Now I want to deal with the safety in collieries. In the year 1986-87, the number of fatalities was 147. In 1987-88, the number was 140 and it rose to 156 in 1988. As far as safety aspect is concerned, all precautions should be taken and all loopholes should be plugged.

Now I come to power sector. Without electricity we cannot develop our industry and agriculture. That is the reason why our country continues to be backward. Of course, we are giving some importance to this power sector. But in comparison to the other third world countries such as Brazil, our efforts seem to be rather meagre. For example in Brazil, in the year 1984 the installed capacity for power was 41,662 MW and the actual generation was 1,75,710 MW. In 1984 the installed capacity in India was 43,754 MW and the actual generation was 1,50,644 MW.

In our country the percentage of the plan targets and the physical achievements of the target varies from 44 per cent to 75 per cent. During the First Plan our physical achievement was 1117 MW forming 85.9 per cent. During the Second Plan it was 2236 MW and the percentage was 63.8. During the Fourth Plan it declined to 44.9 per cent. During the Sixth Plan our achievement was 14,500 MW and the percentage was 63.7.

As against a target of commissioning 22,245 MW during the Seventh Plan period, upto 31.3.1988 a capacity of 11,829 MW has been commissioned. During 1988-89 the target was 496.5 MW and the target during April—December 1988 was 2942 MW. But the achievement was only 48.7 per cent of the set target which comes to about 1432 MW only.

Now I come to the aspect of hydel power. Sir, we have failed miserably in this sector. During the Seventh Plan we set a target of producing more than 5000 MW in the hydel sector. But we have not yet

achieved even 30 per cent of the target.

The cumulative result of all these failures in achieving the targets is there for all to see in the form of continuous and round the year power cuts, untold misery for the workers and the people. Added to this is the problem of slippage in transmission lines. In the case of transmission lines—both 220 and 400 KV lines, the expected slippage is about 50 per cent.

It is pertinent to add here that while formulating the Seventh Plan, the envisaged need to add 33,000 MW was curtailed to 22,000 MW and thereby the fund requirement was also reduced to 34,273 crores as against the actual requirement of Rs. 67,000 crores.

The mid-term assessment again revealed that there would be a shortage of 10,000 MW by the end of the Seventh Plan. Therefore, the scaling down of the plan targets is found to be improper because this is putting the country in perpetual power crisis.

Another disturbing feature of our plan implementation is that in some parts of the country, we are able to meet the requirements whereas some other parts have to go through severe power crisis. If we study the statewise figures of power shortage, we find that Haryana has a shortage of 14 per cent, Rajasthan 11 per cent, Karnataka 30 per cent, Kerala 16 per cent and Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa to the tune of around 18 per cent. In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to a very important problem concerning my State. The Minister is well aware of it. I am referring to Bakreshwar Thermal Power Plant.

Sir, as assessed by CEA, the shortage of power in West Bengal will be around 800 MW at the end of 8th Five Year Plan and according to the Government of West Bengal it will be 1100 MW. During the 7th Five Year Plan, in consultation with the Planning Commission the State Government submitted the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project and it was approved in the State sector. The

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Central Government has given to understand that if foreign assistance or foreign loans are available, that will be passed to the State Government for the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project. In this connection, the Central Government forwarded two proposals; one from Soviet Union and other from Japan, to the State Government. The State Government favoured the proposal of the Soviet Union and sent both the proposals to the Central Government for its approval. Central Government accepted the proposal of Soviet Union. After the Indo-Soviet agreement, when Soviets agreed to fund the power project in India with a capacity of 840 MW, immediately the Union Government said that the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Plant should be commissioned with the soviet assistance by the NTPC and not by the State Government. So many times our Chief Minister came to Delhi and held discussion with the Hon. Minister of Power. Our Chief Minister also met the Prime Minister and I am told that even the Prime Minister has given to understand that Bakreshwar will be given to West Bengal and Soviet assistance will also be passed on to the West Bengal Government. So, how can you deny it now? If honesty is a word found in the dictionary, may I ask whether it is prevailing upon the Ministry or upon the Union Government? You are denying the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project to West Bengal and on the other hand you are saying that the students are selling blood and thereby are collecting funds for it. When the people of the State are collecting funds for the Bakreshwar, a very important person in the Ministry says that the blood contains AIDS virus. I would say, what a bad taste it is. It reminds me of the British days. When Khudi Ram, Praffula Acharya, and Binoy, Badal and Dinesh sacrificed their lives, at that time the puppets of the Britishers used to say that they were not freedom fighters; they were not patriots and they had committed suicide. In the same tune today we are.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up. I have given you more than half an hour.

*Not recorded.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Within 2 minutes I will finish.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I had been more than liberal to you.

SHRI ANIL BASU: So, Sir, our power development share of hydro-electricity is decreasing. The total potential is 75000 MW and we are not able to harness even 20 per cent of the potential. We are not going for the mini hydel projects. If we construct a mini-hydel project in the north eastern regions in Assam, there will be a tremendous growth in our economy. It has other plus points also, like it is very cheap, pollution free and the technology is also available in the country. I cannot think why the Government is not going for mini-hydel projects in the north-eastern regions in Assam. If you construct a hydel project on the rivers of Brahmaputra in Assam, it can feed the whole country. In addition to this, floods can be controlled, irrigation water can be provided, soil erosion can be prevented. I don't know why the Government is so miserly. When there are so many hydel potentials, why cannot they exploit them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken too much time.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, this is the last point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. You have already taken too much time. You are ignoring the Chair absolutely. Yes, Mr. Panika.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Now, I want to ask whether a review has been made on the achievement....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hereafter whatever the Hon. Member says, don't record

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA

(Robertsganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I listened to the submission of Shri Anil Basu for 45 minutes. As such his many points are correct but I do not agree to his views about the losses incurred by the C.C.L. because he did not elaborate the expenditure of the organisation in detail. Coal is a basic infrastructure and substantial progress has been made in the Coal Sector since 1980. It can be observed that for the last 8 or 10 years, tremendous progress has been made in the coal sector. The wages of workers were enhanced last year by granting interim relief which cost the exchequer Rs. 200 crores. But recently, the people of his party have signed an agreement for a further increase in wages. As per the agreement made in this matter wages are to be further increased which will cost the exchequer about Rs. 150 crores more. If everything is taken into account, it can be claimed that Coal India Limited is going to earn profits for the first time. But when the expenditure over which Coal India Limited does not have any control increases, it becomes essential to pay attention to certain basic points. so far as production is concerned, it has increased from .92 percent to 1.11 per cent during the last 3 years. When productivity increases, per-man shift also increases. Production has increased as per the requirements. The hon. Member has drawn the attention of the House to all these points. But he over-looked the increased expenditure of Coal India Limited. When we have assembled here to review the performance of the coal sector, we should do so with due fairness. The production of coal in 1987-88 was 169.75 million tonnes which 8.4 percent more than the previous year and it is going to increase to 194 million tonnes. Is this not an achievement? As regards the problem in the coal sector, the primary problem is that of land acquisition. It is more acute in the states. This problems was not faced at Singrauli.....(Interruptions).....The West Bengal Government does not cooperate at all with the local unit of Coal India Limited. Land should be acquired by the State Government and handed over to the Coal India Limited. The Government funds provided in this regarded are not being utilised whereas

the production costs are going up. In addition, several such coal mines have to be operated inspite of losses incurred by them in view of national interests. The Kharia unit of N.C.L. is one such example. The Super Thermal Power Station at Amlaori is also incurring losses which should be brought to the notice of the country. Is it possible to allow such matters to go unnoticed? Therefore, attention should be paid to these matters and this is what I want to impress upon Shri Anil Basu.

14.00 hrs.

So far as the question of consumers satisfaction is concerned, 75 percent of our coal is transported through the railways and most of it goes to the public sector undertakings. Initially, some stockyards were opened and they had also been very popular. But more stockyards could not be opened in time. I want that the Government should pay attention towards this aspect. Stockyards should be made popular so that consumers can get coal in time.

So far as rehabilitation is concerned, it is a very big problem. I want to thank the hon. Minister for taking a decision in this matter that everyone will be rehabilitated. But the two contradictory things cannot take place. On one hand you want that only the minimum required number of persons should be employed in the coal sector and on the other you want everyone to be rehabilitated. I want to suggest that if it is not possible, absorb the surplus people in the coal units, necessary assistance should be provided to them so that they can start some work related to coal. Some quota of coal should be fixed for them so that they are able to earn their livelihood by selling coal to the consumers. They can be appointed as petty contractors or they can be allotted shops. Ancillary industries can be also be established to rehabilitate them and loans should be made available from the banks if it is required to do so because the policy of the Government is to rehabilitate the surplus workers in the coal industry itself. I went o the D.V.C. as well which is also under the Central Government.

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D.V.C. has undertaken welfare programmes at a large scale and they are functioning very effectively. Such measures are required to be extended to the coal industry on a large-scale. Secondly, funds meant for the development of local villages is not adequate. The Ministry should increase this amount. These funds meant for the welfare of the people should be spent on welfare only. It is the responsibility of every industry to spend such sums for the education of the children of the workers, for drinking water supply and for other such facilities. The welfare funds are meant for the welfare of the local people and should be spent for that purpose only. I think that there is a need to increase this amount.

It is true that it is necessary to pay more attention to the production of coal washery. Sometimes due to short supply of power non-lifting of coal by the steel plants etc., production suffers. Foreign technology should be adopted to the maximum extent possible but at the same time it has to be ensured that necessary know how and spare parts are available in the country. Today imported machines worth crores of rupees are lying idle in the coal industries. It was envisaged that coal production will increase substantially through mechanisation but it did not happen. It is essential to review our decision. When, manpower is available in the country in plenty, it should be utilised to the maximum extent possible and new technology should be adopted to increase the production of coal to make the industry viable and supply coal to the people in time. My stand is that, coal production has constantly increased during the last some years under the leadership of the hon. Minister and the country's requirements in this regard have been met.

You might be remembering the State of affairs under the Janata regime. Many trains were cancelled due to the shortage of coal and coal was in short supply in the power houses as well. Today we can say with pride that no power house has been allowed to

close down on account of coal shortage. Other difficulties might have forced them to close, such as non-payment of arrears etc. The hon. Minister is well conversant with this industry. Is it not true that arrears worth crores of rupees of coal are outstanding against many electricity Boards and the coal industry is being managed by borrowing money from the banks. There are outstanding amount against the West Bengal Board as well as against other Power Houses and the coal industry is thriving on loans. Coal India may have any number of difficulties today and they practical difficulties but whenever this subject is raised, the hon. Minister would request the company to supply coal for the generation of power. Hundreds of crores of rupees of N.C.L. are outstanding against State Electricity Boards. Huge amounts are outstanding against several Government Departments as well. Therefore, you will have to appreciate the constraints in the way of Coal India Limited. As such the Government may observe the production of the Lignite Corporation of the N.C.L. N.C.L. has earned profits of Rs. 85 crores. This profit is going to increase to Rs. 100 crores this year but a very unfavourable situation has been created in West Bengal. Sometimes it creates labour unrest there and encourages the mafia elements. If this is the case the Government will have to bear the losses. We should all make concerted efforts to raise the standard of the industries in this country. The 225 million tonnes project prepared by this Ministry is praise worthy. More supplies of coal will mean more power and which will automatically lead to the increase of agricultural production resulting in the progress of the country. 170 million tonnes of coal was produced in this country. Industrial production was enhanced by 16 percent within a few months. I want to emphasise that no better example than this can be found anywhere in the world. With the pace our economic development has taken place under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi has no parallel in the world. Our country has made unique achievements despite the occurrence of the worst drought of the century. The economists all over the world acknowledged this

fact. The whole world is of the opinion that the production of the 'key' sectors have been increased. So far as the question of power is concerned, the House may recall that plant load factor declined considerably 2 or 3 years ago and transmission losses were increased and in this connection the N.T.P.C. unit of Uttar Pradesh was much criticised. But I am happy that today, due to the efforts of the hon. Minister, there has been considerable improvement in the situation and the plant load factor has increased to 60 to 65 per cent and in some places it has gone upto 90 per cent. Today, my State has exceeded the national average. The situation has so improved that the system has to reduce its plant load factor. Who is to be credited for this achievement? The Ministry and the hon. Minister Shri Vasant Sathe is to be credited for this tremendous progress made in the power sector. Today we have exceeded the target in respect of coal as well as power production. We are making considerable progress in the matter of power generation. We are spending Rs. 42 thousand crores during the Seventh Plan for this purpose. If this not an achievement what else is? The Director, Central Electricity done extremely praiseworthy work. He has efficiently discharged his duties in designing and planning the projects. Our Director is going to your State. Shri Acharyaji, the position of your State regarding power generation is at the bottom and you claim that it is good. You think that your Government is functioning effectively. You merely dream of making progress. Your State cannot make progress in this way. The Government of West Bengal is inefficient. Our Government is efficient and it shows positive results.

Sathe Sahib, I feel very disturbed on observing that the State Governments are wholly responsible for power generation in their respective States. They spend their whole time in collecting resources but they are not able to ensure adequate generation of power. They are not able to get the supply of coal in time, they are not able to buy the spare parts either and are at the mercy of the Central Government. The hon. Minister has extended Rs. 500 crores for the renovation

of many power projects but it is unfortunate that several State Electricity Boards have not been able to utilise these funds in time. It is because of their incapability to make full utilisation that plant load factor has decreased so much today. I want to request you that Central Assistance should be provided to the States. Our State Minister wrote to all the M.Ps in this matter and replies to which came and a Ministerial level meeting was convened in this matter. The relevant points were printed in a book form and by which we come to know about all the details.

Rural electrification is the need of the hour. REC has done a commendable work. It provided financial assistance and approved the plan, but the regrettable thing is that the State Governments do not exploit the funds at proper time, rather they divert those funds for other purposes.

The Central Government proposed a number of plans like that of Gobar gas, energy villages etc. I would like to point out that Acharia ji generally advocates that maximum powers should be given to State Governments whenever the matter of Centre-State relations is discussed in the House. But when it comes to execution the responsibility is shifted to the centre and the Minister in-charge Shri Sathe. This is a wrong attitude. The Central Government has done its best in this regard.

This department has done really a commendable job during the last four years by making a record increase in coal and power to fulfil the requirements of industries and agriculture. Many effective measures have been taken to improve the functioning of NTPC and DVC. Besides, there has been considerable improvement in the working of NHPC and NPCC and more strictness is required where the measures have not proved much successful.

We want economy but there are organisations which misutilise power. The Government will have to see that the labourers are not exploited in organisations like NTPC, NHPC and NPCC. I do not accuse the

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management for this, but there are officers in the management who are behind these unions and this is done so that the union is strong enough to meet all the demands. Though the Government has made the provision for the employees, participation in management but there are instances where officers are behind union activities. You would be surprised to know that the employees of NCL gave a call for a strike. The matter should be investigated. The NTPC granted one day's casual leave to about 400 employees for participating in that strike. You can go through the record and punishment if I am wrong. But in spite of that the NTPC unit in Shaktinagar in Singhrauli suspended about 400 employees for their participation in the strike.

When coal and power are under the same Ministry, it is not good to degrade each other. The Government should hold enquiry into it. I want to assert that the Government should take action against the officer responsible for the suspension of those 400 workers and present the full report in the House. The incident happened during the last year.

The Government will have to bring about a few modifications in the policy of rural electrification. There is a proposal under consideration to set up a national grid. In the absence of a grid the department has to resort to load shedding very frequently. I know that the NTPC unit Shaktinagar had to reduce the power generation when there was no way for transmission of power. The Central Government can afford to bear the burden of the grid but not the State Governments.

Most of the Members talk of transmission losses but I would like to point out that actually it is not transmission loss but power theft and the officials as well as the consumers are involved in it. Agra area in my constituency, suffers 50 per cent of transmission loss. Though we have enacted a law which provides that action will be taken against the

culprit but this provision is not being enforced strictly.

The Central Electricity Authority has introduced a new scheme. Under this scheme, awards shall be given to those persons or organisations or scientists who would suggest ways to reduce these transmission losses. My submission is that these losses should be reduced from the present 21 per cent to 9 or 10 per cent. The Central Government should direct the State Electricity Boards in this regard. Most of the schemes are executed by the Central Government. We will have to keep a balance between the responsibilities of the Electricity Boards, State Governments as well as the Central Government. I consider it to be an unprecedented achievement. We would move ahead rapidly if the country gets worthy leadership in future also.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Janjgir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, two sources of energy are coal and electricity. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister and his Ministry for achieving the target before schedule. 2100 MW electricity was produced in my constituency Korba 6 months back and it would prove to be a milestone in the progress of the country.

The Members of CPI forget that the metro in Calcutta is a gift the department of Energy and crores of rupees have been spent on it. But they do nothing except criticizing I would like to tell them that instead of only criticizing they should rather make constructive criticism. Now I would like to raise some issues.

When we talk of energy it includes supply of power, minimum cost, sufficient energy achievement and protection of the environment. If we succeed to make use of energy as a source of fuel, we can save the environment in rural areas from further decay—no matter whether the source is solar energy, biogas or wind energy. I want to emphasise that maximum utilization of non-conventional sources of energy should be made and micro-hydel plants should be

encouraged; The Ministry of Energy is discharging its duties efficiently—whether it is in the field of coal or power. It enables the country to move on the path of development and the people particularly, in rural areas get benefited. I would like to thank the Ministry of energy and the hon. Shri Sathe in particular, for this. Shri Sathe has keen interest in this area and is fully dedicated to his duty.

Our hon. Minister has paid special attention to make maximum use of energy which goes waste. Amount of Rs. 42000 crores has been allocated for this purpose. My submission is that more funds should be allocated for it, so that, more and more sources of energy are utilised.

The issue of rural-electrification is related to power. The State Electricity Boards are unable to make use of electricity generated by the various units of NTPC plant. As a result the rural electrification programme suffers. So much so that NTPC is directed to generate power only to that extent which can be consumed and not beyond that. The Central Government allocates funds for rural electrification. So it becomes necessary to keep a watch over it and undertake close monitoring. I would like to urge that rural electrification should be totally a Central subject, because as an hon. Member from Bengal was just now saying the State Electricity Boards often complain of paucity of funds.

Just now some of the hon. Members of opposition who spoke earlier to me were telling that the State Electricity Boards of the congress ruled States do not make payment and the Central Government does not put any pressure on them. But you will be surprised to note that the Government of Haryana is not prepared to pay a single paise...(*Interruptions*) You are very well aware of the position with regard to West Bengal. Due to these outstanding dues our friends are talking about the losses being suffered by the Coal India Limited. (*Interruptions*).

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: DESU is having the highest outstanding dues.

SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Delhi is a Centrally Governed Territory. This is not a congress ruled State. You are also sitting in Delhi.

[Translation]

Special attention should be paid towards rural electrification. Although the farmers of this country are not educated but they really feel happy when a pump set is installed in their field and their land is irrigated by the water supplied by this electric pump set. They feel proud of it. We should, therefore, pay maximum attention for supplying power to the villages. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of State in the Department of Power, who is sitting here, to this fact and I would like to go into figures because there is always statistical manouvring in the figures which are shown in official papers. The Government claims that such and such number of villages have been electrified. There are instances when only one pole was installed in a village and the entire village was shown to have been electrified. This point is worth noting. There are also instances where electricity connections are being given to one or two houses in a village and the whole villages is being included in the list of electrified villages. In this way official records claims that such and such number of villages have been energised, electrified.

I would also like to offer my views regarding coal also. If we wish we can make a lot of improvement in the coal sector. There is still a lot of scope in it. In this connection I would like to congratulate the Government for making long strides in coal production. In spite of that, I am distressed to note that coal is being misused. Large deposits of coal worth crores of rupees are lying hidden under the ground. Illegal mining of coal is taking place. Coal deposits have caught fire in some fields. Adulteration is taking place

[Sh. Prabhat Kumar Mishra]

and quality of coal is being degenerated. We are not getting as much energy from the use of coal as we are supposed to get it. It all happens due to degradation. We should understand the price of every piece of coal. There should not be any pilferage of coal and we should also see that it does not catch fire and lie in the ground for years. Besides, land is being acquired in the coal fields. today it is big problem before the Government to acquire land for the coal mines. whenever the Government wants to acquire land, obstacles come in its way. People in the villages do not want to spare their lands. It involves so many other factors. It has always been that only the people in the villages have provided land for the coal fields. No coal field has ever been opened in the cities. But one thing I can say confidently that in the matter of rehabilitation of the villagers, payment of compensation to them, doing welfare works for them, providing drinking water, constructing roads, schools for the villages, the management or the officials of the coal fields have not paid as much attention as they are supposed to. The Central Government and the Ministry provides funds for this purpose. But the money is not utilised on the welfare works for the people and it is allocated. In this connection, I would like to cite an example. There is no C.M.D. in the A.C.C.L., Bilaspur for last one year whereas it is a most profit making and peaceful company. It is being run under the temporary charge of a person. There is no responsible person in its management. The bureau is on strike these days. There is no responsible person to meet the situation if something untoward happen. If you want to meet the C.M.D. you will come to know that he has gone to Delhi for some meeting. Everytime you ask you will get the same reply that he is in Delhi. Thousands of rupees are being spent on onward and return air journeys. May I ask the hon. Minister that when it is such a big company and it is earning so much of profit and when a post of C.M.D. has been created for that why the post is not being filled. Today there is no responsible person in the company. Due to irresponsibility and misman-

agement the coal sector suffers huge losses. Through you, I would also like to call upon the Government that we acquired machines worth thousand crores of rupees but the machines are not being put to proper use. These are not being used to their capacity. Even machines and big dumpers are made out of order and machines taken on rent from contractors are being put to use in the coal fields and in this way the contractors are being benefited. You should pay special attention to this corrupt practice.

I would like to tell you that when we acquire land from the people, it is but natural that they entertain hopes that their future will be good and they will get benefits. But when the question of employment comes, it is being said that the local people are only capable to dig the earth or dig the mines. A demarcation is being made between the skilled and unskilled workers. In this connection Shri Saihe had announced in a public meeting at Korba that the local people will be given training and made skilled workers. How to acquire skill. Nobody borns skilled. People are given training to become skilled. Then why not to make the people of the area skilled and give them employment so that the obstacles coming the way of land acquisition could be removed.

Besides, problem of drinking water is also prevalent in the area. There is also the problem of roads. The money to be invested on the development of the area must be utilised properly. But in reality it is not being utilised. The coal fields are mostly situated in the rural areas between the forests and the Hills. Non-conventional sources prove more beneficial in these areas. We have envisaged the concept of Urja Grams and are encouraging it. The number of Urja Grams should be raised further. Problems like the pollution, land acquisition or the problem of employment are always there. Power or energy is being supplied through the Urja Grams. In this context you have stated in your report that hospital problem is also there. the hon. Minister is sitting here. Though this matter comes under a different Ministry, yet I would like to say that in my

area both the N.T.P.C. and the coal fields are there and a number of accidents take place in these fields. It does not matter whether it is a mines accident or the accident in the plants, both the departments should open a hospital jointly so that emergency cases could be attended in Bilaspur itself and they are not required to get out for treatment.

Lastly, I would like to make a submission. All these achievements are milestones of our progress. I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Energy for doing the work within their limited resources. Energy is necessary in all fields whether it is the case of running the trains, industry, metro rail, whether it is case of a living in the houses, and of study. Energy is the base on which depends country's development. The provision of Rs. 42,000 crores meant for the energy sector should be increased further and it should be ensured that energy reaches the villages. At the same time appointment to the post of C.M.D. at A.C.C.I. Headquarters, Bilaspur should be made.

I would like to make a special mentioned about the excess expenditure. Especially I would like to highlight this thing taking place in the coal sector. A common man cannot think of the expensive programmes in the C.I.T. and their high living standard. I had told this thing during the last Budget. Curtains used in C.I.L. offices are more costly than the suiting cloth of a common man or a middle class man. This is about the offices of Coal India Limited that I am going to tell you. I say this thing quite confidently. You come to the office of the C.M.D of the A.C.C.L at Bilaspur and see that it is more decorated than the office of the Prime Minister. In this way excess expenditure is being made and nobody knows about it. This burden falls on the consumers. There must be a check on the expenses of the Coal India Limited otherwise the prices of coal will shoot up. Corruption, misuse of government money, adulteration and pilferage must be checked. Then only we can have a reasonable price of coal for the consumers and can develop the country.

With these words I express my thanks to you for providing me time to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, before I come to the principal discussion, I wanted to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, Mr. Sathe to a particular point. At this particular moment he has disappeared and therefore I have to make that submission to the hon. Minister, Mr. Rai. This is about the NPCC workers. Among the NPCC workers, 1050 people are, as you may be well aware, on dharna for a long time. Actually it was Sathe Sahib's intervention that placed the situation in order a little earlier. Many of these workers were casual. Then they were regularised. Then it was said that they would be absorbed and the huge contract giving system back to back would not be encouraged. I am sorry to say that all these agreements that were arrived at are being flagrantly violated by the management and they have the audacity to suggest they they are not violating the agreement. Here I see one of the replies given in reply to the notice under Rule 377 given by Shri Narayan Choubey some time in December last year where they say that among the workers who have been retrenched there is no highly skilled workman. This is a bland untruth. I have not got much time because I have to deal with the main subject, but jut to give a lie to this claim, let me point out a few examples—Mr. P.L. Sharma, Special Foreman (Administration)—Is that a skilled post? Is that a skilled performance? Then, Mr. Alimuddin Ansari, Special; Foreman (Mechanical)—Is it skilled? Then Shri G.M. Bhattacharya, special Grade I (Elec) man—Is it skilled? These are highly skilled people, those who have been kept out. I request you to intervene and see to it that it does not go on like this in NTCC where very big corruption is on all the time with the contractors. I have no time to go into the details. I hope you will do something for it.

After this, let me come to the principal point. My friend, Mr. Anil Basu, has covered many points with which I agree. Though I did

[Smt. Geeta Mukherjee]

not have the opportunity of listening to him, but I quickly consulted him on what he has said. I will not go in for repetition of everything. Even then, I should definitely at least lend my full support to what he said with regard to Bakreswar. I still remember Sathe Sahib was standing there and I was at this corner, and I asked him, 'Sathe Sahib, what is going to happen to Bakreswar? Are you going to give us Bakreswar project which is being undertaken with foreign collaboration and which the West Bengal Government is wanting to do it? Sathe Sahib said 'Yes, yes, it will be given'. Then I asked, 'With whom the collaboration will take place?'. Then Sathe Sahib told me, 'So, you are not interested to know whether West Bengal is going to get it or not. You are interested to know which collaboration we can take, Soviet or Japanese.' This is the categorical answer we have to me that Bakreswar will be in the State sector and he assured me that I should not be perturbed about it. How many times this assurance was given? Now, I have a suspicion that Mr. Sathe was so worried about the whose collaboration they would take because probably by that time Sathe Sahib came to understand that Soviet Union has really no reservation to give credit to the West Bengal State Government also and that is why probably he had that in mind. That is why he was so worried and he was asking "Why you are asking which country, for collaboration?" After all this, it is most unfortunate that this has happened to Bakreswar power project though it should not have happened that way. I should not go on repeating what Mr. Anil Basu has said but I fully support him and put the record straight on this question, how we are not only deprived, deceived but forced to take up on ourselves such a big commitment even without the normal collaboration loan agreement that we could have got from the Soviet Union.

With regard to West Bengal power scene, I would like to mention one thing. Some boilers were given to different companies by BHEL. Incidentally, let me make it clear

that BHEL's performance is not bad by itself. There may be one or two such occurrences. But unfortunately with this particular type of boiler, there were difficulties and BHEL gave this type of boilers to same projects including one in West Bengal which later on proved to be not quite good and had to be replaced. DPL, Durgapur Power Limited, a State Government undertaking also got boiler from BHEL and the boiler had also equally failed. It was agreed upon that BHEL would replace it with some new one, without any cost of repair. Later on, unfortunately, due to the tremendous pressure put on the public undertakings by the Government in their own way, BHEL charged Rs. 90 lakhs and later on, it was reduced to Rs. 15 lakhs. But may I know, what crime has the DPL committed that for the mistake of BHEL, DPL has to pay Rs. 15 lakhs? This should really be borne by the Central Government and not put on our shoulders, as the situation stands. With these two things about West Bengal and another about NPCC, I come to the overall situation and make some observations.

With regard to coal achievements, a list has been drawn out that productivity has gone up etc. It is good that you have admitted that productivity has gone up. I would say, generally the workers have been blamed every time for the management's failures. The production by the workers was not affected through there was strike by officers. Once there was no reduction of production at all at that time. But when the workers were absent, there was fall in production. Therefore, it seems that those whom you are calling surplus, the workers have increased production. Your achievement is, you have been able to drive out 5500 workers from the CIL, this year and that is one of your big achievements, you have put in along with the fact of increasing productivity, increasing production and lessening of loss. I would like to challenge the whole idea of reducing the workers in public sector. It is because ours is a country where the question of employment must be supreme. While you consider retrenching the people. It is the Government which should think about those 5500 people

and their families whom you have re-trenched in one year and you have claimed that as a big achievement.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Achievement of the public sector in the Nehru Centenary Celebration year!

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Yes, that is a big contribution! Among the affected workers, women were the first casualty of this industry. Though in a very few cases, nominations were considered, in the case of women, there were accepting only male nominees and women nominees were never accepted. Let me tell you one thing. Were these women productive or unproductive? Let me quote one important fact.

The question just now being discussed was with regard to State Electricity Board dues to the NTPC. It is true that State Electricity Boards should repay whatever they have to repay. Sometimes I find that it is the Central Government who make political capital that our WBSEB is in so much default. You keep quiet about many Congress States. That is not good either. Thereby I do not mean that we should not try to pay up.

If this is correct that these Electricity Boards have quite a lot of dues to the CIL, then this is also true that the CIL also owes to these companies quite a big amount. Actually, in the last year the outstanding debt of the State Electricity Boards to CIL was Rs.1,200 crores and Rs. 500 crores were claimed by the State Electricity Boards as compensation for supplying bad quality of coal. This is true that this quality control is very bad and electricity suffers very much due to very bad supply of coal. Earlier one of the quality control functions was discharged by women workers. They used to pick the shells out. Now you have driven out all women. So, boulders, stones form a big part of your coal supply to the State Electricity Boards. It is no wonder that they claim compensation. How will they pay you? Had the women workers been retained, then quality control would have been much bet-

ter. I feel that this driving out of the entire 5,500 people is not quite correct. About women, I again say that, do employ women in these spheres.

As regards the accidents, I would like that you give the number of accidents in the underground mines, separately, because otherwise it is very difficult to understand the rate of accidents. Open cast mines have much less accidents. I see in your report for 1989-90 that you have refixed your target of coal production because you think that the demand will be less. You have refixed your target at 210 million tonnes because of the downward revision of demand. Then you say in that report that the gap between demand and production will be met if needed by imports and draw-down of stocks from pitheads. Why imports? What is the necessity? We have also good quality coal. Who knows next year what will be the situation? Therefore, in this situation of balance of payment, this whittling down of the production target is altogether wrong.

What are you doing for the cause of the workers? There was a big discussion on wages yesterday. The funniest of funny things is you put the blame for all the losses on the workers. But, mismanagement, corruption and wastage, and pilferage are the principal causes. What are you doing there? In 15 years, you have changed 12 Chairmen. How many times did the price rise? This price rise has been double the times the rise in workers wage. So, your theory falls very flat.

Now about power, I think, the target fixed for 1994-95 is very low. It will not be able to meet the real demands. therefore, something more must be done with regard to hydel, thermal and gas-based electricity and particularly in the field of non-conventional power. something should be done very seriously in the sphere of research and development because now solar energy can be developed up to two megawatt per unit. But in our country, that technology has not yet been applied. Therefore, it is extremely essential that these things be done in this sphere.

[Smt. Geeta Mukherjee]

Shri Sathe Sahib is not here. He is in charge of two big public sectors. I think, whatever achievements they have shown, shows that despite Sathe Sahib's running down the public sector the workers there have contributed to these achievements.

You should have admitted that in your report instead of giving such blank figures that you have given. I believe and hope that even at least, this time, you will revive your idea of going in for a large number of foreign collaborations, the details of which you have not given here. We do not know what are the terms of reference given. You should really take the public sector towards a self-reliant economy and use the manpower as best as you can. That should be the principal target instead of the deformed policy that you are taking towards the public sectors.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting this important demand for the Ministry of energy, I would like to say, at the outset, a few words of hearty compliments and congratulations to the Ministry and to the policy of the Congress Government starting from 1947. This success in the Ministry of Energy, the success in the policy, its implementation—in spite of lacunae here and there—has contributed to the overall growth of the country, in the field of industry, in the field of agriculture and in other fields, the success in the production of our power policy and energy policy has also contributed to it. There are three aspects of it. One is the foresight, the planning because a project is approved after a long survey. And the survey generally takes longer time and the bigger the potential, the longer and more difficult is the survey sometimes. A project comes after some good engineer's dream, a planner's dream which has taken place some thirty years or forty years back. We have the fruits of the foresight of our planners and of our engineers in this field. The second aspect is the maintenance. How to run the project and how to implement the project quickly and properly?

14.50 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The third aspect is the utilisation of non-conventional sources. The policy emphasizes on accelerated exploitation of domestic conventional energy sources viz., hydel, oil and nuclear power.

I belong to a region, the north east, which is rich in hydel potential. One of my friends who spoke before me from the Opposition side had mentioned that if we can exploit the hydel potential in the north east, we can feed the whole country. Such is the hydel wealth of the north east. In this regard I would like to emphasize the survey and study aspect so that at least in these economically non-viable and small and backward States the one potential they have in abundance can be exploited to the maximum and they can have it as their mainstay and help the other parts of the country also.

In this regard, I would like to make my observation specifically on Lokta Hydel Project which has been commissioned a few years back. This is a very unique project, the only one of its kind in this country. It has used special machinery and expertise; the whole thing has made history. It was constructed by the NHPC at a cost of more than Rs. 100 crores; full credit goes to them.

An apprehension has been expressed about its longevity. The Lokta Lake is supplying water to this project. The apprehension is that siltation in this Lokta Lake is becoming quicker and quicker. We have no idea of the Ministry taking any steps to deepen the water level and to maintain the quantum of water as a perennial source to that project.

Another aspect is, in order to maintain a certain level of water, the entire surroundings plus the normal area have been submerged. Earlier this lake was a seasonal lake to some extent. It had two different levels of water—one in the rainy season and another in the dry season. Now we have a permanent level irrespective of seasons.

this has submerged the surrounding resulting in losses to farmers who use these lands for agricultural purposes.

On the other day, in this Session, I put a question to the Hon. Minister and the reply was that the Government had no idea of any land having been submerged by this Lokta Lake. In fact, I belong to that area and the Lokta Lake is in my constituency. I am just on the bank of this lake. So my information should be taken as a fact. Vast areas have been submerged and the affected people have to be rehabilitated and compensation has to be paid to them.

The silting process has to be stopped either by dredging or by taking recourse to some other means. I am not an expert or an engineer to give a definite opinion in this regard. But in order to ensure that this project which had been constructed at such huge cost should not have a short life—it should have a long life—you should take immediate steps.

There are no other potentials not only in my State, but in the neighbouring States of Mizoram, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. So the hydel potential has to be studied and surveyed and on the basis of that schemes should be prepared and implemented for future use.

Coming to another aspect, coal is like a bluemoon to our area because railways do not touch our area and there are no coal fields in our area. But coal is a need today because the forests have been denuded and we have no wood fuel and other conventional energy sources. Coal has to be supplied to our area particularly for domestic consumptions. That way Government of India has to pay special attention. I would like to give one instance. Beef is prepared by burning wood fuel. Wood fuel is not available because forests have been denuded. So coal is the only source even for other things like brick making, etc. Brick is like a golden piece costing Rs. 2 per piece. So we can go to the rescue of the people who have to spend more on construction material due to

shortage of wood fuel and other things.

Coming to rural electrification programme according to your report 50 per cent of electrification has been achieved in the case of some villages. The villages which are in remote and difficult hilly areas need electricity more because there are no other means like kerosene, gas, etc. We have to provide them electricity at cheap rates. The commissioning of Loktak has come to the rescue of the people to some extent. We have to share of fruits of this project with the neighbouring States but we have to give preference to the villages in the difficult hilly areas where people are suffering. During the day-time they use day-light whereas for the rest of the day they have to go dark. These areas should get preference in the matter of rural electrification. Similar might be the position in respect of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, etc.

Consequent upon passing of the Forest Conservation Act land acquisition has become a problem for CIL. Naturally many projects of CIL have not hampered. I should not say we should give preference to the interests of CIL is in favour of Forest Conservation because both sides are weighing with due importance. If necessary, Government may think of certain amendments to the legislation which poses difficult problems for land acquisition in respect of coal projects. Sixty-three projects of CIL are suffering due to delay in land acquisition. Seeing both interests if necessary Government may see whether some amendments are necessary to the existing Land Acquisition Act and the Forest Conservation Act. I invite attention of all Government to this aspect and would like that the difficulties be removed.

With these few words I support the Demands of the Energy Ministry.

SHRIP.A. ANTONY (Trichur): Sir, I rise to support the Demands of this Ministry. Energy sector plays the pivotal role in the development of industry and agriculture. I am happy to say that this Ministry is headed by a Minister who is very efficient and prag-

[Sh. P.A. Antony]

matic. He has been able to bring about tremendous improvement in the working of energy sector. I compliment him for this.

There is a substantial step-up in this year's Budget for energy sector. In 1988-89, total allocation for this sector was Rs. 9100 crores. This has been raised to Rs. 11227 crores this year. This shows the paramount importance which is being given to this sector by the Government. If we look at the performance of this Ministry during the past one year, we would find that there has been improvement in many crucial areas. The power generation has gone upto 7.6 per cent, the plant load factor to 54.4 per cent between April, 1988 and February, 1989. There has been great improvement in developing non-conventional energy sources. The Ministry has been able to bring greater order and discipline into the functioning of the Electricity Boards. Many Boards have been able to move out of the rut into which they had fallen. Similarly, the developments of the regional power grids and the progressive movements towards achieving a national power grid is a great achievement. I am sure, with the establishment of the national power grid, the regional imbalances in power generation and distribution would be removed effectively.

Having said this, I would turn to some of the problem areas of this sector. We are still far away from an effective power demand management and energy conservation measures. When the strategy will be worked out for energy production for the remaining period of this century, we must seriously think about conservative measures and demand management. It is estimated that even with the addition of 98000 megawatts of new power capacity envisaged in the Eighth Plan, there will be a shortage of about ten per cent by the end of the Plan period because the demand is increasing steadily. Therefore, an effective demand management is very essential. The annual report of the Ministry says that a series of measures

are being taken to conserve energy. I welcome these measures.

Another problem area is transmission. Transmission losses are perhaps the highest in India. The annual report says that the transmission and distribution losses for 1986-87 are 21.50 per cent. As a matter of fact, the shortage of power can mainly be attributed to the under-utilisation of capacity as well as transmission losses. Improvement in the plant load factor or in other words, the capacity utilisation will put into our hands more power. An estimate is that every improvement of one percentage point in the plant load factor would generate 500 megawatts of electricity. It may be remembered that it would require Rs. 500 crores to instal new capacity to generate the same wattage of power. This should give an idea about the importance of improvement in the plant load factor in terms of money. Then, transmission losses, unfortunately, increased over the years. While in India it is little over 21 per cent, in the developed countries it varies between 6 and 12 per cent. An estimate suggests that a reduction of one per cent point in the losses can yield about Rs. 450 crores of extra revenue each year which can provide resources for increasing power supply. I would, therefore, suggest that all possible steps should be taken to reduce the transmission and distribution losses and increase the capacity utilisation of the plants.

Now, I come to certain problems of my State of Kerala. There was a time when Kerala was considered a healthy State in the matter of electricity. But during the past five years, it has been disproved. There has been crippling power shortage in the State which has adversely affected the industrial growth. This has happened because Kerala depends entirely on hydel power. When the monsoon failed, the reservoirs become dry and the people of Kerala were left groping in the dark. This situation came about mainly because there was no proper planning of energy requirement of the State. No State could survive solely depending on hydel power alone. The planners did not clearly

anticipate this development. The Centre did not pay serious attention to the energy problem of Kerala. The general feeling was that since Kerala was far far away from the coal fields, thermal plants would be impractical. The Central investment is practically nil in the power sector of Kerala. However, I thank the Government for deciding to set up a thermal power plant in Kerala. In fact, hon. Minister, Shri Vasant Sathe, said the other day in the House that the thermal plant would be set up in Kerala and the question of setting up of a nuclear power plant would also be favourably considered. I sincerely congratulate the Minister for this gesture. I hope these plants will be set up very soon. But I do not find any allocation in this year's budget demands for these plants. I hope necessary funds will be provided for this purpose.

It is a matter of common knowledge that even the hydro potential of Kerala has not been put to full use. Large potential remains unutilised. The Silent Valley project has not been sanctioned in view of protecting the environments and ecology of the country. We gladly accept it. But when the Silent Valley project was rejected, the then Prime Minister, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had promised to Kerala some other alternative hydro electric project. I request the hon. Minister to sanction another hydel projects which were pending before the Government.

I am very happy that the Government has done some research on micro and mini-hydel units which can generate power at cheaper cost. This is an area full of promises. But I have a feeling that enough is not being done in this regard, particularly in the Southern region. I find from the report that while in the Northern region, the installed capacity is 91.625 megawatts, in the Southern region, it is a mere 12.010 megawatts. There is a great scope for mini and micro schemes in the river systems in Kerala. I would request the hon. Minister to take a little more initiative in this matter.

With these few words, I once again support the Demands of this Ministry.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, at the outset, I thank you for having permitted me to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Energy on behalf of the DMK.

As you are aware, the power generation depends upon the plant load factor. Very little improvement has been made in this direction. We have achieved only 54.4 per cent this year. We should try to improve on that. As far as other countries are concerned, as the hon. Member quoted, the developing countries have achieved as much as 66 per cent, whereas we have achieved only 54.4 per cent.

Sir, we are incurring heavy losses due to the transmission and distribution of power, which account for 22 per cent. Even if these are reduced by one percent, we will be able to get 350 megawatts of power. Therefore, effective measures have to be taken to reduce the transmission and distribution losses.

A long-term Plan has been prepared by the Central Electricity Authority for the decade 1990-2000, which envisages generation of 1.10 lakh megawatts. While going through the Report for the Generation of Power during the year 1988-89, there was an additional generated capacity of 4496.5 MW out of which thermal is about 322.5 MW, hydro is 937.0 MW and Nuclear is about 23.50 MW. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the requirement is much more and our generation capacity is: Thermal-2370 MW, Nuclear -470 MW and Hydro-1990 MW.

If we go through the Annual Report one, will be shocked to see the list of projects. It is as follows:

Northern Region: Thermal—Kota, Unchhar, Ropar, Rajghat, Anta, Auraiya.

Hydro—Mukerian, Thuhi, Mahi Bajaj.

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Western Region: thermal-Vindhyachal, Sabarmati, Korba.

Hydro-Bargi.

Southern region: Thermal-Ramagundam

Hydro-Kadampari

And as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we have only one project in Lower Mettur. Many of them are pending with the Government for clearance. For example, the Kovil Kallappal in Tanjore district of 5 MW units costing about Rs. 109 crores. It is pending with the Central Government. Then, there is Kodan Kulam Nuclear Power Project. After the Chernobyl incident, a report has been published and a lot of queries have been raised. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Karunanidhi has request to have a high level Committee consisting of experts to go into the *pros* and *cons* of it.

Another one is in the North Madras where we are going to have a thermal power plant of 630 MW capacity which is going to be expanded to 2000 MW at a later stage. I think the Government should come out quickly to clear all the pending projects so far as Tamil Nadu is concerned.

As far as renovation and modernisation is concerned, very little improvement has been made. As per your statement, about Rs. 5000 crores have been sanctioned and out of it only Rs. 240 crores have been utilised. It is a matter of great distress that only this much amount is utilised and the remaining is not utilised. Effective measures should be taken for the proper utilisation of funds that are available for the renovation and modernisation of the thermal power projects.

A long gap exists between the demand and supply of power. This should be reduced and all the pending projects should be cleared. There is greater scope for hydro

and tidal energy in the States of Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and all the coastal States of India.

If we go through the Annual Report, one can see that as per the statement showing the State-wise Hydro-Thermal system installed in the country, Gujarat occupies the highest position. In Gujarat, it is 618, Uttar Pradesh-293, Rajasthan-173, Madhya Pradesh-137, Punjab-125 whereas in Tamil Nadu it is only 113. So, in every sector Tamil Nadu is getting neglected. That is the reasons why the people in the South have started saying that the North is flourishing and the South is deteriorating. I think, you should give more attention to the Southern States.

As far as coal is concerned, in the next 5 years we may require 201 million tonnes of coal. I think, you have banned the import of coal. Last year we imported 3 lakh tonnes of coal from Australia. This year you have reduced it. I don't think you will be able to meet the demand. There is nothing wrong in importing coal. We should import coal if necessary. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we are totally depending on the thermal power project which needs coal. Without coal we cannot have power and without power no industry can survive. Tamil Nadu is far behind the other States so far as the industrial development is concerned. So, it is time for you to think about the supply of coal not to the trading companies alone but to the power sector so that our demands can be met and thermal plant can go in a better way.

As far as the VCR and VCP industries in the electronic sector are concerned, they do not take much of power. I understand that Government of India is going to set up these industries in different parts of the country. I request you to set some of these units in Tamil Nadu. It does not pertain to your Ministry but still I am requesting you because the consumption of power in the VCR and VCP industries is less and that is why Tamil Nadu should get a fair deal in this sector.

Sir I understand that power production in the Madras Atomic Power Project has come down to 50 per cent due to financial constraints. I think you should try to improve the condition.

In a conference convened by the Prime Minister on 23-24th January 1989, issues concerning power development, environmental issues, effective grid management, tariff rationalisation, energy conservation and measures for ensuring a capacity addition of about 30,000 mega units in the Eighth Plan were discussed. I would like to know from the Minister as to what proposals the Government have got to encourage private sector participation in the generation of power. What proposals have the Government got to expand the gas-based projects which have a shorter gestation period? Will the Government provide exemptions from the rigidities imposed by the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for expeditious clearances of the Eighth Plan projects from environmental and forest angles?

I would like to mention a point with regard to Neyveli. We are requesting the Government to have a third mine cut because in the on going projects we have the second thermal power station Stage-II for 840 MW and the second mine operation from 4.7 million tonnes to 10.5 million tonnes. So, we request the Government of India to permit us a third mine cut so that we have more power.

I understand that the Energy Nodal Conservation Organisation has given detailed recommendations to the Government. I spoke about this issue last time also. I do not know as to what recommendations have been accepted by the Government. Are you really serious about this issue or not?

I understand that the Energy Conservation and Management Centre is to be set up somewhere in the country. I request the Government of India to set up such a centre in Tamil Nadu so that we can have energy auditing, teaching upgradation, technology upgradation and development of equipment

to prevent transmission and distribution losses and also research on energy conservation, etc. in Tamil Nadu.

I can proudly say that when Dr. Karunanidhi was the chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, 15,811 villages had been electrified. Nearly 90 per cent of the electrification in the State was achieved during the tenure of Dr. Karunanidhi. Only 20 villages are left to be electrified. So I request the hon. Minister Shri Vasant Sathe to give us more power. He is a dynamic personality and last time also when I participated in the debate I told him so. He has a very big heart. He has visited the State of Tamil Nadu several times and he himself has witnessed the power problem in Tamil Nadu. He knows that we are far behind in the industrial area. Today we are occupying the 13th position. In 1976 when Dr. Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister we occupied the third position. Unfortunately during the gap of about more than ten years when he was not the Chief Minister, we had been pushed back and now we face problems such as water scarcity, shortage of power and so on. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to sanction all the pending power projects so that we can get more power. When we get more power, we get more energy. When we get more energy, more industries can be set up and thereby we can regain our position. We may even occupy the first position in the entire nation.

As far as Madras city is concerned, we have the problem of water scarcity. There is acute scarcity even for drinking water for which we have to tap the ground water. Tapping ground water means we have to use high horse-power pumps. For this purpose also, energy is required. From all angles, power is the main obstacle for us. I request the hon. Minister to consider these points and try to give us more power so that we can try to compete with the other States in India. Here I would like to mention that I do not grudge if other States get more. Nor do I want to cast aspersions on any State by putting questions such as 'Why have you given them more and why have you given us less?' and so on. We are all brothers and we are part and parcel of

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India. We have no objection if they get more. But at the same time, please try to give us our due share. We always shake our hands with you in friendship and we also raise our voice and ask for our rights. We are always very consistent in our policies and we always fight for our rights.

So, I request the hon. Minister to give clearance to all the pending projects like the one which I have already mentioned in Thanjavur which is also my Leader's district, i.e. Kovilkallapal for 5 MW Unit and the North Madras District wherefrom my friend Shri Somu comes for 630 MW Unit Thermal Power Plant which has to be expanded and to be modernised. Also a second view or an expert opinion should be taken regarding Kudankulam Project in view of the tragedy that had happened in the USSR. You have to take all that into account. I request the concerned Minister, please accede to the requests of the people of Tamil Nadu. Already the verdict is in our favour. So, please try to understand that and try to give us more and more power so that let us have a better and cordial relationship with you. Mr. Sathe will always be remembered in the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for permitting me at this juncture to intervene in the on-going discussions on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy for the financial year 1989-90. At the outset, as Minister of State I would like to place on record my grateful thanks to the hon'ble Members who have participated in this lively debate and those who would be participating after my intervention. Energy is synonymous with economic progress and in developing countries like India, power or electricity is a major component of this energy. Consequently, it will not be out of place if I mention that the activities of the Department of Power are of vital concern to all citizens of this country, especially those who are vitally

concerned with economic development.

It would be a cliché if I mention that electric power is one of the basic requirements of development. It is in fact an axiom. Realising this, that great builder of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, with his great vision and understanding of developmental requirements, right in the beginning of the new India gave much needed emphasis to investment in the multi-purpose hydro projects which, at the same time, gave a push to the agricultural production and also generated the much needed electric power. This emphasis, as Members are aware, was continued by the late Prime Minister, and I would not be wrong if I say, my mentor, Smt. Indira Gandhi. The present Government, I am happy to say, under the dynamic leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is continuing this emphasis and providing the Department with invaluable support for the development of this all important sector.

As Member are already aware, and strictly speaking, I need not point this out at this juncture here, but nevertheless for continuity sake, I would like to mention that this emphasis has resulted in the installed capacity of power generation increasing from 1362 (Thirteen Hundred Sixty Two) MW in 1947 to 42,585 (Forty Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Five) MW at the beginning of the 7th Plan, and which today stands above 58,000 (Fifty Eight Thousand) MW. If we take the whole energy sector as such, the total commitment of the Government to this sector can be seen from the fact that nearly 30 per cent (Thirty per cent) of the plan funds is allocated to this sector and nearly 70 per cent (Seventy per cent) to these funds is allocated to electric power.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it would not be out of place if I mention that 6 per cent (Six per cent) rate of growth target fixed by the Planning Commission for the country during the 8th Five Year Plan, is concomitant on the power sector achieving an incremental capacity addition of around 150,000 (One Lakh Fifty Thousand) MW in the next decade. This is the task before us. It is gigantic, difficult,

but not unachievable. I humbly solicit cooperation of all Members in the efforts of this Department to fulfil its obligations towards the nation.

I have been listening with rapt attention to the various points made by the Hon'ble Members and have been thinking what are the basic issues that are involved in providing to the citizen of this country power: where he wants it; when he wants it; of the quality that he wants. Many of the suggestions that have been made by the Members are of utmost importance and I assure you, Sir, that the Department of Power would act on these sincerely. But let me take a few minutes before I come to these crucial questions of issues and options available to us in the energy scenario.

To highlight some of the achievements of the Departments, Mr. Speaker, Sir, as all Hon'ble Members are aware, the country had an installed capacity of 42,585 (Forty Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Five) MW at the commencement of the 7th Five Year Plan comprising of 14,460 (Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Sixty) MW of hydro power, 27,030 (Twenty Seven Thousand Thirty) MW of thermal power and about 1,095 (One Thousand Ninety Five) MW of nuclear power. Based on the periodical electric power survey that is carried out by the Central Electricity Authority and the resources available, the Planning Commission had fixed a target of adding 22,245 (Twenty Two Thousand Two Forty Five) MW additional power generating installed capacity in the country during the 7th Five Year Plan. I have great pleasure in reporting to this August House that not only we will be able to achieve this target, but over-shoot it by the end of the 7th Five Year Plan. I have also great pleasure in announcing that for the second year in succession, the capacity addition programme which was 4496 (Four Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Six) MW for the year 1988-89, has been exceeded and a capacity of 4810 (Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ten) MW has been added. Not only this, the National Thermal Powers Corporation, one of the premier public sector organ-

isations under the administrative control of this Department, has been completing its projects ahead of schedule. The new gas-based power plants at Anta and Auraiya have been completed almost 6 to 7 months ahead of schedule. Similarly, the 500 (Five Hundred) MW units at Ramagundam and Korba have also been completed much ahead of schedule. I need not emphasise that the additional quantity of power that is available from such synchronisations ahead of schedule leads to almost 10-fold improvement in the economic fall-out.

It would still be fresh in the mind of this August House as to how the performance of this Department during the severe drought year of 1987-88 had helped in maintaining the agricultural production of this country and was perhaps a significant factor in successful combat of the severe drought situation that engulfed whole of the country. We have continued that trend. The total generation has shown a remarkable 21% (Twenty One per cent) increase on the hydel side and an overall generation has been about 9.5% (Nine point five per cent) more than that of the last year. In other words, the total generation in 1988-89 has been of the order of 221 (Two Hundred Twenty One) billion units against 201.8 (Two Hundred One point Eight) billions units of 1987-88. It is not my intention to load the Members with the plethora of statistics which are available in the Annual Report of the Department, but I am keen to highlight the performance of this crucial sector since we are in the penultimate year of 7th Five Year Plan so that the Government could benefit from the advice that we would receive from the Members of this August House regarding the issues and options available in the 8th Five Year Plan in so far as power sector is concerned.

Before I go over to the consideration of the 8th Plan scenario, it would not be out of place to howsoever briefly highlight, with some statistics, other aspects of the power scenario in the country during the year under review.

Members are aware of the efforts made

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by the Department in increasing the Plant Load Factor of the Thermal Power Stations in the country, both in the Central and the State Sectors. I am glad to say that the PLF of some of the plants have shown considerable improvement as a result of our emphasis on Renovation and Modernisation of old units. Considerable improvement in PLF has been registered by some of the oldest units of the country. As Members are no doubt aware, a Renovation & Modernisation Scheme has been in operation with a total central assistance of almost Rs. 500 Crores (Five Hundred Crores). Nearly 43 (forty three) units at about 14 (Fourteen) locations have been partially renovated resulting in the PLF of these units going up over 40% (Forty per cent) in some of the units.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not want any more to dwell on our past achievements. If I can parody a famous piece which was a favourite of our late Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, "There are many more miles to go before the Department of Power can rest". Let me turn my attention to the future.

As members are aware, and as I mentioned earlier in my intervention, the Planning Commission has fixed a growth rate of six per cent in the GDP of the country, and if this has to be achieved, the power sector has to perform at peak of its efficiency, which would mean making available to the country an incremental capacity addition of nearly 150,000 MW during the next one decade. Many energy models were tried out by the Planning Commission in arriving at this scenario and one of the suggestions is that if a 25 per cent uprating in the efficiency of the existing utilities is achieved, then an incremental capacity addition of nearly plus 1,00,000 MW in the next one decade should be adequate in order to maintain a growth rate of six per cent in the GDP. As members are well aware, simultaneously the 13th Power Survey conducted by the Central Electricity Authority also estimated the need for nearly 48,000 MW of incremental capacity during the Eighth Plan and about 62,000

MW in the Ninth Plan in order to meet the existing shortages in power. As is well known, the country would be facing an energy shortage of nearly six per cent at the end of the Seventh Plan. This energy shortage could be made marginally surplus in the Eighth Five Year Plan if 48,000 MW were to be added during this period. However, as Members of this August House are aware, physical resources are not the only constraint, perhaps of equal importance and magnitude are the fiscal constraints. To achieve an incremental capacity of about 1,00,000 MW it will be necessary for us to have nearly Rs. 2,00,000 crores. Looking to the magnitude of the fiscal and physical resources that are needed to implement a task of such gigantic magnitude, it is felt not more than 38,000 MW can be added during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Consequently, it is necessary for us to look beyond the capacity addition programmes in the power sector. It is these that I wish to emphasise before the hon. members of this August House.

Hon. members are aware that I had personally addressed a letter to all the important functionaries of the power sector in the country, central Ministers, State Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislatures, people connected with implementation of the energy programmes, placing before them and soliciting their advice and suggestions regarding implementation of Eighth Five Year Plan power programmes. Subsequently, the suggestions that were received were discussed at length in the Annual State Power Ministers' Conference held in Delhi on the 23rd and 24th January, 1989. Needless to say, this was my first State Power Ministers' Conference and it was personally illuminating and educative to me. One of the crucial issues that came out of the Power Ministers' Conference related to the fact that while the capacity addition programme should have the needed priority, the major emphasis however should be on number of other options and strategies available to develop the power sector through uprating of efficiencies. In fact, in view of the physical and fiscal resources constraints that the country is facing, if we

term the capacity addition programmes as the hard options available to the country and the other area of uprating systems, since it should be done at a much less expense and consequently term it as soft options, then I have no doubt in my mind, during the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Department of Power should really bring up these soft options activities to the forefront. Since these are so important, especially at this juncture, when the power programmes scenario is at the take off stage, I crave the indulgence of the members of this august body for a few more minutes.

Before I take up these issues of soft options, let me assure the members that the Government have analysed as to how the Department of Power would be achieving the 38,000 MW capacity addition programme. As Members are aware, the power projects have long gestation and it is necessary that decisions about new projects are taken now so that we are able to ensure the required levels of availability by the end of the 8th Plan period. I would like to assure the House that Government is trying its level best to see that the physical and fiscal constraints do not impede the implementation programme in the power sector. Towards this, the Department of Power has under its consideration, implementation of numerous gas-based projects, which have a short gestation period and would be able to give the required benefits in the 8th Plan itself even if the projects are started during the 8th Plan. An Inter-Ministerial Group appointed by the Government has already concluded its deliberations and has recommended numerous sites for locating gas-based power stations, which are under active consideration of the Government. I am quite sure, the Members are with me when I say that looking to the Department of Power's past performance in achieving its targets it would not be out of reach of the Department of Power to achieve the 38,000 (Thirty Eight Thousand) MW capacity addition programme during the 8th Five Year Plan. Hon. Member from Rajasthan has suggested use of lignite resources in Rajasthan. It is Government's earnest desire to use all

available resources. The Palana Lignite Project of Rajasthan is under active consideration of the Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, Members are also aware that the Government have entered into a long term cooperation programme in the power sector with the USSR for 6,000 MW of capacity addition during the next decade. The Indo-USSR Cooperation Programme is proceeding smoothly and according to schedule, and nearly 3270 MW are likely to be added during the 8th Five Year Plan.

While I have no doubt that it will be possible for us to add the 38,000 MW of power, the real emphasis, as I mentioned a few minutes before, has to be laid on the so-called soft options. These are in effect really the hard options. These comprise of variety of programmes, action that will improve the efficiency of the power systems scenario in the whole of the country. I shall now deal with them in detail.

As Members are aware, if we take an all India average, the transmission and distribution losses are averaging around 22 per cent in the country. It is necessary for us to reduce these T & D losses through uprating of the systems. It is an evolutionary fact of history that the country has, especially in the North and the Eastern Sector electricity regions, long leads of low voltage transmission lines, which tend to lose more power during transmission. Numerous programmes have been initiated by the Department of Power to reduce the T & D losses through projects like reactive compensation projects and I am glad to inform that in many States, the T & D losses have gone down to nearly 17 per cent. In some of the States like Maharashtra, the T & D losses, when we take an average, is 14 per cent. During the debate, many hon. Members have been mentioning about the quality of power supplied. While the effort of State Electricity Boards and the Central power generating stations have been to improve the quality of supply in general, Members will realise that reduction in T & D losses through Capacitors Compensation

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project would inevitably result in improving the quality of power supplied to the consumer.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I will like to submit that the entire distribution and sale of power is being managed by States/Union Territories through Electricity Boards/Departments in different States. The State Electricity Boards have been incurring huge losses year after year and the estimated losses during 1988-89 are of the order of over Rs. 2,100 crores. I fully agree with Mr. Madhav Reddi that it is very important to improve the financial health of Electricity Boards. The health can only be improved through carrying out their operations on commercial lines on one hand and for taking concerted measures to improve their overall productivity through optimal capacity utilisation, reduction of transmission and distribution losses, controlling of operational cost on the other hand. According to the provisions of the Electricity Supply Act, the Electricity Boards have to earn a profit for part financing of their developmental activities after meeting their expenses and to achieve this, concerted efforts have to be made. I have been laying stress on this aspect on the State Governments/Electricity Boards.

I would also like to submit that due to poor financial health of the Electricity Boards the outstandings of NTPC for purchase of power have reached a level of about Rs. 480 crores. If the Electricity Boards fail to improve their financial health and do not work on commercial lines it will be detrimental to the growth and development of power sector.

I have no hesitation in agreeing with the views expressed by the Members that power supply should be of the quality that is needed or promised and I have been often writing to the State Electricity Boards to this end. We have also requested the Rural Electrification Corporation under the administrative control of the Ministry to take up an 'area development approach' and take up projects which

would assist the SEBs in improving the power system as a whole through such capacitor correction projects and through application of right technology for load management and systems for consumer servicing.

This brings me to another important issue of load management. As Members are aware, the country is divided into five electricity regions and at present, planning is done on the basis of the electricity regions. Even so a look at the geographical map would show that the hydro power potentials in India are in the northern and north-eastern belt of this country. In fact, almost 30,000 to 35,000 MW of power is waiting to be tapped in the upper reaches of Arunachal Pradesh, but then there are no load centres in and around these areas. Development of load in this area would necessarily take time though that is also needed and our attention must be directed towards this end. But if this power, which is not only assisting us to alleviate our peaking power shortage, but also a very important weapon for flood management of that area through which the Brahmaputra flows, it is necessary for us to devise ways and means of bringing this power to the load centres which are situated in south of these project areas. In fact, our objective should be to achieve a capability of transferring the surplus power from the Northern most region to the Southern most area of the country. If this has to be made feasible, then adequate attention has to be paid on the construction of transmission and distribution lines which are at the same time adequate to carry the power which is generated and also capable of taking adequate load. We have thus been working towards evolution of a national power grid to facilitate another regional transmission of power. The development of technology of 400 kv transmission systems in the central sector along with inter-State extra high voltage transmission system is expected to consolidate the formation of regional grids. Strengthening of the regional grids through the accelerated development of a central transmission system would ultimately lead to the formation of a national power grid. I am glad to say that

Government have under consideration the formation of a Transmission Corporation of India which would enable, as I mentioned a few minutes before, not only timely evacuation of power from generating stations but also such inter-state exchanges. This would also contribute to effective load management.

I must admit that an analysis of the performance of service indicators of various energy producing and energy utilising organisations/institutions point out the necessity of making concerted efforts by all concerned on a sustained basis towards producing energy economically and efficiently, avoiding wastages in handling and maximising the energy conservation. The Department of Power shares the responsibility of carrying out coordination and monitoring of all efforts in this regard. I would like to submit that strategies are being developed to integrate efforts of different organisations covering areas namely, energy pricing, information awareness, education and training technical developments, initiating demonstration projects, initiating energy bus/audit programmes, carrying out studies related to regulation of energy efficiency, incentives and disincentives.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Please lay it on the Table.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: If you want to know the pulse of the Government as to what we are doing, what we want to do, then please listen to me. The way you are speaking, I can also speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No disturbance please. You continue Mr. Minister.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: I am glad to inform this August Body that the Department of Power is setting up an Energy Management Centre with collaboration of European Economic Community at Nagpur. The Centre is being inaugurated on the 12th of April, 1989. This Centre shall provide solid support to Department of Power in undertaking important roles in the energy manage-

ment sector, development of software packages, training of energy managers, exchange of research on energy policy and energy management planning techniques, establishment of data base, energy audit programmes, demonstration projects, etc. I would like to inform the Members that continued thrust has been given to energy conservation. Specific energy consumption targets are fixed for energy intensive industries and results monitored regularly. The industries were motivated to introduce energy audits. Efforts were initiated leading to the standardisation of electric equipment and appliances commonly used in domestic and commercial centres, efficient lighting system and awareness campaign. Limited efforts made by Department of Power in this regard have produced significant results. Attention has also been given to agriculture front. Technical and financial assistance has been provided in these areas to instal energy efficient pumping systems.

We have fixed targets for reduction in specific energy consumption to the extent of five per cent in 1989-90, as compared to specific consumption level for 1987-88, by fifteen per cent by the end of 1994-95, and by thirty-five per cent by the year 1999-2000.

Our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhiji has been putting stress again that care and attention must be given to the vital aspect of human resources development. The Power Engineers Training Society (PETS) and Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) at Bangalore serve to fulfil this requirement. Major projects under various stages of execution under Central Power Research Institute are 2,500 MWA High power Testing Station. VHV AC Research Laboratory at Hyderabad and Power System Simulation System and Study Centre.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not share my thoughts regarding the major Corporations/Organisations at the national level contributing to the growth of power development in the country. I have already spoken about the important contributions being made by National Thermal Power

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Corporation (NTPC) for adding thermal generating capacity in the country. I am glad to inform the House that NTPC, during the year 1988-89, as against a target of 1,420 MW, has commissioned 2,228 MW. Presently, NTPC is the biggest power utility in the country, responsible for managing and operating 7,718 MW of thermal generating capacity. The Corporation also undertakes the construction of transmission lines for evacuation of power from its generating stations. The Corporation has been able to operate and maintain all thermal generating stations and the stations have been maintaining an optimal plant load factor. Eight generating units of an aggregate generating capacity of 1,900 MW have been maintaining plant load factor from seventy per cent to as high as ninety-one per cent. Five employees of this Corporation have been given the PM's Shram Vibhushan Award for the year 1988 for their outstanding and meritorious work performance. Similarly, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC), rural Electrification Corporation, North Eastern Electric Power Corporation, Damodar Valley Corporation, Bhakra Beas Management Board and Beas Construction Board are all functioning effectively in their respective jurisdictions to herald an era of progress and prosperity.

Hon. Members are already aware that Tehri Hydro-electric Project has been incorporated as a joint venture of public sector undertaking in July, 1988 for execution of Tehri Hydro-electric Power Complex in U.P. This Corporation will also execute all other hydro-electric projects with the consent of U.P. Government. Works of development of new Tehri township and rehabilitation of the affected families have been taken in hand.

Similarly, the Nathpa Jakhri Power Corporation has been incorporated in May, 1988 for execution of Nathpa Jakhri Power Project (6 x 250 MW) in Himachal Pradesh. The Corporation will also execute other hydro-electric projects in the region with the consent of H.P. Government. Currently, in-

frastructural work on the project is under execution.

Hon'ble Members of this august House are aware about the capital intensiveness of the power sector. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has been set up with the main objective of providing term finances for power projects. PFC has already sanctioned loans for over 100 (Hundred) proposals for Rs. 913 (Nine Hundred Thirteen) Crores and covering all areas of generating, transmission and distribution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while concluding, I will like to submit that the country achieved independence in 1947. The power scenario of the country has made a very significant change in this period of over four decades. The power sector has been able to successfully meet the challenges of natural calamities like droughts etc. At times, there have been failures, and the power sector has taken lessons from such failures. We have already entered into the last year of the 7th Plan and the Power Sector has drawn out plans for effective implementation during the next two decades aiming at only improving the quantitative growth by the beginning of the century but also consolidation of the quantitative growth of the past into qualitative values. Sir, I hope under the dynamic Minister, Shri Vasant Sathe and under the dynamic leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the power sector through improvement of overall productivity, would give to the citizens adequate and right quality of power at reasonable cost to all cross sections of society-domestic, agriculture, industrial and commercial. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Thampapan Thomas.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, when I spoke, Shri Sathe was not in the House. I drew his attention on certain points (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Thampapan Thomas, you speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. I am not allowing others.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): Sir, it is true, about the claims made by the hon. Minister, that there are improvements in the power scenario. It is also true that there is self-sufficiency in North-Eastern regions and in the Western region, there is a deficiency of 7%. But in the Southern region, the deficiency is 20%. Sir, I glanced through the various schemes of the Ministry. I find that even in the 1990-1995 Plan programme, the Southern region will be facing the power shortage to the extent of 20%. This is one of the major problems which I would like the hon. Minister to look into. I and Mr. Sathe, originally belonged to the same political party. I know his attitude and he agrees that there is regional imbalance in the availability of power. I hope the hon. Minister will look into this aspect and see that regional imbalance in the Southern States is wiped out in the future.

Sir, I would also like to submit that out of this 20% power deficiency in the Southern region, Kerala alone is facing power shortage of about 40%. With very good monsoon this year, there should be no problem in hydel power production. With the availability of water due to good monsoon this year in this region, I hope hydel projects will be considered for this region. Even though Kerala had a very good monsoon this year, the State would be deficient in power by about 40%. This is a very important point which I would like to project before you, Sir.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will there be shortage of power in Kerala even then?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: You come from Idukki constituency and hydel power generation is there. So, Sir, what I would like to point out to you is that there are certain problems which you may come across in the coming years. I would, therefore, suggest

that there should be long-term planning in the matter of power production. There is a need for meeting the minimum requirement of power as far as Southern region is concerned, especially States like Kerala, the minimum requirement can be met from the Neyveli Thermal Power Project. Neyveli is the oldest. From Ramagundam and Kalpakkam we are getting. I am not sure how much we are getting from Kalpakkam, but we had a share in Neyveli and that share we are not getting. Over and above that, Sir, I do remember, in the last year's debate on this subject you told us, to all the Kerala M.Ps. also in a delegation, that something would be done in Kerala. But in yesterday's press conference of the Chairman of the National Thermal Power corporation, he pointed out that Kayamkulam is there and today in an answer to the question it is said about captive port for Kayamkulam area. Some answer was also given to that. Whatever it be, my suggestion is, till the permanent arrangements are made, the gas gestation is the shortest one and from gas if electricity can be produced and more priority is given to that sector in the places where there are deficiencies, the requirements can be met. Sir, from Gujarat if we could lay the pipe line to the North and this area for power supply, why can't we think of a direct pipe line from the oil procuring area to the major thermal power stations which we are planning in that area—a direct pipe line from Gujarat so that the oil can go there and immediately power can be generated? Here we are very much in need of power and without that power we cannot improve and there will be a further drastic regional imbalance between South and North and other areas. So, my earnest request to the Minister is that in the schemes and in the events to come, thinking has to be made in that line and priority has to be given to this line.

Sir, I am not going into the details. There are certain other things which I would like to point out while participating in this debate. There is one major problem of tariff because the tariff differs. We are all Indians and why we, being a nation in the name of India and having the pride in India, differ in the pay-

[Sh. Thampan Thomas]

ment of electricity charges in various parts of the country? Of course, I know there are problems for the Centre in this matter. (*Interruptions*). That is what I am arguing. Of course, it is a Concurrent subject both for the State and the Centre, and the distribution part you have entrusted to the State, but if there is the alarming difference in the rates, that has to be coordinated. Some modalities have to be made out and my request is that there should be a Tariff Commission to be appointed for the whole country to study the tariff and see that every citizen in India gets electricity/power with not much of variation in the rate. It is an important point because recently I know when Kerala Government tried to raise some of their revenues, a marginal increase was given. It became a political issue and when it becomes a political issue, you know that it creates problems for the State and in such situations, Sir, to avoid such things—this is very important—for having the problem in view, my submission is that there should be a Tariff Commission appointed for fixing the electricity rates and coordinating these things. In fact, Kerala is supplying electricity much cheaper than many other places. But when the Kerala Government wanted to increase something, it had become a political issue. When it becomes a political issue... (*Interruptions*). If there is some coordination, if some effort is made by the hon. Minister in coordinating this, it will be very good.

Another aspect is this. You look at the problem, some achievements have been made, I agree. But you look at the problem at the international level and see what is the consumption. You know that it is 1/10th of the international average consumption of a citizen—that is what is prevalent in India today.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: There is 80 crores population

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: It is not only because of the population. This energy should be made use of according to the

requirement of the people. That we could not achieve, that we have to make.

Another important aspect is where this power generation is going to face the problem. Of course, in the anxiety for generating power, the hon. Minister and the Government of India and also State Governments including my State Government made demands to get loans from abroad. You approached the World Bank, you took loans from the World Bank and the Soviet Union has come forward to help you. I know Canada is helping in the Idukki project.

16.00 hrs.

But, Sir, now you look back at the problem. When you took the loan, the exchange value of rouble might be Rs. 12 or Rs. 15 per one rouble. Now, it is Rs. 24. When you are going to repay, it would be more and it is a very important aspect. If foreign debt that has been incurred, if the foreign loan which we have taken, at whatever interest may be, subsidised rate of interest, you have to pay back and ultimately when the ratio of rouble-rupee or dollar-rupee is changed, we pay through the nose. Ultimately because of that, our production cost is going up and it becomes unbearable for the people. In haste we have gone and taken these advances from the foreign countries. You will have to have a second look at this problem. You are adding upon, on the basis of Tariff Commission report, and increasing the unit cost, to keep a balance for the whole country. What we find is, economists have worked out that 40% of the rate is being increased because of debt, interest you are paying and other money which you have received and the exchange value differences. It is because of that, you are now producing electricity at 40% more than the real cost. Suppose we take some percentage of loan from the people, say you increase 3 paise per unit, perhaps this can be neutralised. If you take 3 paise each from 80 crores of people, instead of taking some rouble from Russia or some dollar from America, it will be useful and ultimately you will see that the cost will be less. If you

generate the fund from the people and distribute the power to the people, rather than going abroad for the fund, that would be very economical. I am only warning the Government and giving an instance where the cost of production has gone up. So, Sir, at a lesser cost of production, we should be able to generate electricity and distribute it.

Finally I would like to point out that in my constituency, i.e. in Kavankulam, you have promised to start Kayankulam Thermal Power project. People are anxiously waiting for it—when it is to be started and commissioned. When it was to be commissioned, that was the question earlier everybody was asking. But till now, the first phase is not complete. The State Government sent it as a State project. But the Centre said, we should help you and NTPC has taken it. But usually NTPC programmes, according to my information, will be cleared within 6 weeks' time. But even 3 months are over but it is not cleared. So, at the earliest opportunity, you should intervene and see that something is done.

I know, the hon. Minister has taken some initiative in the matter earlier—called the Chief Minister, Electricity Minister and talked to them and made them agree to the NTPC taking over. That was done. But still further delay is there. Therefore, some priority has to be given to it.

Second thing is about the Cochin Oil Refinery in Kerala. Oil can be used and small captive power project or small project can be put there in a decentralised way. I wanted to point out to you non-conventional energy point also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please wind up.

Prof. P. J. kurien

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Thampan Thomas has spoken about the cost of electricity generation. He is a labour leader and he must also know that the cost

of electricity generation was also increased because of the labour strike also Idukki is my constituency and when Idukki project was commissioned, it was delayed by 5 years, for five years, the work was delayed due to strike and the cost of every material over those 5 years increased. Therefore, I would say increase in the cost of production is not due to labour strike also. I am making a request to all labour leaders who are also Members sitting here to see that such unnecessary strikes are not resorted to so that the cost of production can be reduced.

I must congratulate the Minister for the commendable performance in the power sector, in the generation and in the transmission. The power generation is all right. He could minimise the loss in even transmission sector. I congratulate him and I wish him all success.

Coming to my State, my State's condition with regard to electricity is very precarious. As has already been said by my friend, 40% is the shortage. There is practically no heavy industry there. In spite of that, the power shortage is acute and there is power cut for four to eight hours every day. Over the next five years, there is no project under execution which can be commissioned. For the next five years, the power crisis is going to be much alarming in the State of Kerala. For the last five years, what is the additional capacity added to Kerala? Only 75 MW from 1,400 MW to 1,475 MW. Whereas in other States—I am not grudging or complaining—the capacity installed has been double or treble. In view of this, the Government was pleased to sanction the Kayamkulam thermal plant I thank the member for that. I thank the Ministry and the Prime Minister also for sanctioning that. That is only a 400 power project.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): 2,000 MW.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: The hon. Minister have agreed it to be super thermal power project. I thank him for that. The most important think is the State Government of course

[Prof. P.J. Kurien]

due to its own mismanagement, has no resources to invest there, even a single pie.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: It is your people who drained the treasury.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Due to the mismanagement of the present Kerala Government, their resources are drained and they have nothing to invest. Therefore, I am requesting the Central Government to come to their rescue and the rescue of the State so that the whole project is financed by the Central Government and undertaken by NTPC. NTPC has been proved to be a very successful organisation and you have very good profit margin. Kayam Kulam should be taken up by NTPC.

Central government has identified another place Trikarippure for setting up a thermal plant. That is a suitable place. One thermal power project is not sufficient for Kerala. I request you to sanction another project at Trikarippure or any other place.

With regard to the temporary and minimum needs of the States, a gas based turbine generator has to be located at Cochin with 500 MW capacity. The by products of Cochin Oil Refinery or even gas refineries in other states can be used for this purpose.

The full potential of hydel power has not been tapped in Kerala and we are not able to tap because of over emphasis on environmental protection. Environmental protection is needed wherever development causes environmental hazards. But, unfortunately in this country instead of development causing environmental hazard, environmental protection is trying to stall development itself. This is what I am feeling. One of my friends recently told me that some of these self-styled environmentalists who were arguing, were not interested in the development of our country. The basic thing is that you should not stop all hydal projects in Kerala in the name of environment protection. You should examine each one case and

after taking sufficient environmental precaution and sanction some hydal projects also. Pooyankutty scheme is also pending with you.

On sentence about the non-conventional energy. This is a very innovative scheme about which I am telling. One gentleman in New Delhi Mr. Ashok Rai has discovered that electricity can be generated from the 'Charkha'. I will read only two sentences from Newspaper. It is very interesting. This 'Charkha' electricity can be used in a house for lighting two bulbs and for domestic purposes. I will read only two sentences. I quote:

"Mr. Ashok Rai of New Delhi has developed a device to generate power to meet limited domestic needs using 'Charkha'. He has connected the *charkha* to a low-cost generator through a gear. By turning the 'charkha', the generator could be worked to charge a 12 volt battery in an hour. This generates electricity to light a bulb. Mr. Rai said that the equipment would be improved further to increase its efficiency."

A lot of manpower is wasted in this country. I would only request you to call this gentleman and examine the viability of this project and do something about it. He should be encouraged. Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the demands for grants of the Ministry of energy and congratulate both the hon. Ministers Shri Sathe and Shri Rai for the appreciable achievement recorded in production, transmission and conservation of energy during their period.

Sir, just now our two hon. members placed their demands for electricity generation but very humbly I would like to urge upon

Mr. Sathe that Uttar Pradesh is the largest state of this country, the population of which was 13 crores and it would have now reached 16 crore. It is the most backward state of the country. In Uttar Pradesh even 25 per cent demand for power is not being met while in Maharashtra hundred per cent requirement of power is being met. Similarly hundred per cent power is being supplied in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Haryana. This is grave injustice.

Sir, I appeal to our hon. Minister to give an assurance that the most backward regions, where development is tardy and schemes are not being implemented due to lack of power, will be granted their due share. I am confident that our hon. Minister will take appropriate steps in this regard.

While intervening in the debate just now Shri Rai threw light on all the aspects, which affect us directly or indirectly. But I would like to remind that it has been the policy of energy ministry to increase production of energy and to reduce the cost of production. Secondly we should achieve self-sufficiency at the earliest and thirdly the resources of power generation should not pollute the environment so that the ecological balance is maintained. In this connection, I would like to submit that we have definitely made progress in the sphere of power generation according to our plans. But going through the figures from 1947 to 1988-89 this fact appears to have been lost sight of that no nuclear system had been introduced in 1947. At that time there were only two systems of Thermal and Hydel power generation viz. Hydel power was the major contributor while the thermal power was minor.

16.16 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

With the increase in energy production, the expenditure on Thermal power genera-

tion has been going up. In fact there is still ample water flowing down the rivers in India today but we are not able to harness it. Therefore maximum attention should be paid to our environment, resources, demands and conditions. Hydel-generation system should be encouraged because its input cost or finished cost is less in comparison to the input cost of thermal power system. Thus the water going waste down the rivers can be put to proper use. The devastation caused by floods and natural calamities can be avoided. So far we have concentrated our attention towards thermal power generation, now we should divert our attention towards best management of water-resources. I would congratulate the hon. Minister for introducing incentives to Micro and mini hydel-plants. I am confident that if more attention is paid to it, the water which is now going waste can be utilised and power generation will be augmented. Recently it came to light that power generation increased in some places after sustained efforts for six months in a year but the problem of load-factor cropped up. The difficulty is in handling the load although more power is being generated. Therefore concerted efforts should be made so that the load problem does not arise. India is a country made up of villages. I congratulate the hon. Minister for providing necessary aid and issuing guidelines to states under the Rural Electrification scheme. While studying the report relating to this scheme it is noted that more than 64.2 per cent villages have been energised and energisation of 47.5 per cent of total potential of pumpsets has been accomplished. Just now as an hon. member stated, the reality is that in some villages electric poles only have been laid, in some villages electric lines have been laid. It is not proper to treat these villages as energised without doing anything further and claim that so much money has been spent on rural electrification, which was earmarked for the benefit of villages all over India. Therefore, a monitoring committee should be set up to oversee

[Sh. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi]

the proper utilisation of funds. The States, which deceive the Central Government and the nation by submitting fictitious statistics to avail financial aid under the Rural Electrification Scheme, should be penalised and efforts should be made to see that the benefit of the funds allocated for rural electrification in fact reaches the rural people. Uttar Pradesh is facing the major problem of transmission and distribution losses. I congratulate the minister of energy for his efforts to minimise these losses. Our hon. Minister of State for energy has stated that these losses will be brought down from 22 per cent of 17 per cent. In this connection I would like to draw attention to the system of supplying electricity at high voltage adopted in some developed countries of the world. Under this technique break-downs, fluctuations and several other faults in power-supply as also transmission and distribution losses can be reduced to a considerable extent. In practice we have seen that under the present system first poles are erected and then wires are drawn from pole to pole to supply electricity to the rural and urban areas but I think that this system needs to be improved upon. In case of dust storm poles fall down, wires get snapped at places and they remain unattended for weeks and this, at times result in casualties apart from breakdown of power supply. I would recall that in the recent past a conference had been convened by the Government and views of hon. Members had also been invited as to how to improve the power supply system and a number of suggestions were given. In this connection I would like to submit that Government should evolve and introduce a system which, though costly, is durable, safe and ensures maximum utilisation. If the system of laying underground cables is introduced for supply of electricity, I think that the chances of falling down of poles, snapping of wires, disruption of power supply, casualties due to electrocution will be eliminated. Some-

times we get reports that live wire fell on moving bus and 59 to 60 persons were killed. Such incidents are becoming frequent in this country. Therefore, Government should find out some way to avoid such casualties and disruption of supply.

You have devised ways to economising consumption of power and I think it is the need of the hour. I look at it from a different angle. Lot of electricity is wasted in this country on illuminations, decorations, etc. and Rs. 20 lakh are spent where Rs. 2 lakh can serve the purpose. Air-conditioners consume maximum power and it is difficult even to imagine the quantum of power wasted in India. If we conserve this power, I am sure that industrial production in our factories, which are not able to work upto their fully capacity now due to power shortage, can be increased to a large extent. Due to restricted power supply some factories run two shifts instead of three and some run just one shift in place of two. If this wastage is controlled, I believe that production in all sectors agricultural or industrial will increase. Today production is severely affected due to load shedding.

Now I come to my area, Eastern Uttar Pradesh which is the poorest, most backward and neglected area. I thank you for the efforts made by you during your tenure. foundation stone of a power station with 1 lakh 32 thousand unit capacity has been laid in my area but the hon. Minister must be aware of the fact that district Basti is the most backward and the poorest district of Eastern U.P. Lakhs of weavers reside in Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Basti and Faizabad who earn their livelihood through weaving but there powerlooms are badly affected by insufficient power supply. Therefore, I request you to lay foundation stone of a power station with 1 lakh 32 thousand unit capacity in Mehdaival, Dharaminghwa and Rajesingha and make arrangements to generate ample power there so that nobody may get a

chance to complain that his factory is closed or he is unable to earn his bread and butter due to shortage of power.

The scheme of awarding cash-rewards is praise worthy and all the electricity generating centres have availed benefit of this scheme and transmission and distribution losses have been reduced. But I would appeal that the amount of incentives should be increased so that loss of power or energy in the country could be further controlled.

Shri Vasant Sathe had introduced a scheme viz. "Urja Gram" for areas where Government could not make electricity available. There were some conditions attached to that scheme. But, it has not been successfully implemented. The much needed electricity facilities have not yet been provided. This scheme is not capable of providing electricity in the far-flung and remote areas. I would, therefore request the Government to explore and develop the non-conventional sources of energy and develop at least five villages as "Urja Gram" in each parliamentary constituency. All the sources of energy like solar energy, wind energy and biogas and photovoltech system etc. should be tried for this purpose.

Sir Rai is very well aware that a very huge quantity of waste grass grows in the ponds in Uttar Pradesh, which in local parlance is called "Jal Kumbhi". According to a news item published in a newspaper, power can be generated from it. It grows in the ponds in Uttar Pradesh in tonnes and can be collected very easily. I would like to say that if steps are taken to conduct research in this regard, this huge waste available in tonnes can be utilised for generating power and electricity can be provided to our villages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since you are ringing the bell, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was

listening very attentively to the speech of Shri Kalpnath Rai. Whenever, we the M.Ps from Punjab approached Shri Sathe or Shri Kalpnath Rai about the power problem of Punjab, we were given a sympathetic hearing. We are very grateful to them for this and I express my thanks to them but...

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Why are you now qualifying it with a "but"?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I have not used this "but" for him, it has been used to point out the other problems.

As regards finances we are facing serious difficulties. The present power position in Punjab is so grave that if power generation in Punjab is not stepped up by 200 mega watt every year, there will an accute problem of power in future. I would, therefore, like to make a request to your that the Central Government should adopt a more sympathetic attitude and approach towards Punjab State Electricity Board and the state of Punjab. The first difficulty is that Punjab is located far away from the coal heads, which means higher cost of carrying coal from the coal heads. Secondly, Punjab is a disturbed area. But, inspite of these factors the power generation is being maintained in Punjab. Therefore, the Government should consider both these factors sympathetically. Firstly, more expenditure has to be incurred in generating power and secondly despite being a disturbed area more power is to be generated in Punjab. Therefore, priority should be given to Punjab in the matter of the generation of power.

I would like to make a submission about the Thermal Power Plant at Ropar. We have made repeated requests to you to give clearance to its third stage. Necessary clearance in regard to supply of coal has since been given. Point of pollution in respect of this project has also been cleared by the Central as well as the State Governments. Now the

[Sh. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

final clearance is to be given by the hon. Minister of Energy, Shri Sathe. Last time also I had made this request to him. It does not look nice to remind good man like him time and again. I had requested him last year and this year also I am making the same request. As such I would like to request him emphatically to give his clearance to the application about the third stage of Thermal Power Plant at Ropar which has been pending with him. Shri Roy had convened a meeting of the M.Ps on 13th instant in which he had listened to our views.

Secondly, he had advised us to make a little change in the present location of the Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Power Project from Bhatinda to some-where else. Accordingly we changed the cite of the project to a place which was 9 kilometres from its present site. All the objections and queries raised in connection with this project has since seen cleared. I would, therefore, like to request him to give clearance on the third stage of the Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Plant.

I would also like to request him to provide a gas based Thermal plant in Punjab. I had written a letter to the Hon. Prime Minister in this regard. In reply to that letter, the Prime Minister has stated that:-

[English]

"In view of the quantity of availability of gas at present and the commitment already made for delivery of gas, there is no plan for extending the pipeline to Punjab."

[Translation]

If that cannot be done, I would like to request you that

[English]

gas linkage for the gas Thermal Power Plant has to be set up near Ludhiana.

[Translation]

Please do make some provisions for this. It will provide an additional 216 MW power to Punjab. Once you clear the Third stage of Thermal Power Stations at Ropar and Bhatinda, Punjab will get additional power of 220 MW from each of these two stations.

The State Electricity Boards of both Haryana and Punjab have apprised you of their problem that coal for both of these Boards, comes from far off places and it increases the expenditure manifold. About 50 lakh tonnes of coal reaches Punjab every year and almost 50 per cent expenditure of the Electricity Board is incurred on account of freight charges of coal. I had written a letter in this regard. I am just repeating some of the sentences of that letter.

[English]

The only remedy, therefore, lies in rationalising the coal price on F.O.R. basis throughout the country as in the case of steel, cement and petroleum products. The adoption of uniform price on F.O.R. basis throughout the country would help in the growth of power in all the States and eliminate the element of discrimination which is existing in the present set up.

[Translation]

Only two-three things were very necessary for our State. Once the Ranjit Sagar Dam and the Shahpur project is commissioned, no hydel power problem will be left unsolved in Punjab. I would, therefore, request you to fulfill our demand for a gas based thermal projects.

Recently the Central Government has honoured the Chairman of the Punjab State Electricity Board, Shri N.S. Vasant for his outstanding performance. The financial position of the board is very sound. We the Congress Party and the Akali Dal may be having differences in other fields, but our view are identical on the performance of the Punjab State Electricity Board and the work of its Chairman, Shri N.S. Vasant.

At the same time I would like to request you to expedite the construction work of Thein Dam which is presently running at a slow speed. With these words I express my thanks to you.

SHRI BIRINDER SINGH (Hissar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Mr. Sathe for his nice work despite drought and floods at many places and for not allowing the power generation to go down. The hon. Minister has been successful in achieving the power generation target to a great extent.

Now, I would like to draw attention of the hon. Minister to a few things. Price escalation in respect of Thermal Power Plants and construction of Hydro electric dams has reached unprecedented dimensions. If this situation continues, it will further rise up in the coming years. I would like to cite an example in this regard. A sum of rupees 1 lakh and 80 thousand crores was spent during the Seventh Five Year Plan. If proper control is not exercised on this expenditure, I am afraid the expenses will go up to such a proportion that in the next 10 years a provision of this much of amount will be required only for energy. An Advisory Board had been constituted in 1984. The Board had submitted its report to the Ministry in 1985. This Advisory Board gave its projections in regard to the supply and demand and said that in the next few years, it will increase three to four times. What I mean to say is that while the Government helped the farmers in the

villages and also extended assistance to industries, it should also make some efforts to improve the lot of these farmers. There was green revolution in the agriculture sector, but we still find it that even today the farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produce. You will have to find some way out for this. We will have to make our farmers more capable so that they could compete in the international market. It will be possible only when we have a low cost economy. The Hon. Prime Minister has also said this thing. When our products will be available at low costs. We will be able to establish our credit in the international market and we can mobilise more resources.

I would like to make a submission about the gestation period in respect of the hydro electric or the thermal power projects. The funds are allocated by the Planning Commission. If the gestation period of a hydro-electric project is 10 years, the total cost of the project should be equally spread over 10 years. 10 per cent of this amount could be spent in three years and the balance 90 per cent amount could be kept in the form of deposits so that it could draw an interest at the rate of 12-15 per cent. This will nullify the impact of Price escalation. This will also help us in making our slogan of 'low cost economy' a success. It will protect the exchequer of the Government of India against the additional pressure likely to be borne by it. With it we will be able to generate money from our own resources.

In the coming years the Government is going to lay more emphasis on the thermal power. The ratio of hydro electric and thermal power was 51 and 49 respectively during fifties. But today the percentage of hydro power has gone down to 32 percent and that of the thermal power has touched the mark of 68 per cent. In the coming years, the Government will have to depend exclusively on hydro-electric power. As such the Government will have to take a quick decision

[Sh. Birinder Singh]

the same day when any project is conceived, and find out whether the State would execute the project or it will be entrusted to the Hydro-electric corporation. In this context, I would like to cite the example of Nathpa Jhakhari project. The Nathapa Jhakhari project which will prove a great boon for Haryana and Himachal Pradesh was conceived 15 to 16 years ago and at that time its estimated cost was Rs. 500 crores. But at the present price level, the cost of this project has gone up to Rs. 1600 crores. Had a decision been taken at that time that the project would be executed with World Bank assistance, it would have been completed with an expenditure of Rs. 500 crores or Rs. 600 crores or Rs. 700 crores instead of Rs. 1600 crores.

Secondly, I would like to point out that transmission and distribution losses amount to 21 per cent on an average in this country. In certain electricity boards, it is up to 26 to 28 per cent. Whereas this percentage is very low in other developed countries of the world. It is 5.3 per cent in Japan, 6.6 per cent in the U.S.A. and 4.7 per cent in Germany. Losses to the extent of 21 per cent suffered by the electricity boards or the Government are not due to any technological defects, but due to power pilferages with the connivance of big officials of the electricity boards. Big political leaders of the State are also involved in this racket. Now take the case of Haryana for example. In Haryana, the distribution losses amount to 23 per cent. The Government of that State did not bother to find the ways how to reduce this loss, instead they raised the rate of duty and tariff on electricity totalling it to Rs. 100 crores which put a direct burden on the consumers and the farmers.

[Translation]

The consumer and the farmer were

directly affected by it. The Government did not suffer any loss, only the farmers or the poor people had to bear the loss. In Haryana alone there are about 5 lakhs tubewells.

I would like to submit that in regard to the power supply from the Thermal Power Plant or Central Base Hydro-electric Plant to the State Government, there should be a provision or a law under which the staff posted at the sub station should be made accountable for any shortfall between the electricity transmitted to it and the electricity supplied to the consumer. Although the Government have provided incentives but they are not likely to serve the purpose because how can a person, who otherwise manages to earn about Rs. 10,000 per month, can be satisfied with your certificate and an incentive of Rs. 1,000/- in a year.

The Government will have to introduce a provision in the service rules that an employee in any way found involved in the theft of electricity is liable to criminal proceedings for this offence which shall be punishable with an imprisonment besides dismissal from service. Neither the farmer nor a common consumer indulges in theft of power. Big industrialists and owners of big firms are found to be engaged in this type of theft. If the bills of these people, for whom electricity, is the raw material, are examined, it will be discovered that they show paltry sums. Now I would like to say something about the non-conventional energy sources. The efforts made by Government to encourage non-conventional energy are commendable. But I disapprove the management strategy formulated by the Government. It has been stated that about ten lakh and eighty thousand biogas plants have been distributed to individuals and 85 per cent of them are in working condition. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that if he pays an on the spot visit, he will find that not even 25 per cent of the total plants given to individuals are in

working order. Keeping in view our social set up, use of solar energy and biogas energy should be introduced community-wise treating the villages as a unit. Government efforts will succeed if non-conventional energy is used for operating fodder cutting machines, lighting etc.

Besides, I would also like to say something about Rural Electrification Corporation. The Rural Electrification Corporation has decided to instal about 23 lakh pump sets and as per their estimate the average expenditure works out to about Rs. 20 thousand for each such set. The annual interest on Rs. 20,000/- works out to approximately Rs. 2800/-. The Electricity Boards, who grant subsidy to the farmers, charge Rs. 940/-. It makes it clear that the Electricity Boards have to share a very heavy burden. Government should see that the corporation does not indulge in profiteering. They should make an indepth study to identify the ways to help the farmers. During the last drought, water level in the tubewells had gone down by as much as 30 feet. In such a situation the Rural Electrification Corporation should have come forward to help the farmers, by providing interest free loans etc. They should have worked out some arrangement to energise their motors to tide over the crisis. So I would urge upon the Government that while framing schemes and laying down targets (here you have set a target of 25 lakh pumps), you should also pay attention to the problems faced by the farmers and find out ways and means to solve them.

Besides, there had been prolonged discussion for several years as to who should be entrusted the job of execution of proposed Thermal Power Plant at Yamuna Nagar, the State Government or some other agency and finally the job was awarded to the N.T.P.C. I would urge upon the Government to expedite the execution of this work since we do not have any other source of energy—neither coal nor any national

source for setting up hydel projects. Then you said that a Nuclear Power Plant would be set up in the northern zone during the Seventh Five Year Plan, and a survey has already been conducted in some places of Haryana for this purpose. At present the position of electricity in Punjab is quite satisfactory. Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh too, have rich hydel potential, so they do not need it. Then comes Rajasthan, where a Nuclear Power Plant has already been set up. Although it is not advisable to establish a Nuclear Power Plant in North Zone from the point of view of defence strategy but this plea holds good no more since Pakistan has now acquired capacity to attack deep into India even upto Nagpur. Thus the claim of Haryana for establishing a Nuclear Power Plant is justified. Therefore, such a plant may be set up in Haryana so that our power requirements are met in the absence of other sources.

With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, regarding energy policy, I have only a few suggestions to make. We depend in this country more on thermal that is based on coal, oil and gas. Then we have also hydel power generation and nuclear power stations. I suggest that we should develop more of the other energies like solar energy, wind velocity and ocean waves energy. All these energies we should utilise, but we may not get them immediately. For getting solar energy, we have to do a lot of study; after that, we can be able to use it. But, out of these things, the standard of any country is judged by the per capita power generation. Today our per capita is only around 200 units per ahead; this has to be improved substantially. In the 8th Plan, we plan to have about 10,000 MW per year; in the 8th and the 9th Five Year Plans or say by

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2000 AD, we expect to produce about one lakh and 60 thousands MWs of power in this country, although it will not be sufficient for our requirement. As it is, we are producing 35 per cent hydel power, 65 per cent thermal power and 2 per cent nuclear power. But, in my opinion, we should increase more hydel power though it is more expensive. But it has a multi-purpose advantage; it will have more advantages of utilising power generation and also for irrigation purposes. At the same time, we will reduce losses of power due to floods. Every year, due to floods, we are destroying in this country property worth several thousands crores of rupees. This will be more advantageous for us to utilise till we have tremendous amount of resources and hydel schemes. Nuclear power is very expensive, long gestation period and safety factors required are very costly; out of availability of nuclear power, a substantial amount is utilised for the generation of power itself because heavy water consumes lot of power; and also the cost of other things required for the generation of this power is high; and a substantial amount of money we have to spend after the nuclear power stations have been set up; that is a very difficult job. Today, about 40 per cent of our energy is coming from non-commercial side, if we start from dung, fire wood, agriculture waste, even labour force, cattle force and other things which we are using. Whereas for other purposes, for thermal power, as I said earlier, coal, gas and oil, we are also planning to save energy that we are producing. The transmission losses have to be reduced substantially; that is one place where we can save probably without spending too much of money also; we can also increase the production capacity of the installed capacity. Still about 52 per cent of the installed capacity we are able to utilise; by increasing the also, we can improve substantially the amount of production without much waste of money.

Our Vijayawada Thermal Station is one of the best stations. It has also got an Award. But these awards are not exempted from income tax. I think we should make a provision that these awards should be exempted from income tax.

NTPC is putting up a number of stations at different places, but the rates that they charge are different at different places: the rates that they charge at different places should be uniform. Just like what you have done in the case of telephone or some other steel industries. Here also you have to charge uniform rates irrespective of the cost. For all India basis, the funds are utilised from the Government of India; whether the production cost is more at one place and less at other place, but the rates for distribution of power should be charged at a uniform level throughout the country.

The National Grid has to be improved. In fact, earlier, the Minister's statement says that there are certain places where the power has not been properly utilised.

If we have a national grid for power transmission, probably this problem would not have arisen and we could utilise it more effectively and generate more resources from that.

Borrowing finances from others is not a problem because many countries have borrowed from different places, but the utilisation of the money and generating the resources are more important. If we are not able to utilise properly and we keep it idle it will only result in problems of debt. Even Germany and Japan have borrowed under the Marshal Aid programme and they have generated their resources and repaid. We have to utilise it properly and we can generate more resources and repay it. That is more important. That is why we have to concentrate on our efficiency factors and improve the power generation, utilisation

part and transmission part. As the hon. Minister has also said just now, the transmission losses are up to 22 per cent, which is a very high figure. It has now come down to 17 per cent. Still it has to come down substantially compared to other nations. It has to be still reduced. But whatever it is, the Government should give more incentives and offer more attractive terms and conditions so that they should be able to improve these things.

Like that, the availability of linkages in coal sector is another important point. For example, in Andhra, the World Bank has recommended that the pit head cost is also more important. Transport of coal is very expensive and again handling of ash and supply of water are also problems. These are the problems. If you take the Andhra coal mines which are by the side of the river Godavari, water is available and ash can be taken into the mines and the coal is not to be transported for a long distance. It is much cheaper than transport of coal to other places.

I only suggest that we should be able to utilise more the thermal power stations near the pit-head so that it is more economical and it can also be of assistance to various parts of the country.

As I suggested earlier, the national hydel power generation should also be improved substantially so that it helps the multi-purpose projects, and it reduces on flood damages and power generation and irrigation also are helped. In the case of Godavari, you can see the Polavaram project where it has got more hydro-power and also irrigation. If you can utilise 80 per cent of the water which is going to the sea, it would be more advantageous. I only request the hon. Minister to consider these points, and take up a national hydro power scheme.

16.58 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Union Government and the Energy Ministry for the overall good performance of that Ministry in the power sector and also the coal sector.

As you know, we are a developing country and it is Energy—rather it is Power—which holds the key to development. And, therefore, there is no escape from laying more emphasis on Energy. We have to give still priority. We are giving priority, but we have to give higher priority to Energy and it is also in the fitness of things that we are taking up for discussion the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy first, as it is the first and foremost from the development point of view also.

After the intervention of our powerful Power Minister, the Minister of State in the Department of Power, Shri Rai, I need not spend much time on how we have made lot of strides in the field of Power. We have made a very continuous and forward march. We have started with a humble beginning of about 2,000 MW of power at the time of independence, not only independence, but at the time of the First Five Year Plan, and now we are nearing the target of about 60,000 MW of power.

17.00 hrs.

But I would like to give a note of caution to the Power Minister that there is no room for complacency. The Minister himself has admitted that at the end of this Plan, we will have six per cent shortage of power in the country. We are a developing country. We have to compete with the rest of the world, which we are doing. If we compare our country with the developed countries, our per capita consumption of power is far behind. We should not forget about that. The Minister himself said that to keep it at that

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level, we would be required to generate 48000 MW power in the 8th Plan. Sir, 48000 MW is the minimum requirement. I feel that even with this, we will be heading for power shortage. Forty-eight thousand MW power would mean an investment of about one lakh crore rupees Rs. 1 lakh crore—where from the money is going to come. Some rule was 1 MW means Rs. 1 crore earlier. Now it is 1 MW means Rs. 1.25 crore. It will further be revised to 1 MW means 1.5. Again we have transmission lines and all those things. So, it will come to Rs. 1 lakh crore. It is time not only for the Ministry but the Government as a whole to think about this. It is a challenge for us. As I said earlier, we have to give first priority to power. We know what Soviet Union was fifty or sixty years before. But now it is a very big country in the world today. In replying to a question about the fantastic development that it had achieved, the Soviet leader said, 'it is a combination of electric power and the Soviet people's power'. Thus, we have to give emphasis on power energy together with people's power. It is gratifying to know that we are now re organising our Panchayat system. We are re-vitalising the system. We are marching towards a new era. The largest democracy in the world, i.e. India should have an effective and meaningful Panchayat Raj. People's participation should be there in all the process of development, planning and administration.

I congratulate the Ministry for its overall performance.

NTPC deserves special appreciation for its brilliant performance. But again PLF is only about 54 per cent, which is less than your targeted figure. Then you say that power generation is less by five billion units and for that you have given an explanation that it is due to low demand system. In the hydel sector, we made an improvement, because of the good monsoon, we achieved

22 per cent ever and above the last year figure. In Eastern States like Orissa, we have power famine. Still the lower generation is attributed to lower demand. I am not convinced. As there is no national grid, they could not help it. Therefore, national grid construction has to be taken up on a priority basis. Otherwise, there will be a lot of power in some areas and there will be power famine in some other areas. There should be a judicious combination of hydel sector, thermal sector, renewable energy, non-conventional, nuclear and others. I do not want to go into the details as the time is very short.

There is imbalance in our present system. This is not a very balanced system—67 per cent in the thermal sector and 33 per cent in the rest. This is not a very ideal system. Every system has its advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, if given a careful consideration, there could be combination of these sectors in the field of generation. There is no harm in allowing generation of power even in the private sector. While I say so, I am quite conscious of some dangers. But if proper restrictions are put on distribution, transmission, etc.—Government will do transmission work here should be no problem—NRIs could be involved in this task. Otherwise, it is just not possible on the part of the Government alone to go in for power generation on a mass scale which is required for the overall development of this country. A situation will have to be created for the big industries to go in for captive power plants for their own consumption so that the power which they are consuming can be diverted to other sectors like agricultural sector. In this five-year period they have 22,500 MW of power. This year they have added 5000 MW of power which is the largest single year production.

Most of the SEBs are in the red. Transmission losses or theft of power are still on the increase. We have gone in for strict legislation. We have made power theft a

cognisable offence. In spite of that, there is no remarkable progress in bringing that down.

If you go to a village you will find the main village electrified, but a few hemlets with Harijan basti are left unattended. I would appeal to the Government that a village cannot be taken as electrified unless all its hemlets together with Harijan basti, Adivasi basti are also given power. Now the situation is that if you go to a village where there is no power, people there are clamouring for power. They are pressuring for power to be provided immediately. Even if the power is given to the interior village, it actually does not serve the people. I have got instances where people do not get power for 25 days in a month because of some defect somewhere. My humble submission is that if there is no steady supply of power for two-third of the period i.e. 20 days in a month and 16 hours in a day, SEBs should not have any authority or power to demand money from the consumers. Otherwise, SEBs would not improve their performance.

I would go to coordination and R&M programme. This is also to be given more emphasis. BHEL has to be brought under the control of Energy Ministry for better coordination. We know what is happening in Uppar Kolab. BHEL has supplied some parts and they have gone out of order immediately after they were put in operation.

Now I come to the coal sector. At the outset, I congratulate the coal workers of the country. They have contributed Rs. 1 crore to the Prime Minister's South Africa Fund to help people there to fight against racism and apartheid. The overall performance in the coal sector is good. Revision of their pay scales and wages has been completed recently. There is a good atmosphere now. But what is the problem with regard to the production of coal? At the time of nationalisation, the production of coal was around 70

million tonnes. It has now gone up to 194 million tonnes or something like that. Still we are slightly lagging behind the target. But that is not the problem. The problem is how to improve the quality of coal, how to raise the productivity. Of course, we are improving it steadily but compared to China, compared to some other countries, we have to cover a lot of ground more in this regard. We have to bring in a new work culture. We have to make the workers' participation in the coal management really meaningful. Also, the horrible wastage in this field has to be curtailed. There are some officers whose conduct has to be watched, whose activities have to be watched. I do not wish to speak much about this but if proper guidance is given to workers, if proper atmosphere is created, if there is real partnership between the workers and the officers, much more can be achieved in the field of coal. There has got to be the combination of both the underground mining and the opencast mining, and not only the opencast mining. The officers are preferring opencast mining but that involves lot of foreign tours and more mechanisation. Considering India's position, we have to do it both manually and with machines.

Now I will just touch upon two or three demands of our State...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just touch upon those points.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I will just mention the points and then conclude. As you know, Sir, the entire coalfield of Orissa lies in my constituency alone. Orissa, which has very rich coal deposits and good quality coal, has been neglected so far. We should have a subsidiary coal company in Orissa immediately.

Lot of private agricultural land is being acquired. We have to pursue a liberal policy and give adequate compensation and jobs to those whose lands are acquired.

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In Brajrainagar, people were interviewed in 1984 but jobs are not being given to them. About hundred persons are still waiting. Eighteen persons were given jobs but after two days of their reporting, they were asked to sit down. Like that, lot of local problems are there.

In Talcher area also the problems of local employment, inadequate compensation, etc. are there.

You, know, Sir, the coalfields pollute the atmosphere. They pollute the water also. Therefore, community development programme has to be taken up on a larger scale in the coal area and the villagers living near the coalfields have to be given the benefit of this programme.

The Government of India have taken a decision to set up a Coal Directorate in Orissa. But why there is delay? In Orissa, the office of the Technical Director of Coal has to be set up as quickly as possible, without further delay.

I would say that our hon. Minister, Mr. Sathe's—unfortunately he is not present here right now—visit to Orissa is overdue. By paying a visit to our State, he can have a better appreciation of our difficulties. We have the headquarters at Bilaspur and Calcutta but they do not seem to appreciate our difficulties. People's discontent is growing. In the matter of problems like roads, water, schools, health, etc., local discontent has got to be looked into.

With these words I conclude, giving my full support to the Demands of the Energy Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr

Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Energy and the Ministry of Energy for the efficient performance in spite of adverse circumstances. In the first place they have not allowed plant load factor to fall, rather they have made earnest efforts to improve it and secondly, they have succeeded in mobilising resources for the on-going projects in spite of financial constraints.

Today, we are facing a serious lack of resources in the energy sector. Shrimati Gandhi had stressed the need for generating more power in the Sixty Five Year Plan. Unfortunately we were not able to maintain the tempo during the Seventh Plan, which was created during the sixth plan. The Planning Commission did not allocate desired amount of funds to the Ministry of Energy. I would like to urge upon the Commission to provide maximum funds, particularly for the completion of hydel projects. I would like to point out to the hon. Minister of Energy that no efforts are being made to strike and maintain a balance among the various sources of generation of energy. We prefer to make use of resources which give quick results. We dig out coal and instal a thermal power plant hoping that power generation will start within a period of three years. We are not sufficiently exploiting the hydel power potential giving preference to short term interests over the long range benefits. This approach is not good. It has two drawbacks. Firstly, our natural resources would be over exploited or go waste in case they remain unexploited. Secondly, we would neither be able to maintain a balanced industrial growth nor succeed in maintaining the desired balance between thermal power and hydel power. We should fix the targets right now so as to achieve the final target of hydel production, which has been fixed at 33 per cent of the total power generation.

The Government is paying inadequate attention to the areas where hydel projects

can prove to be a rich source of energy though certain measures have been taken to set up such projects in Jammu-Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh but abundant hydel power potential in Uttar Pradesh is going waste. Sharda Valley Project can meet the demand of the entire northern grid if it is utilised properly. We have not utilised even 1/100th part of it. Just one hydel project at Tanakpur has been set up. We are relying more on Pancheshwar but it is not certain as to in how many years it will be completed. It is difficult to say how long it would take to complete the Tihri Dam. Dhauli Ganga Project, investigation in respect of which was completed five years ago, is yet to be cleared. It has been given technical clearance but your Ministry has not started work on it. Even the required funds are yet to be allotted. I charge the Ministry of energy of adopting a callous attitude towards Uttar Pradesh with Planning Commission conniving with it. Whenever major projects are submitted, the Planning Commission tries to stall the proposal. India can never progress if Uttar Pradesh and Bihar remain backward.

Only 2 per cent of the total outlay on energy has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh, while on the basis of population it should be 18 per cent and according to the total area it should be 12 per cent. Apart from it the investment on hydel projects is nil.

Power Financial Corporation has been constituted. A number of projects are pending with it for sanction of funds. Investigation has already been completed in respect of 110 micro hydel projects. The U.P. Government has been pressing for release of funds but you are turning a deaf ear and not giving money. The State Government approached the financial institutions for funds for laying distribution lines but banks are also not sanctioning the necessary funds.

Now, I take up R.E.C. There are a number of schemes which are not being

cleared by the Government. Micro REC schemes are being executed at various places. But Uttar Pradesh is far lagging behind in this regard, almost 100 per cent. The hill areas of Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Paurhi, Uttar Kashi and Tihri still fall short by 25 per cent as compared to the national average. The Government should pay adequate attention to these areas in respect of which a number of projects are pending. The Government are not advancing finance to this State on those very terms on which you have given money to other States, rather the conditions are being made more rigid.

I would like to submit just one more point before concluding. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has done its best to increase the plant load factor for the Thermal Power Plant. But its request for grant of loans for the schemes for expansion and modernisation are pending with the Ministry of Finance. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to get them cleared. The Power Finance Corporation did not extend full help. The Central Government should direct it to provide adequate assistance to Uttar Pradesh.

With these words I thank the hon. Minister.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to speak.

A lot of discussion was made here on Demand for Grants of Ministry of Energy and the members irrespective of their party affiliations, who took part in the debate appreciated the achievement of Energy Ministry for this magnificent achievement. I heartily congratulate both the two dedicated hon. Ministers for this creditable work. But we should not abandon our efforts in complacency. I think it is not appropriate.

We have exceeded in our target of production of coal. Not only this year alone, we have been exceeding our target of coal-

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production for the last four years. We have exceeded in target of coal-production. At the time of nationalisation of coal mines, seven and half lakh workers were engaged in it and at that time 74 millions tonnes of coal was produced which has now increased to 194 million tonnes. Today India has become the 4th largest coal producing country of the world. This has been achieved with the concerted efforts of one and the all and I can not underestimate the contributions of workers to this achievement but I would certainly like to say that due attention has not been paid towards their welfare by the society and the nation as they deserved to be paid. I do not say that their salaries have not been increased over the periods and their standard of living has not raised. But for the last two-three years, they have been subjected to a very lop-sided treatment, which I would like to bring to the notice of the House. The annual report of the ministry about the performance of coal-mines has been circulated to us. It has been mentioned in the report that a lot of work has been accomplished in the field of labour welfare. In support thereof, some charts have been given therein. Seven lakh labourers are working in coal-mines and we have been told all works are accomplished as per norms fixed by the Bureau of Public Enterprises. But I am not aware as to whether any norms have been fixed by the Bureau with regard to providing basic facilities such as supply of drinking water, housing and kinds of houses to be provided to the workers. Similarly no attention has been paid to the points as to how many percent of workers should be provided with housing facility and what type of houses should be constructed for them. According to the chart given in the report, you will find that only three thousand houses have so far been constructed during the last 3 years. Still there is a backlog about three and half lakh of workers who are to be provided shelters. If the speed of construction remains the same, I don't know when the construction of houses will be completed. Despite the fact that the Member after Member, irrespective of their parties affiliation, appreciated the

good work done by them for increasing the production of coal and nobody made any complaint against them, adequate attention was not paid to their welfare. Every year we see that cut in expenditure is affected in the budget but only welfare schemes such as provision of housing facility and supply of drinking-water are brought under cut. This was a matter to be pondered over which I wanted to present before you

Secondly, we have fixed a target of Coal-production for the ensuing two years. As per our target, we are to make production of 222 million tonnes of coal but the present year's production will exceed the production of previous year. On an average, production of two months of coal is added to the reserve stock. As a result of addition to the stock, re-handling cost increases and quality deteriorates, due to which Coal has to be sold at reduced rates and Coal India and other companies have to bear the cost of production, resulting in losses to the Coal India. One hand target of coal production is fixed by the Government, but due to less consumption of coal, surplus coal is added to the stock. Therefore, the Government should think over the commercial viability of that coal. Secondly, there is a very strange phenomenon that all big coal consuming companies show profits by not paying the dues of coal outstanding against them. Their amount of profit is equal to the amount of dues of coal outstanding against them. Thus they are taking credit at the cost of coal producing companies. If a coal company incur a loss amounting to Rs. 350 crores of rupees, they are branded as most inefficient. But this is not a good thing. Therefore, Government should seriously ponder over this aspect and try to find out its solutions. Today the question regarding coal is hardly raised in the House. Even in the debate that is taking place today, most of the members have expressed their views on power and made demands for more electricity wherever needed. As a matter of fact, we raised the voice of big consumers of coal and their demands were fulfilled. But no one cared for the poor consumers living in huts. All big consumers have been satisfied as their all

demands have been fulfilled. There is a move to import coal and in fact coal is being imported every year. The result is that on one hand coal is being imported from Australia and on the other coal is not being lifted from washery in which Coking -coal is produced. Consequently production of coking coal is increasing but consumption is declining. Coking-Coal which is a scarce commodity and which is being imported from foreign countries and on which we are spending scarce foreign exchange and purchasing it at the double price of our coal. I fail to understand the rationale behind this decision.

Demands for setting up a Super Thermal power stations are being raised from all corners of the country. Bihar produces one third of the total production of coal in the country. When some cess on coal is increased, a lot of hue and cry is made against it on the plea that it would lead to increase in expenditure of the whole country. I would like to pose a question as to whether a thought has been given to the considerable increase in the freight charges on coal by the Railways after nationalisation of coal mines.

Today the coal which is available at Rs. 300 tonnes at pithead in Bihar, the same coal is available at Rs. 1200 a tonne in Bombay due to the freight charges increased by the railways and further in Punjab the same coal is available at Rs. 1500 a tonne. But nobody pays attention to this point. When coal is not supplied to the power plants in Ropar, it attracts wide stream criticism in the newspaper that the all business in Ropar are going to be closed due to non-supply of coal. Powerhouse is going to be closed due to non-supply of coal. The consumers have to bear additional burden and people think that they are being supplied coal at exorbitant rate of Rs. 1800 a tonne. But they do not know as to how much money goes to the Coal companies out of this amount. At the time of nationalisation, out of Rs. 100 per tonne, Rs. 60 used to be spent on the labourers but today it has come down to Rs. 40 only. A number of people express their concern when wages of the workers are not

increased. Several people are expressing their concern as to why an agreement was not made for the last 3 years and on the other side the difficulties which we have been facing could be realised by us only. In spite of all this, it is a fact that the labour cost has been reduced. This is mentioned in the annual report and this is not my self-composed statement. We are in agreement that despite so many constraints coal in India is cheaper. It is a different matter that the prices of coal have increased due to other infrastructural reasons such as increased freight charges on coal and royalty and cess imposed on coal. Therefore, this should be thought upon and to my view attention should be paid to it.

Now, I want to speak a few words about my constituency. Previously I was speaking about the State of affairs in the entire country. As I said earlier that one third of the total coal production is produced in my State. The railways are not in a position to transport entire coal produced in our state. Powerhouses are also needed for this purpose and there is unsatisfied demand of power. As coal produced in our State cannot be transported in full, some remedial measures are required to be found out. What is its remedy? The remedy is there. It has been realised that thermal power plants should be set up at pithead itself. You will be surprised to know that everywhere discussions are being held to set up super thermal power stations and providing coal-linkage. But nobody talks about setting up thermal power plants at pitheads. One Super Thermal Power Plants is proposed to be set up Kahalgaon in Bihar but no thought has been given to set up at thermal plants in Jharia or Hazaribagh which are located near pithead. Similarly the Hon. Prime Minister himself has made an announcement to set up a thermal power station at North Karanpura. When he visited Ranchi, he viewed all aspects and then made an announcement that a Super Thermal Power Station would be set up there. The Energy Minister made announcement time and again in the Parliament and in Consultative Committee attached to his Ministry that we could generate power at the

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cheapest rates because the pitheads are located at a very short distance. Thermal power could be generated at a rate even cheaper than hydel power. But no attention is being paid to this. Even today no mention has been made in this report about North Karanpura. Even a single step of construction work has not been started there. Even a token amount for setting up the proposed power plant has not been allocated. On one hand decision is being taken that a power house will be set up at pithead but on the other no provision is being made. No other country in the world commits such mistake as we are committing. On one hand we are paying freight charges on coal on its transportation to a distance of thousand kilometres and on the other no action is being taken to set up thermal plants at places where there is plenty of coal deposits.

I would like to suggest that the hon. Minister of Energy should consider this matter seriously and should set up a super power station at North Karanpura at the earlier. If nothing has been mentioned in the report in this connection, the hon. Minister should at least make mention in his speech as to what steps are going to be taken in this regard.

Secondly, the hon. Members have referred to the energy crisis in Bihar and Orissa and statistics are also available in this matter. I do not want to repeat them but I want to draw your attention towards the delay in the installation of the Super Power Station at Kehgaon and I would like to know the reasons for such delay. If there are any difficulties in respect of the state, they should be explained.

Thirdly, I want to draw your attention towards non-conventional sources of energy. Efforts should be made to find out such sources of Energy. No one has any objections to it. Everyone feels that non-conventional sources of energy should be encouraged but I regret to say that limited funds are made available in this regard. It is not pos-

sible to obtain non-conventional sources of energy with such a meagre amount. It is not only in the coastal areas that non-Conventional sources like wind, water, sun, light and Gobar are available but these are available in other areas also. The areas where it is not possible to provide the conventional sources of power, should be selected for generating energy through the non-conventional sources. If the same is provided only to the native villages of the Members of the Consultative Committee, it will not do and we shall not be able to make much progress in this field. Therefore, my suggestion is that more funds should be provided for this purpose. Instead of limiting it to the respective villages of the Members of the Consultative Committee, this facility should be extended to at least five villages of every Parliamentary Constituency in the country and it should not be provided to serve as a mere model but it should be a plant generating Energy in the real sense. Whatever funds are required for this purpose should be arranged for.

With these words, I support the Demands of the Ministry of energy.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS(Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit only 2 or 3 points without taking much time.

Unless there is an integrated energy policy in the country, we will continue to face problem in this regard. The Government will have to adopt a balanced approach among hydel, thermal and non-conventional sources of energy and develop them simultaneously. At the same time, nuclear energy should also be developed but nuclear energy does not come under the purview of your Ministry. All these aspects have to be paid attention to at the same time. I read the book the 'Economists'. In that book it has been mentioned that in the 21st century there will not be any shortage of foodgrains but there will be shortage of energy and consequently of the cooking fuel. This matter should be looked into seriously.

Several points have been raised which I will not like to repeat. However, I would like

to submit two or three points. I would like to thank Shri Kalpanath Rai for this letter and four reminder thereafter inviting suggestions for improvements. No other Minister has done this so far. I was also asked whether any improvements could be made in my constituency and I have got an opportunity today to make my submission in this respect. Bihar produces the maximum quantity of coal in the country but there is an acute shortage of power in the state. I am making this point with considerable regret. If you go to North Bihar or South Bihar. You will find that there are neither any provisions for electric lighting or for kerosene lamps. It has been said that India is an area of darkness and I think this is true in the case of Bihar if not for the entire country. There is total darkness in certain villages in Bihar.

When I was listening to the submissions of the hon. Members I was just thinking whether the people are familiar with the facts or not. In certain villages of Bihar power is not available through out the day whereas in certain other villages it is made available only for two hours or so. I can claim whatever I am submitting. You will of course say that this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the State and therefore it is the responsibility of the State Government. But Sir, the Central Government can also direct the State Governments to take certain measures for the improvement of the position in their respective states. There are ample stocks of coal in Bihar.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now your new Chief Minister has come.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: He will take a little more time. He is doing very well Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM (Nagarkurnool): Whom will you direct in that state when the Chief Minister keep changing so frequently?

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: "Tulsi kahar na

jaiye kanchan barse.megh

Aayat hi harshan

nahin nayan nohin sapet

I want to inform you that there are large deposits of coal in Bihar. But the coal is not available for domestic fuel. Therefore, people are cutting the trees from the forests.

There is an acute shortage of power generation in the state. Whatever little power is generated, it is not distributed uniformly. As regards the setting up of the proposed National Grid. I support it.

But Sir, the State which provides raw materials and infrastructural facilities like coal, land workers etc. should be supplied, 80 per cent of the power generated. Otherwise, the people of that State will show their resentment. You should accept this fact. I have informed you about the feelings of those people. I will say the same about Uttar Pradesh and other States as well. A National Grid should be set up, but before that, the State which has made so much sacrifice should be provided with maximum power supply. It is not justified to exploit them in this manner. It is not justified to deny power to those states which make maximum contribution for the generation of power by supplying coal and providing workers, land and water etc. Just because they lag behind in development. The poor people of these states have been left with no alternative but to go and work as agricultural labourers in Punjab and Haryana. Power will not be supplied to them because it is not meant for them.

The next point which I am going to submit is very important and considerable attention should be paid to it. A Super Thermal Power Station is proposed to be set at Kehlgaon. Our hon. friend was saying that the Government is making efforts to start power generation within 3 to 4 years or even earlier. I would urge upon the Government to provide 80 percent power from this Power station to Bihar. Such sophisticated technology is available today whereby a pillar can be constructed in the river Ganga and power

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

can be supplied through it. Sir, if this measure is taken, it will change the face of Bihar. Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that he will get it done. I am very happy about it and I will convey it to all the people of the state. It is also gratifying to note that the Chairman of the Gas Authority of India Limited has ensured selling up of a Gas Plant in the state. This measure will also help in revitalising Bihar.

I want to raise another point and which no one should misunderstand. There should be an increase in the rate of cess to be levied on coal in order to enhance the revenue earnings of the state. As regards Transmission losses, I want to submit that these are outright thefts. You will find the same situation in every state. The Rabi crop has been just harvested. I have observed in Bihar, U.P. and Haryana that people obtain illegal power connections for operating their machines and for other purposes. This is not a transmission loss but is a theft of power. Although a law in this respect was enacted last year but it did not make any impact so far.

I want to congratulate the Government for the increase of coal production. Your Minister has busted the Coal Mafia gang and it is really a big achievement.

There is ample scope for hydel power projects to be set up in Bihar, particularly in South Bihar. Mini hydel projects should be set up there. If necessary attention is paid in this direction, sufficient quantity of hydel power can be generated. With the cooperation of Nepal we can generate sufficient quantity of power which will meet the power requirements of both the countries. It will also prevent floods in Bihar and U.P. thereby. Finally, I want to submit that much hullabaloo is being made for adopting the non-conventional sources of energy. I wrote so many letters in this regard. No work has been undertaken during the last 4 1/2 years anywhere for the development of non-conventional sources of energy. No 'Urja Gram'

was set up. Elections are round the corner. We are going to face the electorate within 6 months. We keep on assuring the people that they will be able to get power through the non-conventional sources. The supporters of the non-conventional sources of energy claim that the entire country will be supplied with sufficient power through these sources. But there are no concrete results anywhere. At least one 'Urja Gram' should be set in each district of the country. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Mr. Chairman, of course, Mr. Kalpnath Rai is here but I expected Mr. Sathe also to be here because later he will have to answer my points. Energy is a very important department and it pains me to find that many people are not here.

Many people have talked about national grid. That is very much needed. Even the regional grids are not the kind of grids that answer the needs of the situation. I do not suppose northern grid is very viable and all the time we can look to the northern grid to fulfil the needs. Anyway, I think, both the hon. Ministers are very much interested in this as we have received a couple of circulars.

Since you are aware of the national scene I directly come to the J & K situation. I must say that J & K State is in a very bad shaped and the Ministry of Energy has further added to the difficulties of Dr. Farooq Abdullah. People want him to work wonders. But he requires cooperation. He has so many difficulties in the economic and other fields but I put energy on the top. J & K State has one of the largest potentials of hydro-electric power which you are not tapping for national need. We have water resources. We can generate about 15000 MW of electricity from our water resources but our water are running wastefully to Pakistan. It is something disheartening that a State which could generate electricity to the tune of 15,000 megawatts, has harnessed only 208

megawatts so far. Now, the Salal had added something which is not known to the people of Kashmir. This winter and even now, Kashmir is passing through a very difficult phase—during a week, there was shut down for four days and this electricity shut down in creating much more difficulties for the people. I bring this to the notice of the hon. House. It has a double-edged sword. There is a group of people who are not happy with the accord between the National Conference and the Congress. These are the secularist parties wedded to the principles of socialism and secularism and there is a group which from the very beginning, is a secessionist group and which is not very happy. But now because the Chief Minister has economic difficulties for which he seeks the co-operation from the Central Government, his difficulties are added and the secessionist forces receive a shot in the arm. There is no electricity; they will abuse Mr. Farooq Abdullah and his Government; and we shall come here and raise this problem before the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Energy watches the situation helplessly. Therefore, the Ministry of energy should rise to the occasion, understand the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir is a border State and it is a very important State also. It has strategic importance. I do not want you to give doles to the people of Kashmir and I do not want to derive any undue advantage by our special status but I want an honourable treatment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Our waters are running waste. That energy is not being harnessed and you commission Salal without having transmission lines to take electricity to the Kashmir Valley. It is a special case which should be understood. I request Mr. Kalpnath Rai to share these thoughts with Mr. Sathe so that he could answer these points. Your bureaucrats should also understand that Kashmir Valley is a special case. They cannot decide on the problems of energy sitting in cosy and warm rooms. The whole team should visit the State of Jammu and Kashmir and see the practical difficulties as to why there was shut-down for four days in a week. Why do you add to our problems? Why do you make us commit during the

elections that we shall do this and that? We can't get the moon in our hands. Kashmir Valley has a special right because we are sometimes land locked. The road which was previously called as Banihal Kath road is not a dependable road. Even the Jawahar tunnel is not giving the way. It may break down some time and we want an alternative road to Srinagar. We get land locked. Sometimes, there is no petrol, no diesel and no kerosene. Shri Sheik Mohammad Abdullah told the group of people that we have acceded to India irrevocably, our accession to India is final and irrevocable. We want to tell those secessionist elements who now look on the right and left, who want to weaken us, that they will never succeed in their nefarious game. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Union of India. I want to raise this issue because we are in a difficult situation. Sometimes we are land locked. You may remember that last time you had sent us petrol through aeroplanes. Under these circumstances our problems should receive special recognition and understanding from the Central Government. We have 208 megawatts against a capacity of 15000 megawatts. You never care for Salal which you had commissioned. First preference should have been given to Kashmir problem. When electric power is ready, they say that they have no transmission lines. Who is responsible for that? You are doing that operation and that operation is sluggish and slow. The result is that electricity position has improved a little in Jammu and Kashmir remains in total darkness.

The Dulhasti project has been going on for the last 8 to 10 years and now it has become a joke. People have aspirations; they are very much concerned about tomorrow, but they do not want their today to be dull and drab. How long would they wait? The progress has been very slow. There is no explanation for that. You cannot tell us at the fag-end that there is no money. We are not responsible for that.

Dr. Rajhans was mentioning about the difficulties of Bihar. I share his point of view, but Kashmir is also in very great difficulty.

[Prbf. Saifuddin Soz]

Why has this project not been completed over a period of eight years? There is hope. You will send some engineer and he will prepare a report. But to what avail? People have become restive. They do not care for your files and what the persons sitting in their cozy warm rooms of the Secretariat do.

People get tensions and those tensions break in the kind of situations that we have in Kashmir. Of course, the situation is well under control, but this kind of slackness, non-response from the Ministry of Energy has added to our difficulties.

Now, what about the Uri project. Last year I had requested Satheji to visit Uri project and try to complete this project very quickly. My contention is that even Rs. 20 crores have not been spent so far on this project. There is a saying in Persian:

[Translation]

"Umre Baayad Keyar Aayad Baknar"

If I translate it, it will be as the couplet given below:

"Kaun jeeta hai teri zulf ke sar houe tak"

The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 450 crore and the Government have spent only Rs. 20 crore so far. If this amount of Rs. 450 crore is divided by 20 crore rupees spent so far then we shall come to know as to how many years will Uri project take in its completion.

[English]

We are in a great difficulty and this project needs to be expedited.

Take another thing. You wanted to give some electricity to Srinagar and for that you wanted gas turbines. For the last eight months we have been hearing about gas

turbines, but the problem has not been solved.

The situation is very difficult so far as Ladakh is concerned. Some people say that Stakna is complete, but it will require another Rs. 1.5 crores and something has gone wrong there. It requires an enquiry. The canal got silted. Responsibility will have to be fixed. You send money, but you should also take interest to find out why did the canal get silted and therefore that project is in difficulty.

One more thing and Shri Kalpnath Rai, I hope, will take a special note of it. I have been told that for Uri project, you have got even the labourers from outside. It is not correct. Only the top engineers could come from outside the State, but the labourers right up to the Executive Engineer should be our men and women from there. You should conduct an enquiry and see whether these people are being brought from outside.

18.00 hrs.

I request you to ensure that the people not only from Uri tehsil but from Baramulla district, which is a backward district, should be posted there and nobody from the labour to the level of the executive engineer should be posted from outside. We have a lot of engineers who are unemployed. So, we will not tolerate this thing. My special request to the hon. Minister is to kindly conduct an inquiry and see whether there are people who have come from outside.

Thank you, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we will continue tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, there are some more speakers who want to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): Sir, the Minister will reply tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, we will continue with the debate. Yes, Shri Lal Vijay Pratap Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH (Sarguja): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the demands of grants presented by the hon. Minister. As far as Minister in the Department of Energy, Shri Sathe is concerned he is not only dynamic and vigilant but has his own thinking and own ideology which are absolutely appropriate in present circumstances. The views of Shri Sathe about the public sector or about the accountability of the persons working in the public sector are, whether expressed in newspapers, in consultative committee or in the parliament, really commendable. It is, no doubt, correct but when we see things practically we do not feel as happy as we ought to be. It looks as if something is lacking somewhere.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, fortunately there are large coal deposits available in our country. These coal reserves may be less in quantity as compared to some big countries like U.S.S.R, U.S.A., Canada, China and Brazil but it is beyond doubt that we have large deposits of coal in our country which are being properly exploited. It is a matter of satisfaction for us that this year we have achieved a new landmark in coal production. I think that this is a big achievement. Now, the present target of coal production is 194 metric tonnes. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this House, I would like to submit one thing to the hon. Minister and the Finance Commission that we have received for the Department of coal only Rs. 6.68 thousand crores during the Seventh Five Year Plan. Though it appears quite a big amount, but looking into the requirements of the Department of Coal it is really a negligible amount. I would, therefore, like to demand that this amount should be increased adequately.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the same way we need large sums of money for the department of electricity in power sector. We are finding ourselves in trouble and the works

are not being completed in the absence of availability of adequate funds. As you know, my constituency falls under South Eastern Coal Area and we feel proud that we are having the best coal mines in this area which contribute a major part in the total production of coal in the country.

I would like to make a submission through you. Though we have been contributing to national exchequer by producing large quantity of coal, yet we feel extremely disappointed when we find that we are getting no return for it. Coal companies may pay a big amount as cess or royalty or sales tax to the State Governments but this amount goes to the State exchequer and no extra funds are provided to the coal producing area. It has been causing a great problem.

The hon. Minister is a vigilant man and I hope he would understand the problem. I believe that this fact would be kept in view while formulating policy for future and adequate provision will be made for the areas where exploitation or mining of coal takes place.

We produce coal on a large scale but the local residents remain deprived of their own rights when they demand coal for their own consumption because our policy has been to supply the coal to heavy industries priority basis. But now we have come to know through newspapers that the Government is thinking to liberalise this policy in order to meet the demands of the petty consumers. But the requirements of those petty consumers in our area who are engaged in Brick Kiln business and those who require coal for cooking purposes, have not been met so far. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this fact.

My other submission is that the Government should not only provide adequate compensation to those whose land comes under the collieries or is acquired by Coal India Limited, but should also take measures to see that such people are properly rehabilitated and employment is provided to them.

[Sh. Lal Vijay Pratap Singh]

Power Sector is very important. The total number of villages in our country is 5 lakh 75 thousand, out of which 4.40 lakh villages have been electrified. Power supply to about 74 thousand pump sets has also been claimed. It is indeed very encouraging. Power supply in some areas is satisfactory but our country is so big that we are still facing power crisis in certain areas. I would like the Government to give priority to power generation. A national grid should be set up to meet the challenge.

It would be economical to generate power by setting up thermal power plants or some other smaller units at the pitheads instead of carrying coal elsewhere because transportation cost is considerably expensive. The problem of transmission loss is also a serious one. This is a fact that there are transmission losses. But the apprehension regarding power theft through high tension wires does not seem to be correct. The Government should encourage non-conventional sources of energy also. I think it is the only medium through which we can meet the shortage and supply power to the whole country. In the same way, we have not paid proper attention towards producing of nuclear power. We should take effective measures to produce nuclear energy.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI MOTILAL SINGH (Sidhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the demands of the Ministry of Energy.

So far as the energy is concerned, it is the most essential requirement of people throughout the country. But certain regions are still deprived of this facility and it is also against the policy prescribed by the Government in this regard. In spite of the fact that all the infrastructural facilities are available there, electricity has not been provided to the people in these areas. I would like to say something about Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh is a big State, but the power generation there is inadequate to fulfil the re-

quirements of the people. Though Thermal Power Plants are there and the State is very rich in coal deposits, yet the electricity is not available to the people residing in rural areas as envisaged in the plan and ensured by the Government policy. In our policy, there was a provision to provide one connection to each family residing in rural areas. But there are families in those areas which have not yet been provided with these connections. The Government claims to have electrified the village by just installing one electric pole there. A scheme was prepared in 1982 to build a dam and set up Thermal Power Plant in Madhya Pradesh to supply electricity to this State and to the state of Gujarat. But the scheme has not been implemented so far. No final decision has been taken regarding the construction of dam and regarding the supply of the coal to the Power Plant. The proposed dam and the Thermal Power Plant are to be constructed in my constituency. The Government of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat were supposed to set up the plant, but it has been stated that they have refused to undertake the work and have request the Centre to undertake it. My submission is that in case the Government of Madhya Pradesh has refused to undertake this project, Central Government should see whether they can undertake it or not. There is a great need of electricity in that area. The proposal for a dam and a Thermal Power Plant in Raigarh was also submitted to the Central Government. Coal is also available there. It would be unfair on the part of the Government to reject this proposal. I think that there would be no environmental problems also. The proposed site for Thermal Power Plant can be shifted to some other place and land acquired for the purpose can be exchanged with Government land. I would urge upon the Government to pay special attention towards setting up of such Thermal Power Plants in order to meet the shortage of power generation and to supply power to the people in the rural areas as ensured by the Governments policy. It is essential to implement the scheme to provide irrigation facilities to the poor people. Priority should be given to the farmers because due to drought and power crisis farmers find it difficult to

irrigate their fields and they have to suffer production loss. The Government should pay special attention to these matters. My constituency is a coal producing area. Singrauli coal mines and South Eastern Coal Fields fall in my constituency. I feel sorry to say that the coal mines workers are not getting even those facilities which were available for them before the nationalisation of coal mines.

The workers who are working in the mines should be provided with safe drinking water, electricity, health facilities transport facilities and educational facilities for their children. Special attention should be paid towards these points. Little attention has been paid in this direction so far. The water which is supplied in the colonies of the miners is impure water drawn out of the mines. Whereas this water is sieved, boiled and purified for supplying it to the officers. This sort of discrimination between human beings is unjustified. It is the mine workers who are actually mining coal and it is on account of them that coal is reaching the different parts of the country. Thermal power or power produced from coal is used for the running factories. Therefore, it is essential to pay special attention towards the welfare of the mine workers. They should be provided with necessary facilities so that their standard of living is raised. Their wages have been increased but they should also get the necessary resources. For example, in areas where coal mines are located, the mine workers should at least get coal for their domestic needs. I am referring to Singrauli in this connection where at least coal should be supplied to the workers for domestic consumption. The Government has acquired land for the setting up of Vindhya Super Power Station. The units of NCL and NTPC are located near this site and 2 or 3 villages are there between them. The adjacent land has been denotified. Earlier a notification was issued for acquiring it. Thereafter, it was denotified. But this land is not fit for habitation. I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, that the persons whose land have been denotified should be provided compensation and their lands acquired.

Land is acquired for the setting up of Super Thermal Power Stations or for mining purposes, but not even a single member of such displaced families are provided with jobs. At least one member of such families whose land has been acquired by NCL in the border areas of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh should be provided with jobs. They should not be discriminated against. How can they tolerate injustice to such an extent? Therefore, I would like to request that an enquiry should be conducted to ascertain whether the same rules apply to Madhya Pradesh as are applicable in Uttar Pradesh.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to make my submission and I also support the demands of the Ministry of Energy.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy. At the same time, I also thank the hon. Minister of State, in the Department of Power, Shri Kalpanath Rai for eliciting our opinion regarding such matters from time to time. I think that he is the first such Minister who has started this precedent of desiring to know the point of views of the hon. Members as well. However, I have also been a culprit for being unable to reply and for which I would like to beg forgiveness.

More than 40 years have passed since Independence but this Department has not made desired progress so far. We are completely dependent on power supply. No progress can be made if power is in short supply. Neither can industries run nor can fields be cultivated without it. I will not take much time of the House because several hon. Members have submitted this position in detail and have provided comparisons etc. in this regard. I hail from the rural areas and I would like to draw your attention to the problems of these areas. The hon. Minister is aware that Etah in Uttar Pradesh, is a backward district in every respect. There is neither any industry nor any good college or university located there. Although the land is

[Sh. Mohd. Mahfooz Alikhan]

very fertile, the cultivators are facing a lot of hardships. There is an acute shortage of water and unless the engineer is given a bribe of Rs. 2,000 he does not sanction water connections to the agriculturists. I would like to know whether there is any possible remedy to the situation? How can agricultural production be enhanced under such circumstances? Even after securing the connection he has to be at the mercy of nature because of the erratic supply of power. This is the condition which is prevailing today. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has sanctioned two 132 KW Power Stations for Aliganj and Jalesar in Etah district. I have been elected from Etah on the opposition ticket. I would like to inform the House that the material for installing the said power station at Aliganj had arrived but it was shifted to Jalesar because it is the constituency of Shri Kailash Yadav who is a Congress (I) M.P. This power station should have been first installed at Aliganj but we have been given step motherly treatment. Aliganj is a very backward area and a centre of criminal activities. It is imperative to supply electricity there. If power supply is available there, it will help in curbing criminal activities because such activities take place in the dark. I would like to request the hon. Minister that he may direct the Uttar Pradesh Government to complete the installation work of the 132 KW power station at Aliganj because the same has been completed at Jalesar. The Government should ensure its early completion so that this area can make some progress.

The biggest problem which the Government has to face in such matters is the pressure of the Employees Unions which are responsible for the harassment of the people. In case of power cuts, these people do not make any efforts to resume power supply and similarly in the case of telephones, they are least bothered to make necessary repairs. If they are dealt with sternly, they go on strikes. It is a very big problem which you may also be aware of. At the same time, theft of power is also there.

The Government is trying to produce more power and as Shri Harish Rawat has submitted sufficient quantity of power is generated in Uttar Pradesh which can fulfill the requirements of the entire country. Attention should be paid to power thefts as well. Why should there be power thefts? It is because the Government does not provide the required number of power connections. The officers demand bribes for giving power connections and when the people are unable to offer bribes, they take unauthorised connections and indulge in illegal consumption of power. Therefore steps should be taken to check theft of electricity. It is the policy of the Government to electrify those villages which have a population of 1000 and also those villages which are inhabited by Scheduled Castes. I want to submit that there are many villages inhabited by the minorities and Scheduled Castes in Etah which have not been electrified so far. One such village is Bhargen, In Patiyali Tehsil. It consists of 30 thousand people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and minority communities but it has not been electrified even though more than 40 years have passed since Independence. This is the sort of situation prevailing in my area. Electric poles are installed at the time of elections and as soon as the elections are over the poles are removed. There are hundreds of such villages in my district where electricity has not reached so far and people are facing enormous hardships. You are aware that people have become used to television, radio and such other amenities and electricity is essential for such purposes.

I would like to submit one point more. In Haryana, all the villages are electrified. I have observed that even if there are two houses in a certain area there is an electric pole in between and there is a road as well. Every house is electrified in that State.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): But power is in short supply.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Yes, there is an acute of shortage of power. But I am referring to my constituency in this

regard. Our State is a very big one. Haryana is a small State. But the fact is that this State is completely electrified.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI: Shri Bansilal made all the arrangements for it. He was the Chief Minister of Haryana and belonged to the Congress party.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: You cannot draw comparisons with Haryana. Anyway, let us leave this matter aside. I was simply expressing my own grievances. I will request the hon. Minister to extend necessary funds for the electrification of these areas.

Aliganj tehsil is located in my constituency. The tehsil headquarters is also located there. But no S.D.O. is posted there. The Government should post a S.D.O. there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What the Union Minister will do?

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Why are we here?

[Translation]

In that case we should have been the Members of the State Legislatures. We are requesting the hon. Minister so that he may convey our feelings to the Uttar Pradesh Government.

I would like to request that keeping in view the prevailing circumstances power is an essential requirement there. As such Uttar Pradesh is a very backward State, particularly, in the matter of power supply. There is an acute shortage of power there. You should solve this problems somehow.

Finally, I would like to thank the hon. Minister.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants for Energy. First of all I would like to con-

gratulate the energetic Minister of Energy and the powerful Minister of Power for their improved performance as compared to the last year.

Sir, generation and consumption of energy constitute a very crucial criteria for measuring the country's economic development. In fact, it is one of the parameters for measuring the progress of the country. Specially in this Ministry, we have power, coal and alternative sources of energy. We are not discussing nuclear fuel and oil which are in a separate Ministry. Therefore, I would have been happy if energy has an integrated and more systems approach, whereby all sources of energy could have been under one Ministry.

We had given emphasis and priority to energy, which can be seen from the First Plan itself. In the First Plan it was Rs. 260 crores, which came to 13.3 per cent. In the Second Plan; it was Rs. 460 crores, which came to 10 per cent. In the Third Plan, it was Rs. 1252.3 crores, which came to 14.6 per cent. In the Fourth Plan, it was Rs. 2931.5 crores, which came to 18.1 per cent. In the Fifth Plan, it was Rs. 740.7 crores, which came to 19.2 per cent. In the Sixth Plan, it was Rs. 19265.4 crores, which came to 19.8 per cent. In this Plan, it was Rs. 42000 crores.

Let us have a look at the Plan achievements now. In the First Plan, out of the target figure of 1300 MW, the achievement was 1100 MW, which was 84.6 per cent. In the Second Plan, out of the target figure of 3500 MW, the achievement was 2250 MW, which came to 64.5 per cent. In the Third Plan, out of the target figure of 7040 MW, the achievement was 4715 MW, which was 67 per cent. In the Fourth Plan, out of the target figure of 9260 MW, the achievement was 4610 MW, which was 49.8 per cent. In the Sixth Plan, the target was 19666 MW. The achievement expected was 14000 MW. But it was revised in September 1976 to 12500 MW, which came to sixty per cent. So, this has been the earlier track record of targets and achievements. The cumulative shortage today is

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10,000 MW. One can imagine what impact it will have on the industry and agricultural sector of the country and specially in industry where engineering, iron and steel and aluminium comprise 25 per cent of the entire gamut of economic activity. This is also a barometer of economic progress of a country. I do admit that in the power sector, the hon. Minister and his able Ministers of State, both in the coal sector as well as power sector, have brought in many innovations and improvements over the last four, five years. In fact, we are trying to instal additional capacity of 22,245 MW. there has been implementation of programmes of renovation and modernisation. An amount of Rs. 500 crores has been spent on that. Some of us had the opportunity of going and visiting some of the plants which were undergoing renovations and modernisation. We have submitted a report to the hon. Minister of the lacunae, lack of supervision and coordination and lack of will for implementation at the plant level, which is hampering the progress of these power plants. These are not NTPC plants. They are doing well. I would request the hon. Minister of State, since he has written to us four or five letters, to take the trouble to go through these various reports submitted by the sub-committee of the Consultative Committee. It will be an eye-opener to him when he will find that 11 to 12 months are wasted on correspondence between the State Government and the Central Electricity Authority or between the Central Electricity Authority and the NTPC and some of the State power plants. No minutes are kept of the discussion. Therefore, the intention with which we are going in for modernisation and renovation programme and the intention with which we have allocated Rs. 500 crores, sometimes, is not optimally utilised. Therefore, the interest, which you are taking, will bear fruit only if there is better coordination and monitoring.

Then there is the aspect of training of manpower and upgrading of skills and of setting up of institutions by the Central Government for that purpose. But there is a

pathetic lack of such institutions in the State sector. I am emphasising on this issue because it is not only the Ministry of energy which is responsible for development of power but the cooperation of various States is very much needed for development of power. Most of the States today are suffering from power famine. I come from a State which is abundantly rich in coal, water, forest and other materials. But by the end of 1987 Orissa was short of power by more than 550 MW. Same is the case in irrigation. So in spite of abundance there is shortfall, backwardness and under-development. This is one aspect I would like the Ministry to take a look at.

In the report it is mentioned that Talcher Super Thermal Power Station is one of the 9 projects which are to be taken up by the NTPC. We have been hearing this since 1980. The hon. Minister was not in the Ministry then. His predecessor, who was here in the last Lok Sabha, changed the priority of Talcher. From number four we came to number seven. And in the Sixth Plan, only five projects were taken up. Now we are fortunate that the administrative approval for Talchar has been given in November, 1988. But the foundation stone to be laid is being shifted. We heard that the hon. Energy Minister Mr. Vasant Sathe was supposed to go day after tomorrow. But today we are told that he has cancelled his programme. Same is the case with the 500-bedded hospital in Talcher. He was supposed to lay the foundation stone day after tomorrow. In fact I was ready to go tomorrow to my district. But again I am told that he has cancelled the programme. So, this sort of slip between the lip and the cup seems to be the order of the day as far as my State is concerned. I hope the hon. Minister will rectify that and see that the Talcher Super Thermal Power Plant sees the light of the day which the people of Orissa, the Government of Orissa and the Parliamentarians of Orissa have been demanding and have been stressing.

Then, I come to the point of transmission and distribution losses, about which many of the Members have said. 21.5 per

cent are the losses that we have been incurring and which is sought to be brought down to seventeen per cent.

I would like to give some food for thought to the hon. Minister. Since the Ministry of energy is already having a dialogue with various organisations, institutions, etc. which are non-government, and are trying to associate them with the generation of electricity and generation of energy, will they consider associating such institutions, corporate bodies, cooperative bodies with the transmission and distribution? This would not only bring in an element of completion, but the Government would save certain scarce resources in only generating and give the responsibility of transmission and distribution to a particular body. This is food for thought and I hope that they will ponder over it.

The Central Electricity Authority has issued comprehensive guidelines to the various State Electricity Boards for making certain improvements in their functioning, in their management, in their various day-to-day affairs and also for carrying out energy orders, installation of capacitors and various other modernisation methods. Now, Sir, what is the state of affairs of the Electricity Boards? In fact, Coal India Limited itself is dependent on these State Electricity Boards who have not paid them more than Rs. 1,000 crores cumulative overpayments which they should be getting. How can they expect Coal India to function properly? I would not like to go into the details. The hon. Minister has got all the figures. But the cumulative outstandings of the State Electricity Boards to Coal India itself is a phenomenal astronomical figure. Same is the question with Railways, same is the question with BACL, same is the question with NTPC. Therefore, until and unless the State Electricity Boards improve their performance and their financial performance, just giving simple guidelines and comprehensive guidelines by the Central Electricity Authority is not going to achieve anything.

There was a Conference last year of all

the State Electricity Boards, the NTPC, the Railways and various other organisations, which was inaugurated by no less a person than Mr. Vasant Sathe himself. This was the National Conference of Power Utility which was attended by power engineers. Even Dr. Tata Rao, who is a very well-known figure in the field of power was also present. They came to some very specific suggestions and a consensus was arrived at whereby the State Electricity Boards will improve their performance. One was the debt equity ratio which was 19:1. So, how can we expect any Board to function with 19:1 debt equity ratio, in which case the Electricity Board have hardly six per cent to plough back for additional generation or for additional capacity installation?

Same is the question with power tariff to agriculture. Agriculture takes about eighty per cent of the power. But the outstandings are of an astronomical figure. Then comes the question of the capital structure of the entire State Electricity Boards. This financial loss is not only on the Electricity Boards or on the power sector but it has the cumulative effect on the entire economy as such because it affects various other sectors of the economy. Then comes the depreciation rates, return on capitalisation of interest on work during construction, the electricity duty, the need for central subsidy, need for State subsidy, the restructuring of power utilities and then we come to the Rural Electrification Corporation which is charged with the responsibility of providing electricity even to the remote areas, to the tribal and Scheduled Caste areas and it is where the transmission and distribution loss takes the heaviest toll. Therefore, the other suggestion I would like make is the decentralisation of the energy system. Sir, our Prime Minister has been emphasising decentralisation of administration, decentralisation of democracy, so that power can go back to the people and today NTPC and other organisations have become very unwieldy. They have a gamut of activities. So, it is time for us to think whether we should not decentralise and have a holding company with regional bodies so that there may be better competition,

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better performance, better accountability and better financial viability. Sir, my next point would be that a lot of useful work has been done by the Ministry of Energy. But the question of making the people aware, the information system, the communication system is something which we are lacking.

Sir, in this connection, I would like to quote an extract of a study made by the Federation of Commerce and Industry on energy and energy efficiency. I quote:

"Energy cannot be destroyed, but can be easily wasted and once wasted, the loss is permanent. energy efficiency ensures more production at lesser costs and enables the economy to achieve high growth without additional investment. It provides an ideal way out of persistent energy shortages.

Industry as a major consumer of energy awake to the immense opportunities and potential for energy saving. A 10% saving in the electricity consumed in the industrial sector will alone result in a saving in power costs to the tune of Rs. 400 crores and eliminate the need for energy Rs. 1900 crores of investment in the power sector. There will also be corresponding reduction in the coal consumption in the power sector by around 4.2 million tonnes valued over Rs. 88 crores. Export of manufactured products may go up by about Rs. 700 crores. Imports can be reduced for an approximately equal amount."

Sir, my last point is about the Talcher coal field. My previous Speaker, Shri Panigrahi, was saying about the Talcher Coal-field. In the Talcher area, there is the entire coal belt from Talcher in Rairakhol which is known as Rampur. This passes through 142 kilometres of my constituency. Now, since you are increasing your coal production, the entire area of Augul Sub-division, Athmallik and Rairakhol sub-divisions is lying in coal-field area. Once you start exploiting them,

you will have to uproot the population because most of it is open cast. You will have to think in futuristic ways as to how you are going to resettle about more than two lakh people if you are going to exploit the coal-field there. an integrated rehabilitation system along with training of people who will be uprooted will have to be taken into consideration because we had faced the music when the NALCO was set up there. We know the law and order situation, the social upheaval which is taking place, the discontentment which has come there. So, Talcher was once under N.C.D.C., then it went to CCL and now it is under SECL from Calcutta to Ranchi and from Ranchi to Bilsapur. I hope Mr. Jaffar Sharief, the hon. Minister in the Department of coal in the Ministry of Energy, will bring it into one integrated area Orissa coal-field including Ib-Valley and Talcher.

[Translation]

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy. I rise to support these Demands. In the present age energy is an essential of life and it has assumed a special importance. There cannot be two opinions about it that our Government has done well in improving the power position in the country. But a lot remains to be done to meet the demands likely to be increased day by day with the rising trend in the population. The Central Government has undertaken many important power projects and so are the Governments of the States which, at the behest of the Centre, are also doing a lot of important works in the energy sector. A number of projects have been taken up, but a lot remains to be done at various levels.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that in terms of population, Uttar Pradesh is the largest State in the country. In view of its geographical situation and its growing demand of energy, a lot is yet to be done, a lot needs to be done in Uttar Pradesh in the energy sector. Each and every village needs power today and we have to fulfil their needs.

But we cannot fulfil those demands until and unless various projects in this sector are commissioned. Work on the projects which have since been cleared is not running at the desired speed. A large number of projects are yet to be cleared. A number of projects submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh are pending clearance of the Central Government. First of all, I would like to request the hon. Minister to get the long pending projects examined and accord clearance to them so that work could be started on them right now.

Sir, at the end of December, 1988, the all India average of plant load factor was 57.7 per cent. As on 31st January 1989, the State Government set up a new record by generating maximum thermal power of 55.655 million units in the Thermal Power Station. In spite of that a lot remains to be done. As I said earlier work on the approved thermal power projects at Ankara and Obra is not running at the desired speed. I would like to cite an example in this regard. Work on the Thermal Power Project at Hon. Tanda which is located in my constituency was started in 1979. The original estimated cost of this project was Rs. 159 crores. Ten years have elapsed since the project was started, but the work has not so far been completed. The Government has already spent Rs. 350 crores and its second unit with a capacity of 110 MW has reached the point of generation. Work on the remaining two units is yet to be completed. It seems that an additional Rs. 100 crores will be spent on this project. I raise this point here and urge the Government that once a project is cleared, it should be ensured that the work on the project is completed within a definite time frame so that we are not required to incur additional amounts on it. The original estimate of the project was Rs. 159 crores and it was to be commissioned within a period of 4 to 5 years. Its first unit was to start generation in 1982. But after much difficulty we could be able to start its first unit as late as in 1988. There was the proposal to start the second unit in 1989, but sir, what I see that if the present state of affair continues I doubt if the remaining two units of this project could be commissioned

by 1990 even. Though it is being said that work on the project will be completed ahead of schedule, it does not seem possible in view of the pace at which the work is being carried out. I, therefore, tell you that once a project is taken up, it should be completed within a definite time frame.

Sir, so far as the question of the target fixed for electrification of villages, I would like to submit that the Government of India had made an announcement. Last year that the houses of people living below the poverty line which include among others the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes also, would be lighted with electricity. A scheme called 'the Kuteer Jyoti' was started for this purpose. A year has elapsed since the above announcement was made and orders were passed that free light connections will be given to as many as 1,08,000 Scheduled Castes families in Uttar Pradesh. But so far I know progress in this regard is very negligible. I feel that the Government of India should issue necessary instructions to fulfil the above commitment.

The Government has sanctioned 2.16 lakh connections for the year 1989-90. Last financial year has since come to an end and we could be able to provide connections to 1,08,000 families only, what will be the position in next financial year? The Government's intention to provide light to poor families will not be materialised this way if present pace of work continues. Hence it should be ensured that the State Governments implement the guidelines issued by the Central Government, expedite the projects and complete them as per the wishes of the Government and the Prime Minister. When we go from village to village and visit our constituencies, we find that tall claims are made about electrification of huts belonging to Harijan and Adivasi, but on enquiry it can be seen that 80 per cents of the claims are bogus. In the name of providing lights to the huts of poors, colonies belonging to rich people are being electrified. The poor are being neglected. I, therefore, demand that electricity to Harijan and Adi-

[Sh. R.P. Suman]

vasi colonies may please be supplied electricity on priority basis.

The position of State Electricity Boards is very ridiculous. People term the State Electricity Boards as "White Elephants." there is rampant corruption there. Though the State Governments are trying to be vigilant on this count, a lot still remains to be done. There is a need to check this corruption. Maximum corruption is committed in the matter of reservation of posts. The objectives of the Central Governments are not being fulfilled and various orders and instructions issued by the Centre are not being implemented. The percentage of reservation in a number of positions in the Electricity Boards is still far below. I would like to urge the Government to expedite the filling up of the reserved vacancies on priority basis.

I would definitely like to say that demands forwarded by the State Governments should be fulfilled and projects submitted by them should be cleared on priority basis. Efforts should be made to tone up the Department of Power and electricity should be supplied to places where it is needed. Generally, power is supplied for 2 to 4 hours only in rural areas. the hon. Minister is sitting here. He is very vigilant. He is also visiting the States. He visited my district and took stock of the situation. I would like to request him to expedite the work of electrification in the villages so that electricity could reach there and the people could avail of its benefits. I have to say this much only.

[English]

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA (Patiala): Mr. Chairman, we are discussing the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy. The importance of energy has been emphasised by almost all my hon. colleagues. I should say that energy has become indispensable and it is the backbone of our economy and life-line of our society. But

the Energy Ministry is not taking so much pains. (*Interruptions*)

No doubt our Minister of State for Energy, Mr. Kalpanath Rai who is sitting here, is very energetic and dynamic also and it seems, he takes keen interest in giving impetus to him Ministry. But one man cannot do anything. I hope the Government of India and the Ministry of energy will rise to the occasion.

My friends from the Treasury Benches in their speeches have made complaints and expressed grievances and in the end they have said that they support the Demands of the Ministry of Energy. Listening to them, it seems that the aspirations and demands of the various States and regions have not been kept in view by the Government.

I am happy that in the tight conditions and disturbing circumstances, the employees and workers of the State of Punjab in the Electricity Board have worked hard with efficiency and, as a result of that they have produced enough and the balance of demand and supply is satisfactory. Punjab has exhausted almost all hydel resources and it is very far from the coal fields and, therefore, it consumes a big chunk of amount earmarked for energy. Therefore, the third stage of Bhatinda Thermal Power Plant and of Ropar Power Plant which are pending with the Government of India in the Ministry of Energy or with the Planning Commission should be cleared so that the expected shortage of energy in the coming years and in the next Plan would be averted.

The Thein Dam Project should also be completed. A big amount has been spent on it and many years have passed. I would request the Energy Minister to pay special attention to the Demands of Punjab. Keeping the performance and production of Punjab in view, they should not be complacent. There is a general feeling in Punjab that it is given a step-motherly treatment and it is discriminated against. The impression and feeling in the minds of the people of Punjab should be removed.

I hope, the Energy Minister will rise to the occasion and clear the third stage of both the Projects Bhatinda, Thermal Power Project and the Ropar Thermal Power Project.

As I have said, hydel has been exhausted in Punjab and thermal is very costly. A proposal for a gas-based thermal plant in Ludhiana district of Punjab is lying with the Central Government and this should also be cleared.

As everybody has rightly stressed, the non-conventional sources of energy should be tapped keeping in view that a very meagre amount has been earmarked for this purpose.

I would request the Government and the Ministry of energy to enhance the Budget for tapping the non-conventional sources of energy.

19.00 hrs.

Lastly, I would like to mention one thing. I have raised this point so many times in this House. It is concerning the location of an atomic power plant. Regarding the atomic energy plant, a team has already visited Punjab and they have seen and examined so many places for the location of an atomic power plant in Punjab. Places and sites have been recommended. 10-15 years have passed. But no decision has been taken so far about the location of an atomic power plant. I would request that as per the recommendations of the Site Selection Committee, it should be located. The Committee has recommended Patra in Patiala district for the location of an atomic power plant. I would, therefore, request that an atomic power plant should be sanctioned and located in Punjab so that the energy needs of the State of Punjab would be met.

With these words, I conclude. I am thankful to you for having given me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy.

Power is available in Delhi in abundance. We are aware that more our population increases and more we make progress, more will be the requirement of power for us. Earlier there used to be very less generation of power, but now power has been supplied to village even. Earlier people took power connections for lighting the bulbs and tube lights and playing radios. But now television are also there. Today apart from television, people operate threshers and need all kinds of comforts through powers. A lot work has been undertaken in Delhi and it is very essential to provide transformers for the smooth supply of power. There is only one transmitter or Najafgarh, Narela, Mehrauli, Badarpur, Lawrence Road and Nangloi Districts. When power breaks down in these localities, transformers have to be carried from a distance of 12 to 20 Kilometres and it takes time to repair them. I want that one transformer should be made available in each district. It will be better if two transformers are installed in each district so that small villages could be relieved of the power problems. Earlier the number of connections against each transformer was very small, but now the number of connections has increased manifold. Small transformers go out of order and get burnt. I want that big transformers should be installed in each district so that power supply could be restored within shortest time with the help of these big transformers.

Secondly, I would like to submit that DESU was very helpful to the people of Delhi when the Union Territory suffered drought last year. The Ministry of Energy made vigorous efforts and supplied water to drought affected areas. When water was chanelised from Najafgarh drain to Munak drain, the water level of the wells of the area camp up and they were in a position to irrigate their fields. this helped in increasing the produc-

[Sh. Bharat Singh]

tion of foodgrains and meeting the drought situation. But the electricity bills of the power consumed by farmers were sent at commercial rates. The farmers were not able to make payment of the bills at commercial rates. That is why the Delhi Administration did not supply water this year. This water was meant for agriculture and tube wells purposes. The farmers have not so far been able to pay the commercial bills. That is why I want that instead of charging at commercial rates, charges may be preferred at agriculture and tube well rates so that farmers could get water supply as usual.

The population of Delhi has increased manifold. The Ministry of Energy has issued instructions to supply power to those houses which were constructed by 1981. I want that early steps may please be taken to give connections to these houses so that the problem of power could be solved. You might have seen that there is a shortage of Electricity Technicians in Delhi, because the connections have increased manifold and there is a ban on their recruitments. I would like to request you to lift this ban so that adequate number of technician could be made available to attend the complaints in time.

There are very few complaint offices and they are unable to deal with all the complaints. The number of Complaint Offices should be increased so that problems of farmers such as those relating to tubewells etc. are solved at the earliest. It is important to note that in the resettlement colonies set up by Shrimati Indira Gandhi, there is a frequent breakdown in power supply. It has been told that the transformer in the area is of small capacity and has burnt out. We will get power supply openly when the transformer of a larger capacity is installed there. I request that the transformer of larger capacity should be installed in those colonies to solve our problem.

Power is generated in Delhi. Badarpur

Plant produces 500 Megawatt of power and the I.I.T. produces 150 Megawatt. An additional 350 Megawatt is drawn from Bhakra. A Thermal Power Plant should be set up in my constituency to fulfill power requirements of the area. Such a Plant is all the more important considering the increases in number of light connections with the increasing population. Smoke emanating from the Badarpur plant during the power generation process mixes with cattle fodder and the food stuffs to be consumed by human beings in the form of ash. Steps should be taken to prevent spreading of ash through the atmosphere.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I also thank the hon. Minister for making consistent enquiries regarding problems being faced by us.

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for allowing a woman to express her views. I have risen to support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Energy.

The power problem in the country is deteriorating day by day. the hon. Minister of energy Shri Kalpnath Rai had written letter to all hon. Members seeking their valuable suggestions. I had suggested that we should find solutions to the country's energy problem if we want to see the India of our dreams taking shape. This should be given serious thought. Demand for energy is increasing in India. At some places there is wasteful consumption of energy. Efforts should be made to conserve such energy. Long-term planning is needed to identify various sources of energy and its subsequent distribution to States where there is a shortage. Several countries have made rapid progress by the utilisation of their energy resources. We are moving into the 21st Century. Energy is a necessary tool for women working in the kitchen. Maximum benefits should derive from various sources of energy like petrol, natural gas, coal, wind-mill and the sun. Electricity can be generated from water, wind-mills and the sun. The Centre should look at the example set by Gujarat where

solar energy and wind-mills are being used on river-banks to produce electricity.

My constituency of Rajkot experiences drought every second year. Lack of electricity affects irrigation work. Demands of farmers for provision of electricity connections are not fulfilled. The Centre should see what it can do to provide relief to the drought-stricken areas. Projects should be started in the area on a priority basis so that electricity is available during drought. On my extensive tours of these areas I have found that most of the demands relate to electricity. And demand for electricity is not confined to agriculture and irrigation alone but to industry as well. Drought has spread panic among local people because supply of water for irrigation is uncertain. Lack of water supply also acts as a deterrent to prospective entrepreneurs. Only industries in which consumption of water is minimal can be set up, provided the power supply is sufficient. Many people in my constituency are engaged in the diamond industry. People have to use generators to avoid delays caused by the erratic power supply. This increases the burden of expenditure on the craftsmen. I thank the hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for introducing the 'Kutir Udyog' scheme. This scheme is being fully implemented in my constituency and its benefits are being enjoyed by Adivasis and Harijans.

There should be decentralisation of Electricity Boards. There are many shortcomings in the functioning of these Boards. One of the main problems, as some of my hon. colleagues pointed out, is that of unionism. This and other problems are an impediment in the supply of power to the States. The Centre should look into this and issue a warning to each Electricity Board. If we are to take the country into the 21st Century we should find an early solution to the power crisis and for this we need Centre's co-operation in a big way.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy.

[English]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Chairman Sir, I raise to support the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Energy. I also thank and congratulate the Ministries along with the officials of the Department for working in a dedicated and disciplined way.

Words come out of intellect, but works come out of spirit. They are men of dedication and discipline and therefore they have brought about a growth in power generation, development and discovery of non-conventional energy. In one word, they have acted with vigour and vitality. For that I thank them.

Sir, I will take up one project. It is a very important project for Bihar. Therefore, I will quote one sentence of that philosopher Pascal:

"Power and justice must be brought together so that whatever is powerful must be just and whatever is just must be powerful."

The main object of the government is to ensure adequate energy supply at minimal cost, achieve self-sufficiency in energy supply and protect the environment from the adverse impact of injudicious utilisation of energy resources. That is the aim of the Government but what is the fate of Koel-Karo project in Bihar? I have nothing to say except read from the pages of the performance budget of the government. It is page 12. The Central Government has taken up execution of a number of thermal and hydro-electric projects and the last comes Koel-Karo project in Bihar. Again on page 24 it is said that the Corporation is presently engaged in the construction of four projects, namely, Dulhasti (J&K); Chamara (HP), Koel-Karo (Bihar) and Tanakpur (UP). Now you see at page 12 it is written the Central Government has taken up the executive of a number of thermal and hydro-electric projects and at the last comes Koel-Karo project in Bihar but at page 24 the projects and programmes thus covered in detail are Salal

[Sh. Mahabir Prasad Yadav]

hydro-electric project; Dulhasti hydro-electric project, Chamera hydro-electric project, Tanakpur hydro-electric project, Chamera transmission system, Dulhasti transmission system, Chukha transmission system and new schemes. There is no name of Koel-Kaaro project. What is to be done now? I have read from the performance budget of the government. Everything is there that execution is going on, construction is going on but at page 24 there is no mention of Koel-Karo project.

In the Consultative Committee of the Energy Department the whole body of Bihar MPs except myself staged a walk-out on account of the non-execution of Koel-Karo project. Mr. Kalpnath Rai was not the State Minister then. Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi was the Minister at that time. the whole body of Bihar MPs staged a walk-out on this project.

Mr. Sathe told us that above Rs. 50,000 crores is required for the project for which the Government is not ready. At the same time he told this also that the State Government is not in a position to make the land available for the project. Now, you come to a conclusion. I am leaving the matter to the discretion of the Minister. The Minister told that the execution is going on and at the other end, he says that Rs. 50,000 crores will be required.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: It is Rs. 1100 crores. Your figure is wrong.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV: I may be wrong in the figure. You gave us the report that the work is going on but work has not yet started.

There is one Kataiya hydel power project in the district of Saharsa of Bihar on the river Kosi. There is problem of siltation as a result of which this power project becomes sick and we are suffering on that account.

What about the Head Office of Damodar Valley Corporation? In 1954, it was

decided that the Head Office of Damodar Valley Corporation shall be at Maithon but on account of connivance of certain interested persons, the Head Office is working at Calcutta. For no fault of its own, the State of Bihar is suffering. So, I appeal to the Minister to see that the Corporation gets its Head Office at Maithon. I expect justice will be given to Bihar in these matters by the Government and to meet the ends of justice, Koel Karu Project must be taken up as early as possible. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you and I congratulate the hon. Minister and the hon. Minister of State for giving a new direction to this Ministry. I would like to speak about my constituency, Satna only. The Ban Sagar dam is under construction over there. Construction work has been going on for the last several years and crores of rupees have already been spent on it. The 'Tamas' barrage has been built on the Ban Sagar dam for the purpose of a power station in Birsingpur. But the Central Government has not given clearance in view of the forest and environment. Farmers in the area have been unable to get a one-point connection. There are no street-lights over there. The hon. Minister is requested to look into this. The local population should be given the right to live even if the dam's completion takes 10, 20, 50 years. It was mentioned that the Ministry has done good work in the field of non-conventional energy. I am not aware as what is being done regarding generation of Energy by the wind system. When solar and other sources of energy, are being encouraged, the wind system should also be given due attention. A number of things were said about Electricity Boards. I have had the good fortune to serve as Irrigation Minister in Madhya Pradesh from 1972 to 1977. I would suggest the formation of an Indian Power Service on the lines of the Indian Forest Service. The Ministry under the Central Government should have overall control over inter-state power houses and super power houses. Similarly a national grid should be made for the storage

of energy for subsequent distribution on demand. Thus needy States like Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and U.P. can avail of electricity. Power should be supplied on the basis of quota system. To those who approve the location and sanction of power houses I would request that no State be given out-of-turn priority. The principle for location of power houses the world over is same—that they be located on the pit head's of coal mines. Nature provided us with a coal mine at Singrauli. But we have been subjected to injustice in this regard. The Government should pay attention to the one-point connection scheme. Information should be sought about the R.E.C. schemes as to the year in which they were approved and the progress made by each. I am saying this because the villages approved by me in the R.E.C. schemes in 1974, when I was a Minister, have not been included in the list finalised for rural electrification. I had sent proposals for electricity connections in Adivasi, Harijan and backward areas but electricity has been provided in other areas and not in these areas. Why have the schemes approved in 1974 not been completed till now? Responsibility should be fixed for this sort of a mis-management and action should be against the guilty. With these words I express my gratitude and also express my support for the Demands for Grants of this Ministry.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Energy for sanctioning the amount of Rs. 20 lakh for non-conventional energy based gohar gas scheme for community T.V. and radio in my area. I feel the need for amending the Electricity Act. Large amount of money is charged from the people as service charges in Andhra Pradesh. The person desirous of having an electric connection in his house in a village has to bear the entire expenses on poles and wire from the existing point of power supply upto his house. If there is only electric pole in between and five poles are needed, the consumer will have to pay for the four poles. The authorities of the depart-

ment of electricity do not give connection unless the expenditure to be incurred on poles and cables is deposited in advance by the prospective consumer. Earlier the Electricity Board was responsible to bear the cost of providing a new supply point from the existing public supply point and the service charges to be recovered from the consumer from that point to his house were not to exceed the charges for 200 feet. So I seek an amendment to the Electricity Act.

Andhra Pradesh accounts for 14 per cent of the total coal production while the remaining 86 per cent is extracted in the various other parts of the country barring states like Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu where no coal is produced. The coal is distributed to various parts of the country resulting in inadequate supply of coal to the Thermal Power Stations in Andhra Pradesh, who are thus unable to generate enough power to meet their requirement. I would like the Government to modify the schemes in respect of coal in such a way that they stand the test of time. Andhra Pradesh is facing such a serious power crisis that power shedding is resorted to quite early from the month of November while in other parts of the country it is started in January or March. Due to the power crisis the rates of steel and cement have doubled. Power is not generated even when there is plenty of surface water. As a result farmer is greatly handicapped in carrying on his agricultural operations. What are the causes responsible for this malady? I would like to emphasise the need for optimising the availability of coal. As one of the hon. Members pointed out, thermal power stations should be set up near the coal heads. Coal deposits have been found in my village Vupalpalli, Warangal district and pits have been dug and rich yield is expected. I would like the Government to set up at the earliest a thermal power station there under the NTPC so that the coal available there is utilized and the power shortage is overcome. Andhra Pradesh is facing serious power crisis these days. Power generation during last five years has been constantly going down in turn affecting the production of other commodities also.

[Sh. C. Janga Reddy]

Therefore, the Central Government should augment the supply of coal to Andhra Pradesh.

A programme known as 'Kutir Jyoti' is being implemented in our state and the local MLA or the collector has been vested with the discretion of identifying the villages to be covered under the programme. I want to submit that similar powers should be given to the MPs to select one or two villages like the MLAs. The Central Government should issue orders to this effect. The Central Government advances to the State Governments hundred percent cost of the works under the rural electrification scheme but powers are vested in M.L.A.s to select a village for electrification whereas MPs have no such power although the Rural Electrification Scheme is fully funded by the Central Government. I would like to request the Government to grant discretionary powers to the M.Ps. also to select two or three villages for electrification. Natural Gas is available in abundance in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, maximum possible number of gas based power plants should be set up there. I would like to urge upon the Government that whenever land of a farmer or any other person is acquired by the N.T.P.C. at least one member of such a family should be provided employment so that the affected persons are compensated to some extent. I have already written a letter to you in this regard. I congratulate you for the progress made at Ramagundam. About 500 Megawatt electricity is being produced there. Whole of this power should be supplied to Andhra Pradesh to enable to tide over the power crisis in the state. With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, sir, I rise to express my views on the demands for grants of the Ministry of energy. This department has an important role to play in the progress of the country. Our country can prosper rapidly if we succeed in mobilising energy resources. But at present there is acute

shortage of energy in our country and per capita average consumption is 200 units. Besides, 21.5 per cent of it is lost during transmission and distribution. I would like the Government to take measures to reduce this loss.

There are rich coal deposits in Bihar. But this State is perpetually backward and is failing further behind each day. The main factor responsible for it is power shortage although it has abundant coal deposits. I would like to cite an example. The Government of Bihar had invited big companies to set up industries in Bihar but they declined the offer due to power shortage. This in itself is a pointer to the conditions prevailing in Bihar. The present incumbent of the office of chairman, Bihar Electricity Board has an unparallel record as compared to his predecessors but due to paucity of funds and non-availability of its due share in grants or loans from the Central Government to the State Government, the work of Bihar State Electricity Board is going to come to a grinding halt. I would appeal to the Central Government and the hon. Minister in particular that when this extreme degree of backwardness of Bihar is going to open flood gates for Punjab type of extremist movement, they should open their eyes and take stock of the situation and see that the work of Bihar Electricity Board does not come to a stand still and it gets sufficient funds. At the same time farmers may get power, industries may be started and backwardness of Bihar may be reduced. The Central Government is responsible for the increase in backwardness of Bihar. Neither it has given the due share to Bihar nor the leaders of Bihar have ever launched a crusade against the Centre for their due share. They have simply towed the line of their bosses at the Centre. So I would urge upon the Government to grant adequate amount as loans and grants to Bihar Electricity Board in order to enable it to overcome the backwardness of the State.

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar): In Quran it is written like this:

"Noornass Samavate Val Ard"

It means that light of God is light of universe and earth. Again, at one place, it is written like this:

Mim Jjulmat Val Ard"

It means that God leads us from darkness into light. Light is very important; light is life; without light, we cannot progress, we cannot develop in any field. This is unfortunate that Kashmir Valley, which can produce 10,000 MW of electricity—this has been proved by a survey, by a study—has been suffering from electricity during winter. Out of seven days, for five to six days, we suffer from cuts in electricity supply; rest of the days, for one or two days, we have got five-six hours electricity supply. This had hard hit the public there, the industry there. The entire life has been badly affected; small scale industry has been affected; medium scale industry has been affected; handicraft has been affected. It has resulted in the lowest production in any field during winter; there are also no employment opportunities. Now, you can understand our difficulty. This is most tragic. I request Mr. Kalpnath Rai, who is very progressive man, a forthright person, to try to understand our difficulty and enquire when Salal Project was instituted. It took more than 16 years. It would have been very easier for the planners to connect with the high tension lines, that Salal Project with the Kashmir Valley. In the last 4-5 years, of our Government had been honest, had been dedicated, had been realistic to the problem, then it would have been easier for them to construct that Project. Only by spending Rs. 2-3 crores, these hydro electric lines, this high tension line could have been constructed and the Kashmir Valley would have been saved from suffering further. The people of the Valley are feeling regional discrimination.

When Jammu was getting enough power, when other parts were getting enough power for industry, for the consumption of the people, why should the people of the Valley suffer? As a result, this has cre-

ated a law and order problem. Hundreds and thousands of young men came out in the streets; innocent people were massacred, killed with bullets. This is our problem. You try to understand this and solve this issue.

In this regard, again I would say that Kashmir is full of resources. Everybody knows about them. We have rivers; we have rivulots; we have streams. We can produce enough of electricity; not only that we will be compensated but we can supply it to other States also in the country. Why are we being discriminated?

There was a Commission under the auspices of Liat Ali Khan and Pandit Nehru. Three rivers were given to India; three rivers were given to Pakistan, but at our cost. Now a Wular Barrage is being constructed. There are allegations from the other side. they do not like that the Wular Barrage should constructed. It would generate electricity, it would give us more potential to supply electricity to the State. But there are problems. In this matter, I do not want to go into the details because there is an international treaty and I cannot say anything against the treaty. But, with your permission, Sir, I would say that the government of India has to compensate the Jammu and Kashmir State. You have to compensate us, because we have our own problems. We need more and more electricity and we need water for our irrigation. We have many other problems. Because, Mr. Kalpnath Rai, if you really want to help Kashmir, the backward pockets of Kashmir should be looked after. These areas have been suffering political tensions. there are many factors responsible for these tensions and this one of the reasons and these tensions must be resolved and they must be removed.

There are some projects still pending like the Uri, Satana and there is the Dolhasti. There are also other projects. Nothing practically is being done and nothing is achieved. during winter we have problems because of lesser water in the rivers and it creates deficiency in the production of electricity. Why do you not compensate us by giving

[Sh. Abdul Rashid Kabuli]

some thermal project or some gas turbines which is our need? If this is done, tourism will prosper, employment opportunities will increase number of times than what we have today, and many many other sectors will also be helped. therefore, this my earnest request I am not going to prolong my speech. The time is very limited. With the permission of the hon. Chairman, I request the progressive, the dynamic Minister, Mr. Kalpnath Rai that he should personally see to it that these problems are resolved which are connected with the socio-economic tensions of Kashmir which we are facing today. Therefore,

this is my request that some special consideration should be shown in this regard that our problems should be solved, and we should be compensated. whatever discrimination is being meted out to Kashmir it should be removed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister will reply tomorrow.

19.43 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, April 7, 1989/
Chaitra 17, 1911 (Saka)*