

of loans to repatriates only by one loan assistance. It is necessary to relax the rules and to allow the Bank to assist continuously the repatriates as and when needed.

To diversify its activities, the Bank should start undertaking banking activities like introduction of Savings Bank Account, Current Account, Term Deposit Account and issue of various kinds of advances like Jewel Loans, Vehicle Loans, Consumer Loans etc.

The Bank should undertake more innovative schemes to serve the cause of the repatriates and the public.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to improve Telecommunication Services particularly in Kairana Region of Muzaffarnagar District in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of Government towards the Telecommunication Services of our country. No doubt, we feel happy that we can contact people on telephone anywhere in our country as well as foreign countries while sitting at home. The Department of Telecommunications is doing its best to provide maximum facilities to the people but I would also like to say that there are many such districts and cities in Uttar Pradesh where Direct Dial Service has not been made available so far and where Telephone Exchange is in existence we do not get telephone line either due to some technical defect or owing to the absence of telephone operators.

There are many such small exchanges in Uttar Pradesh where only one or two operators work. Among them one is lineman and the other attends to calls and they work there only from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. The telephone service comes to standstill completely after 4 P.M. at such places.

All these problems exist in Kairana region of district Muzaffar Nagar also where Telephone Service practically comes to standstill after 4 P.M. in all Blocks.

The Government appoints not more than two operators at places where number of telephones is below hundred. I feel that these are the reasons for not increasing the number of telephone connections in such cities. The people thinks that the telephones services are available only from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. and after that there is no telephone services.

I, therefore, request the Government to appoint atleast. Three operators for all small exchanges or the timing of the existing operators should be arranged in such a way that telephone is available all the 24 hours. With this facility, number of telephone connections would increase and it will not only benefit the Government but also provide relief to the people.

(viii) Need to simplify procedure for procuring duplicate National Savings Certificates.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, despite innumerable incentives offered by the Government to attract money towards small savings, the people are not inclined to deposit their money in Fixed Deposit schemes particularly, in National Savings Certificate because the procedure for procuring duplicate National Savings Certificate is very cumbersome and expensive if the certificate is lost or destroyed. In order to get a duplicate National Savings Certificate one is required to make a request on stamped paper worth Rs. 48.50 per thousands duly supported by an affidavit and two witnesses. This lengthy and complicated procedure is posing great hurdle in the sale of National Saving Certificates.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to scrap the condition of stamped paper worth Rs. 48.50 per thousand so that people could invest their maximum money in National Savings Certificate without any hesitation.

12.19 hrs.
[English]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1988-89—Contd.

Ministry of Energy—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up further discussion and

voting on the demands for Grants under the control of Ministry of Energy. Shri K.D. Sultanpuri...not present. Shri Basudeb Acharya...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir power is an important infra-structure and this important infrastructure is being neglected by the Government. The development of the nation depends on this sector. The percentage of allocation for this sector has not increased since First Five Years Plan. In the First Five Year Plan, the allocation for power sector was 19 per cent. In the Seventh Five Year Plan also, the same percentage in there for that sector.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY : (SRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : What about the amount ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : About the amount, the value of the rupee should also be taken into consideration. What I mean to say is that the percentage since the First Five Year Plan has not been increased. There was a slight increase in the Sixth Five Year Plan, it was 19.8 per cent. But in the Seventh Five Year Plan, the total percentage of allocation for the power sector is only 19 per cent.

Today, Mr. Vasant Sathe is not present in the House. He always used to compare our position with Socialist countries. He always tries to compare with China and Soviet Union. In 1949, the per capita availability and also consumption of power in China was almost the same as it was in India. But today, after 38 years, China has increased the production of coal even more than 900 million tonnes. Last year, our production was 175 million tonnes after 40 years of Independence. They are now exporting coal whereas we are importing coal. Though we have enough coal reserves, we are not exploiting those reserves. We are now importing coal by spending a huge amount of scarce foreign exchange.

Sir, generation of power depends on two factors. The first is the plant load factor. There is very little improvement in

plant load factor. Last year, it was 53 per cent.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : What is this year ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I don't know for this year. I have the figure for the last year. This year, it may be 56 per cent.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Highest ever in the history. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The losses due to transmission and distribution are 22 per cent. If these losses are reduced to the extent of one per cent, we can save 350 MW of power and also Rs. 90 crores if we calculate at the rate of 50 paise per unit. How can we reduce the distribution and transmission losses ? How can the management of State Electricity Boards be improved ? How can the pilferages be reduced and how these losses can be reduced ? These aspects should be seriously looked into. During the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan, there is a slight improvement of one per cent from average increase during the Sixth Five Year Plan. That is 9.3 per cent which was 8.3 per cent during the Sixth Five Year Plan. But what is the target, the average percentage of increase of Seventh Five Year Plan ? What has been envisaged ? It is 12.1 per cent. This 9.1 per cent is much lower than what has been envisaged during this Seventh Five Year Plan. As a result of this, by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, there will be a gap between demand and supply and that gap will be widened and it will be about 10 per cent. The shortage will be 10 per cent by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. A long term plan has been prepared by the Central Electricity Authority for a decade from 1990-2000 and it has been envisaged that 1,10,000 MW capacity, 35,300 MW is for hydel, 70,500 MW for thermal and 4,300 MW for nuclear power and additional capacity. For this additional capacity, it is 1,10,000 MW. The fund which will be required for the production of this additional capacity has been estimated as Rs. 200,000 crores. I do not know from where from this money will come to have a production of additional capacity during the next decade from 1990-2000 AD.

Another important factor is renovation and replacement, i.e., renovation of thermal power stations and the replacement of the old machinery which are still used in the thermal power stations. The progress of renovation of thermal power station is very slow. Though 500 crores was sanctioned for five years, only 140 crores has been spent so far in three years and in the midterm appraisal of the Seventh Five Year Plan also it has been criticised. Though money is available, it is not being utilised for the modernisation of thermal power stations to increase their production and increase the generation of those thermal power plants. There will be a gap between the demand and supply of power by the end of the 7th Plan as also by the end of the 8th Plan. There are several projects of West Bengal pending clearance with Central Government. Yesterday, in reply to a supplementary by Comrade Chowdhury, the Minister stated that the implementation is with the State Government. The proposal of the West Bengal Government for Bakreshwar power plant has been pending with Central Government for the last three-four years. Soviet Union has come forward with financial assistance. Previously there was an agreement...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now. We have to stick to the time schedule fixed by the Business Advisory Committee, otherwise we would not be able to discuss many other Ministries.

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA : Please give me some more time.

What was the proposal of the State Government of West Bengal? The West Bengal Government wanted to execute this project. What is the difficulty? If with foreign assistance, projects can be executed in other States by the State Electricity Boards, why can't this be executed in West Bengal? The generation capacity of the Bakreshwar projects will be 800 MW. Without this and other projects, how can the gap between the demand and supply be plugged? What is the difficulty? Why do the Central Government want to execute this project through its own agency, the National Thermal Power Corporation? There are some other projects also pending

with the Central Government, the hydro-electric project at Sagar Dighi, as also in the Ayodhya hills in the district of Purnea. All these projects have been pending for several years clearance from the Central Electricity Board. These should be given clearance immediately.

Then, we are not utilising full potentiality of hydel power. There is potential of 72000 MW of hydel power, but only we are able to exploit 20 per cent of it. Same is the case with the non-conventional energy. There is a great scope for solar and tidal energy in the States of Orissa, West Bengal Tamil Nadu and other essential States of India. But we are not able to preserve the energy granted from non-conventional sources. These sources can help our villages/to become self-sufficient and in a tropical country like ours we can generate abundant solar energy in our country.

Sir, Now I will come to Coal. The Coal industry was nationalised in 1972 but since then the same method is being applied. The same unscientific mining is still continuing. I have already stated that there is enough reserves of coal in our country but we are not exploiting these reserves. Without exploiting our own reserves we are importing coal by spending huge amounts of our scarce foreign exchange. A number of projects which were sanctioned during the Sixth Five Year Plan have not yet been commissioned. It has been stated today in reply to an Unstarred Question that the projects are pending due to non-acquisition of land, Sir, previously, there was a scheme, there was an agreement also, that the land loser will get a job and will get an employment. One member from a family whose land has been acquired, will get a job. This has been dispensed with. Now, the land losers are not provided with employment. They are only being given some compensation. As the land is not being acquired for the projects which were sanctioned during the Sixth Five Year Plan, they are yet to be commissioned. Some of the projects have not yet been started.

Sir, there is a large scale mechanisation in coal mine. Now, we can review whether this large scale mechanisation has helped to increase the production or reduce the cost of production in coal mines. Sir,

particularly in CCL, Central Coal Field Limited and WCL a large number of coal mines have been mechanised but in these two subsidiaries i.e. the Western Coal Field Limited and CCL the losses are more than even the Eastern Coal Field Limited or the BCCL, Bharat Cooking Coal Limited. Here, I would like to say that most of the machines brought for the Coal mines are not properly used. I think they are not being used even for a day. Recently, I visited one coal mine of CCL, Kiddi. It is a very big mine. I saw a large number of abnormalities. They are kept idle. They are not even used for a day. These machines were imported by spending crores of rupees but they are not being properly used. So, this large scale mechanisation has rather increased the cost of production. Sir, a Committee was constituted by JBCCI. As per the Committee's report, high output manshift (OMS) does not necessarily mean cost minimisation, particularly due to the fact that beyond a certain level of mechanisation associated with increase in output manshift, the saving in the wage cost, per tonne, is not commensurate with the cost of additional investment needed to achieve such output manshift. Output per manshift does not increase even after large scale mechanisation.

Sir, Coal India is very cruel in its attitude towards women. Every year, the number of female workers is being reduced and female workers are gradually being replaced by male workers. This is really unfortunate.

There are a number of Safety Conferences and a number of recommendations with regard to safety aspect are made in these conferences. But all these safety rules are being violated by the Coal India's management. None of the recommendations made in these Safety Conferences, where trade union representatives, Coal India management, and Ministry of Energy represent, has not been implemented so far.

Sir, seven lakh coal workers had to go on strike. Rather, they were completed by the Coal India management.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : They were compelled by the politicians :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : They were compelled to go on strike by the Coal India management.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : They were rather compelled by the so called Leftist politicians.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : There was an agreement that the dependents of coal miners will get employment...

DR. G.S. (Jhanjharpur) : That agreement lapsed in 1986.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This agreement is still valid.

It is not being implemented by the so called pseudo socialist Minister, Shri Vasant Sathe.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is unconstitutional.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : When we say that the agreement is not being implemented, what is his immediate reaction? He says that it is unconstitutional. If it is unconstitutional, why did the Coal India Management agree? Why did they sign the agreement?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Under your pressure.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Under duress.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : If it is unconstitutional to give employment to the dependents on coal miners, what about the implementation of other terms of the agreement? Is pension unconstitutional too? To provide drinking water to provide quarters, to provide education, are all these things unconstitutional? One lakh quarters for the workers have to be constructed. Is providing shelter unconstitutional? And what is the condition of education there? There are 600 primary and secondary teachers in ECCL and BCCL. Before nationalisation,

they used to receive the pay scales that were equal to the pay of other workers. After nationalisation you disowned them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : What do you want ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You disowned those teachers. You are not taking the responsibility. You sanctioned Rs. 5000 per annum and something like that. There are some English medium Schools--D.A.V.--which are under anglo vedic management. You sanctioned Rs. 5,30,000 per annum for a particular school whereas there are some other Hindi or Bengali medium schools, for them you have sanctioned only Rs. 5,000. Four thousand teachers are getting only Rs. 100 or Rs. 200.

So I would like to tell you that providing education to the children of minors is not unconstitutional. Why have you not implemented the other terms of the agreement ? If that is unconstitutional, what about the NCWA-IV ? Why wage agreement has not been finalised ? Why seven lakh coal workers were forced to go on strike ? What is the difficulty in implementing the wage agreement ? You have achieved your target but you are not implementing or finalising the wage increase for the coal minors. Already many months have elapsed. I urge upon the Minister to convene a meeting of the JBCCI. The strike was very much successful. Never in the history of coal mines, there was such an historic strike in the face of so much threats by the Coal India Management and the pseudo socialist Minister Vasant Satheji. The ESMA was imposed. For a day's absence, eight days' wages were cut. It was imposed on the workers. The miners were arrested. They were harassed. Even after the strike was over, they were being arrested and suspended. So I urge upon the Minister to convene a meeting of the JBCCI to have a dialogue or discussion and arrive at a settlement and implement the wage increase agreement and other terms of the agreement which were agreed upon. Last point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, that is all. You give it in writing. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow it to go on record. You have already been given 20 minutes extra.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Let me finish. This is my last point. It is a very important point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You give it in writing to the Minister. From 12.30 P.M. onwards, I am ringing the bell. You were requesting me to give you five minutes. I have given you 20 minutes. What is this ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Let me conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already concluded. You give it in writing.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You have already wasted five minutes. I could have completed by this time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are only wasting the time. You give it in writing. I can't allow you now.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Let me thank you, Sir, at least.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, he is thanking you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I request the Minister to pay a visit to any one of the coal washeries.

SHRI AMAL DUTTA : (Diamond Harbour) With us; otherwise, he would not understand.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Let him visit, for example Giddi, Sudamdih and Ratara washeries, and see with his own eyes how crores of rupees are being wasted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is all. The point you have already mentioned.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Valuable slurry is being wasted. You please visit the places and see how these vital slurry farm workers are being treated...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No; that is all. Stop. This is too much. You will not conclude. For twenty minutes, I am telling you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I received a reply yesterday from the Minister saying that they are contract workers, and that they will not receive the NCWA-3 wage. But there is an agreement.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, if he continues. That is all. Only what Mr Janak Raj Gupta says will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the demands of Ministry of Energy (Interruptions) It is estimated that 22,245 MW more electricity will be generated and it is proposed to supply electricity to 23 lakh pumping sets. This plan is upto 1990 and I hope that our hon. Minister will surely achieve his goal keeping in view his sincerity and devotion with which he works. According to the estimate of 1987-88 there was a provision to generate a total of 205 billion units. It includes 147 billion units of thermal, 5.6 billion units of Nuclear, 56.4 billion units of hydroelectric power. I want to say only one thing that the Government should pay more attention towards Nuclear Energy and Non-conventional Energy, because coal should be preserved keeping in view its future requirement. I hope that Shri Sathé will pay his attention towards it. Whenever Shri Sathé starts a work, he makes it a point to complete the same. So I want to congratulate him. It is a matter of

great satisfaction that he will arrange to supply more electricity to nearly 2.27 lakh pumping sets in drought affected areas which was most needed in this juncture. Among 1 lakh and 10 thousand Adivasi villages the 50,593 villages have been electrified. He deserves congratulations for it and I think a prompt action will be taken by him to supply electricity to the remaining villages of Harijans and Adivasis.

Our Hon. Prime Minister had inaugurated the Salal project in Jammu and Kashmir which will generate 345 MW electricity. I want to congratulate him for this Salal Project. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi the Engineer Team and Mr. Oberai, the Chairman of N.H.P.C. and other workers took keen interest in it and complete it before time and I think that they will soon complete its second phase also. I want to say that there is a sufficient scope of generation of Hydro-electric power in Jammu and Kashmir. Some surveys were also conducted. I want to draw his attention towards the Uri-Hydro-Electric Project. Long time ago, the orders to start work were received but the work has not yet started. Similarly, there is a Dulhasti Project in Kishtwar. It is also pending since long but the work not yet started. Crores of rupees have been spent on it and we are told that an agreement was to be signed with a foreign firm. It is not known whether the same is being signed or not. This work should also be done as early as possible because crores of rupees have already been spent on it. Although the buildings and roads have been constructed and machinery has also reached there but still the work has not yet started, which is causing a big loss. Besides, there is a Sewa Hydro Electric Power project where the work has not yet started. Several other surveys have also been conducted. There is a large river in Poanch where enough electricity can be generated. The work should be started there. Survey of almost all the projects on the river Chanab have been conducted but the work has not been started so far. The work should be started at the earliest to produce maximum electricity.

I want to bring one thing more to your notice. Sufficient electricity is being generated in Jammu and Kashmir but the position

**Not recorded.

in the State is that the supply is very little. The people from all States particularly from Maharashtra, the State of Mr. Sathe and from Punjab want to up their industries in Jammu and Kashmir. I want to draw your attention towards the insufficient supply of electricity which is required for irrigation and setting up new industries. Our agriculture is suffering because of lack of electric supply. Due to the non-availability of electricity, all the tubewells get electricity for a short period and thus the farmers cannot irrigate their fields. It is our right to get electricity because I know that Jammu and Kashmir are not getting their share to be given from the Central pool. Share of Jammu and Kashmir in the Central pool comprising power houses at Badarpur, Verasul, Singrauli and other projects is not being given to it, as a result of which our industry, irrigation projects and other projects located there have been suffering, what to talk of availability of power for personal consumption.

13.00 hrs.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to release the share of our State so that we may derive benefit from it.

Apart from this, if more fund is provided for the Thein Dam Project on the river Ravi in Punjab and its construction work is expedited, then it can help a lot. This is the common project of the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi. I would, therefore, request Shri Vasant Sathe to pay his personal attention towards this project so that these States are benefited.

The Department have to bear heavy losses due to theft of power. You have given many incentives and chalked out several programmes to check this theft but all in vain. Now, there is the need to take some effective measures so that this theft could be stopped and revenue of the Department is increased.

I would like to congratulate Shri Vasant Sathe for good performance of engineers and workers of his Ministry and he himself has been taking keen interest in his work. With these words, I support the demands of this Ministry.

[English]

SHRI. K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands of this Ministry. I am happy that a very efficient and dynamic Minister is in charge of this vital Ministry. I find that the performance of this sector has improved and I congratulate the hon. Minister Shri Sathe for this. In terms of generation capacity, reduction in transmission loss etc. the improvement is very good. Therefore, this tempo has to be maintained.

The major problem being faced by the power sector is the very poor capacity utilisation. Somewhere it is 28 per cent and somewhere else it is 40 per cent. When the requirement of power increases greatly we cannot allow the power plants to remain at such a low level of capacity utilisation. But, unfortunately many of our power plants are defective and the production suffers. I am told that the power plants in Delhi develop trouble quite frequently and the power supply in the capital suffers. Therefore, while setting up power plants, the quality of the machine should get top priority. I am happy that the Minister is trying hard to improve the capacity utilisation of the power plants. Similarly, sustained efforts should be made to reduce the transmission losses. I am told that this is as high as 25 per cent in some areas. Transmission loss has to be reduced to the minimum.

The country even now depends to a large extent on hydel power. It is so because we have enough water available and then hydel power is cheaper. But this situation is not going to last long. We in Kerala are facing the consequences of depending solely on hydel power.

Until a few years back, there was no problem about water in Kerala. But with the successive failure of monsoon for the past three or four years our power generation has gone out of gear. The reservoirs do not have sufficient water and a serious power crisis is staring us in the face today. Last years, there was a very heavy power cut all over the State. The industries have suffered greatly due to this. The situation is going to be much more serious this year. You must remember that Kerala is a State

where there is cent per cent electrification of the villages. But a situation is fast approaching when there will only be electric poles and lines and lights.

The situation has come about due to the exclusive dependence on hydel power. But even then the full potential has not been used. I am thankful to the Government for sanctioning a thermal power plant in Kerala for tiding over this crisis. But according to the paper reports it will be delayed and there is no chance of its coming up even during the Eighth Plan. The State Government may have some political problem to be sorted out with regard to the location of the plant. Kayankulam and Trikkaripur are the sites mentioned in this connection. The suitability of location from political angle should not come in the way of this plant setting up. The people of Kerala are not worried about the location of the plant. They want a thermal plant and it should be set up at the earliest. In this connection, I would request the Central Government to set up one plant in the Central Sector and include it in the next year's plan so that the work could start from next year. I hope the hon. Minister will pay serious attention to it.

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

[Translation]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the demands presented by hon. Minister and I am of the opinion that these demands are practical and reasonable. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister because inspite of facing so many obstacles and difficulties the Department has made a lot of progress under his leadership.

The coal is the main raw material for power-generation and for the production of fertilizers. It cannot be denied that coal plays a vital role for the functioning of others industries also. I understand that the entire economy of our country depends on the coal energy. It is a matter of great pleasure that the production of coal has exceeded the target fixed by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission had

fixed the production target of 158 million metric tonnes whereas actual production of coal reached 159 million metric tonnes. The production of coal was 144.77 million metric tonnes in 1986-87 which increased upto 159 million metric tonnes this year. The rate of increase in production is 10 per cent which can be termed as very good. The problems being faced by the Department have been solved to a great extent and we believe that our production will increase more rapidly in the coming years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of O.M.S. production and productivity are concerned we are getting encouraging results in these fields also. As far as O.M.S. is concerned, the target for the year 1987-88 was 1.02 but now it is increased to 1.08 and the percentage of development comes to 9.1 per cent. I feel that the efficiency shown by our Ministers in the field of power generation is laudable. During the last year the Department of Energy had generated more power and had also increased the production of coal at the time of unprecedented floods. It had also maintained the tempo of supply and due to the adequate supply power generation remained smooth. Thus, the efficiency of the Department has improved.

The safety measures have also been taken care of. The safety measures taken in our coal mines are definitely better in comparison to other countries. The sence of safety among the worker is must to increase O.M.S. and productivity. It is harardous to work in the coal mines as compared to other jobs and if safety environment is created then I am sure that the O.M.S. will be good and the increase return would be more rapid. Besides this, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards a sensitive issue which is very important also. The employees working in the National Safety Mines Council under the Ministry of labour have been absorbed by the Department. But the Department has left only 60 employees who are skilled and very much experienced in security matters. Their services have been terminated and due to which they have to face many hardships. The hon. Minister should take a sympathetic view and try to help the persons concerned so that their children and other members of their families do not suffer. It

is true that you are already over burdened will 14,000 employees but if you absorb these 60 employees also, then it will be a great thing. I hope that the hon. Minister will give assurance in this regard and save them from the tragic situation. The discussion is taking place with regard to the balance amount. It has been stated in the report dated 1-3-88 of your Ministry that there is an arrear of 10 thousand crore rupees in the market. It is natural that due to this arrear the development work has been hampered. The means which should have been made available for the safety environment of coal and for the welfare of workers are not being made available. But excuse me, I have no sympathy with your Department rather I am disappointed because having such a great amount in arrear why the money recovering agencies are sitting idle. You please look into this matter carefully and try to find out its solution immediately. I would also like to tell the hon. Minister that this House has already discussed National Coal Mines Welfare Agreement and the hon. Members will raise this issue in future also. If the hon. Minister does not have any interest for the Welfare of the workers then, it would be a sorry state of affairs. The hon. Minister is the renowned leader of the country and I belong to the working class. I am not talking about the things which are on papers but I am talking about the things which I have seen with my own eyes. The Government may cut down some facilities which are to be given to the workers but there are two-three important things which require immediate attention of the Government such as hospitals. I may point out that attitude of the doctors towards patients is not helping one. They lack missionary zeal to treat the worker. They do not work with team spirit. There is shortage of medicines in hospitals which is not a good thing. The medicines should always be available in hospitals in sufficient quantity.

[English]

DR. A. KALAMIDHI (Madras Central): He cannot make a generalised statement that all the doctors are not dedicated. A few may not be dedicated.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : I could not follow what you

said. The Government have taken many steps to improve environmental conditions of the Coal mines. The trees have been planted but their number is not adequate. The environment is getting polluted rapidly. Even the water being supplied by the Government gets polluted. The Government should try to check the pollution and plant more trees.

In the end, I would like to say that our workers have proved by their behaviour during Bharat Bandh that they are second to none in this world in making sacrifices for their country. They have negated the false leadership imposed upon them. The West Bengal Government had prompted the workers to close down the Energy Centres Bengal to make the Bharat Bandh a success. But the West Bengal workers rejected it. The West Bengal Government should not encourage such anti-people activities. This is a very serious thing. A Director was going to his work but due to the threat given by their workers he had to return home. In this way the West Bengal Government itself was encouraging the Bharat Bandh. When the Government indulges in such activities then what can be expected of the public. It is just like a protector becoming destructor.

With these words, I would like to thank the hon. Deputy Speaker and would urge the hon. Minister to seriously consider the points mentioned by me.

[English]

DR. G. VIJAYA RAM ARAO (Siddipet) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for the Ministry of Energy. Every time the hon. Energy Minister says in the House that he is in a state of helplessness, that the amount of money that is being allotted every year is insufficient, and that he is not in a position to meet the needs of the Ministry. So, I feel that the Minister should come before this august House with proposals for grant of more money so that the House can approve the Grants.

Energy is the most important commodity. It has become an essential commodity in our country. Every year the demand for energy is going up and up

whereas the capacity for power generation is not going up to that extent. The installed capacity for power generation at the end of the Sixth Plan was 47,000 MW, and at the end of the Seventh Plan it will be 65,000 MW. The shortage at present is more than 10,000 MW, which will be more than 25,000 MW at the end of the Eighth Plan. This shortage is there in normal conditions, that is, when drought or other natural calamities are not there. But when there is a severe drought in the country, the demand will be more and the production will come down. So, the crises will be more during the drought period. Unless we invest more money, we cannot become self-sufficient in the field of energy. So, what I feel is that we must invest more money for the production of energy.

Energy production in our country is mainly dependent on coal and water. The non-conventional methods are not being used much. Recently in Andhra Pradesh, the Department of Coal could find some new areas of coal deposits and the exploration was also being done in Parkal, Mulugu, Chalvai and some other areas of Warangal district in Andhra Pradesh. If they can start the extraction of coal, we can divert that coal for energy production.

So, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister that he may kindly take steps in finding new coal-fields in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, yesterday, there was a statement that the Ramagundam Super-power projects will start functioning in July 1988. It is a welcome statement. But at the same time I would request the hon. Minister that Government should establish super-power projects in other parts of this country so that power supply is increased.

In our country, plenty of water is available. But the water is going waste and it is not only flooding the low lying areas but it goes waste and ultimately flows into the sea. The water source of the country is not fully utilised and in the most economical way water is not-utilised. Sir, there was some plan to start hydro-electric projects in different parts of our country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh. There is a hydro-electric power projects, called Bailadilla a hydro-power project. This project is to serve three States—Andhra

Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. This project was cleared some ten years ago. But there is some delay in commissioning the project. The delay in clearing this project is due to objection raised by the Orissa Government. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requesting the Centre to intervene in this and clear this project immediately.

Similarly, Sir, there was a commitment by the Central Government for establishing a nuclear power plant at Nagarjuna Sagar and this issue is being pursued by the Andhra Pradesh Government for the last eight years. Till now, it could not be cleared.

Now, in Andhra Pradesh, there is acute shortage of power and all the medium and small scale industries are facing difficulties in running their plants because of power shortage in the State. In this context, I may point out that power quota from Neyveli nuclear plant has not been given to the Andhra Pradesh State. The State Government has also been requesting the Centre for the last two years to increase the power quota to Andhra Pradesh from Neyveli. I would therefore request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and raise the power quota from this nuclear project to Andhra Pradesh immediately. I would also request the hon. Minister to consider establishing joint sector projects for power throughout the country in order to meet the ever growing demand of power in our country. Sir, there is a large demand of power from agriculture side also. Whenever a farmer comes forward for power to energise his pump-sets and motors, he should be given power immediately and he should not be rejected because whatever power he would utilise will ultimately go into the production in the agricultural fields. So, there should not be any delay in giving power to the farmers.

Similarly, Sir, there are a large number of villages and urban bastis where poor and weaker sections of people are living in small thatched huts and these small villages and thatched huts are not provided with electrification facilities. Till now the State Electricity Board and the State Governments are not able to electrify these areas. In spite of your 'Kutir Jyoti' programme,

they have not been able to cover all these villages and urban 'bastis'. So, I would request the Government allocate more and more funds for R.E.C., for implementation of 'Kutir Jyoti' programme in the rural areas in full swing.

Sir, for various industrial sectors in Andhra Pradesh, there has been a large demand for power. About four or five years ago, there was surplus power in Andhra Pradesh and at that time a large number and medium and small scale industries had come up but after a few years, crisis started due to shortage of power in the State. Recently there is a crisis because of drought and other conditions in the States. I would request the hon. Minister kindly to allocate more and more energy from the Southern Grid in order to meet the pressing power demand in Andhra Pradesh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, I am grateful for giving me the opportunity to intervene in the discussion on the demands of the Ministry of Energy.

Sir, I look after the Coal sector under the leadership of my esteemed colleague, Mr. Vasant Sathe. As everyone remembers, coal continue to be the most important source of primary energy in this country, apart from the fact that without coal no meaningful programme of power generation can be taken up. Coal is also an essential and important output for steel, cement, fertilizers and a variety of other industrial and household effects. The onerous responsibility of developing this source of energy within the shortest possible time lies with the Department of Coal. The Department has, therefore, taken up a comprehensive programme with great thrust on the application of modern technologies to develop coal in all its aspects—coal exploration, production unification, transportation, conservation, safety and environmental management.

Sir, to give a few statistics on how it has been going on, I mean, the production of coal and lignite production in million

tonnes, in 1986-87 the target is 173.01 and the actual is 174.62 million tonnes. In 1987 the actual is 192.65 and provisional 188.33, the average is 98.59 per cent.

Coming to Coal India, in 1987-88 the target is 194.10 million cu. metres and the actual is 209.84, the average per cent of achievement is 109.3.

Sir, regarding the output for man-shift where much more improvement is needed, in 1986-87 the target is 0.80, but in underground, in 1987-88 it is 0.64 from February 1988. For the full year the target is 0.85. The actual has to be still worked out.

My friend, Mr. Basudeb Acharia is talking about the welfare measures. (*Interruptions*) About drinking water facility, about 50% of the population is already being covered. Even the hospital facilities are good. But one of my friends has suggested about the stocking of medicines and other things. We will certainly look into it. One subject in which my senior colleague, Mr. Vasant Sathe is taking keen interest is about the workers participation is management where most of the problems will be taken care of by the workers themselves.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : For the last three years ?

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF : Who is responsible for this delay. The option has been often on them. They have failed to come out with any suggestion or solution leaving, it to the Government, not even operating with the Government. You still keep on blaming that Government is delaying. Why don't you do it, when the ball is in your court.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Check-up system will not do. Some other system should be evolved.

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF : The whole problem is to find some excuse and blame the Government. This kind of tendency will not help.

Having joined the coal sector very recently, I personally feel that there is huge manpower and machinery. Basically, it is

an area of management of manpower and management of machinery.

About drinking water supply, as on 1-1-1987, including all the companies, 17,82,180 population was covered under it. This is not a small achievement. This shows how much the Government is concerned about the welfare of workers. But whatever the Government does, there are certain friends who want to claim that they alone are interested in the welfare of the workers and it is their monopoly.

I am coming to housing. As on 1-1-88, 2,84,313, i.e. 45% of them have been covered under it. Again, some of the people live nearby villages who do not actually require housing. If they want to close our eyes and keep on investing for wasteful expenditure, there is no purpose in it. Wherever there is genuine need for accommodation, it is a progressive measure and the Government, will go on doing it.

As I said, basically this industry is the manpower management and material management, i.e. equipment. Equipment and manpower are to be put to optimum utility. About the man-management, I am sorry to say, the other day, I met my friend before the strike. I called him and requested him to reconsider it; why to waste 6-day strike. What is it going to help you? How is it going to benefit for the economic development of this country? I am quite clear he was not a happy person. But what to do? Because he has a label of a political party, he must shout for the workers; whether the workers want it or not, he would shout. So, he was compelled by that to keep quiet rather than coming out.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Workers wanted or not?

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF : Workers wanted. Workers fully participated. There was not a single power house which suffered for want of coal or any other sector for that matter.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : That coal was arranged previously.

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF : Absolutely not. One can compare the figures of production during that particular period or even earlier or later, on the normal days.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : ECL.

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF : Except his ECL. (*Interruptions*). I am grateful to him and his Government. The Government which is supposed to protect and ensure law and order, the Police of West Bengal arrest the officers of the coal industry, and it has not given protection to the willing workers who participate; it encourages the people to intimate and when the local mining workers are not interested to participate, they bring people from the surrounding villages to create problems. If this is so, I do not know what kind of economic development West Bengal people can expect, under the party or the leadership. This is a very unfortunate situation. I personally feel that coal industry, although generally it is being said that it is a losing industry, we are ensuring to see that wasteful expenditure is avoided and the manpower that is involved in this industry and the equipment is put to maximum use and that the production is increased. Coal should be produced more. There is a shortage of energy in our country. There is a growing demand. There is a growing need. We can join together and our friends can cooperate properly. They asked the Minister to call JBCCI. When they were called in, they did not cooperate on flimsy ground and petty issues. If there are any valid grounds, one can understand and appreciate. That is also not there.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why can't you implement those agreements?

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF : In a way, that is where you want to be popular. I cannot help it. Our looking at things and you looking at things is different.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : They are not looking at all.

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF : This morning during the Question Hour, the question of Mafia came up as if we are very happy about it. Openly I requested all sections of the House, anybody who wants to cooperate

and help. The Government of Bihar is doing its best. We are doing our best. It is not a question of one party or the other. It is a social evil where everybody is involved. Basically, the natural resources belong to the people of this country. It is a national wealth. The basic interest of the industry should be mining engineers and the workers involved in the industry. It is they who should be able to foresee the conservation of the energy resources, and how long and how best they could best be utilised and how it can prosper and how it can take care of its future. If that is not going to be understood, I feel sorry that we will not be doing any justice to the country at large for its economic growth or to the industrial workers who are evolved in this industry or to sectors which are dependent on this coal sector for their economic betterment.

The Ministry of Energy is a large Ministry and various other sources of energy are also involved. My other colleague is likely to intervene and my Senior colleague is finally going to wind up. I only say that we will be shortly going to the collieries to see things for ourselves and how best the local problems, if there any, can be solved. I expect the support of the West Bengal Government, the Andhra Pradesh Government and other Governments, to help us in making available land to us and to see how the workers' cooperation we can get. Industrial relationship is well-established/how as to best they can cooperate with us to run this industry successfully for the overall improvement of the economic situation of country.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir at the outset I express my thanks to you for having permitted me to participate in the Demands of the Ministry of Energy.

Sir, I am quite happy and I also endorse the views expressed by many other Members about the dynamism of Mr. Vasant Sathe. I have no doubt about it. He has a very dynamic personality. My

only doubt is that his hands are tied up, probably, for want of funds and also by the pressure from other State that he was not doing justice to Tamil Nadu. Recently, in a function, he has said that he wants to learn Tamil. I only request Mr. Vasant Sathe that if he gives more energy, the people of Tamil Nadu would be too eager to teach him Tamil at free of cost.

Nearly three million tonnes of coal is imported for SAIL, the activities of which are only connected with trading organisation. Whereas when the people of Tamil Nadu ask for coal for thermal power stations, you negated it. In fact, you wanted to imported coal from Australia and when the previous Government headed by Bharat Ratna Late MR—you conveniently use/his name for your purpose—asked for it, you never obliged him. When he asked for coal, you said that it would involve foreign exchange. I want to know why this the dual stand. For SAIL you importing three million tonnes of coal from Australia and wasting foreign exchange but at the same time when we want coal for Tamil Nadu, easily forget it.

As you know, for any industry coal is important. In Tamil Nadu we do not have water. So, we have to depend mostly on thermal power. I request the Minister to consider that.

Last year, in the debate, the Minister had said about adulteration of coal and stones. The Hon. Member Mr. V S. Krishna Iyer referred about stones. I may be permitted to quote; the Minister :

"In Tuticorin as Mr. Krishna Iyer said, in all 3500 MTS of stones were there. In the State Electricity Board Chairman's Conference I said that if we find those stones, we will bear the cost for that and the coal company will pay for it."

That is the reply given by the Hon. Minister. He has quoted some percentage also. Now the Government of India is pressing the Tuticorin thermal power people to pay for the stones also. Is there any justification in it. I request the Hon. Minister to reconsider that.

The power supply for the irrigation purposes is very poor in Tamil Nadu and electricity is supplied at very odd hours like 2.00 A.M. or 3.00 A.M. and farmers are not able to carry out their work. They are not able to understand when the power is going to come. If I am permitted to quote the reply from the Hon. Minister, he said :

"I am personally of the view that in this country electricity to agriculture should be supplied free."

It is the statement made by the Minister on 24th March, 1987. In Tamil Nadu electricity dues are postponed for a period of six months only. I request the Hon. Minister to use his influence to completely write-off the electricity dues because Mr. Vasant Sathe has pleaded for the entire country. Now I am pleading for Tamil Nadu to write off the electricity dues for the farmers.

As far as various plans are concerned, the projects for Tamil Nadu are pending. Nearly nine projects are pending with the Central Government. For, example, the Thermal Power Project of South Arcot and Coimbatore Districts and Nuclear Power Project in Tirunelveli District and Hydro-Electric Project in Oganekkal District, the constituency from where our Deputy-Speaker represents. When we look at the Demands for Grants, one can find lots of projects for Northern India. (*Interruptions*) Please bear with me. There are so many projects.

Whereas in Tamil Nadu, we do not have Projects. I request the Hon. Minister to consider these projects.

As far as BHEL is concerned, it is doing wonderfully well in Trichy as well as in Ranipet. I have to congratulate the Minister as well as the entire official staff of BHEL. I being the president of the supervisory staff union for both the units of Trichy and Ranipet, request the Minister to kindly consider their demands. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is going to encourage NRIs to invest in the power generation projects. Last year he said in his reply that the Government is considering it. Now I want to know whether he is going to give a second thought to it or he is going to consider it.

Recently the Nodal Energy Conservation Organisation has given its report. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister about the NECO's recommendations. At the existing rate of consumption only about 500 years' supply of commercial energy is available. The annual requirement is put at 600 million barrels. The demand for petroleum products which account for 55% of the commercial energy requirement is expected to rise to about 90 million tonnes by the turn of the century.

Inter-Ministerial working group on utilisation and consumption of energy has said that there is scope for saving 25% of energy in the industrial sector, 20% in transport sector, 30% in the agricultural sector without any loss of efficiency if proper measures are taken. I would like to know what measures the Minister is going to take in this matter.

Another point that is referred to is that about 60% of the total power provided in India is consumed by the industrial sector and even an increase of 5% energy saving would mean saving would of 4000 million units a year. This means Rs. 200 crores savings in electricity bills; the level of consumption can be brought down at least by 25%.

The NECO has given another suggestion also. Though new power stations and hydro-electric projects are coming up, no attention is paid to check up the transmission and distribution loss which accounts for 20% to the production output. Even if the losses are cut by half, about 4000 MW would be added to the national grid. That is what the recommendation of NECO says.

It is pointed out that most of the power plants in the country operate at a low plant load factor. Even 1% rise in the plant load factor would result in a saving of 500 MW of power requirement and equipment of Rs. 500 crores. I request the Hon. Minister to take up the suggestions given by the NECO because a few minutes back my good friend the Hon. Minister Mr. Jaffer Sharief said that we are not giving any suggestions; we are only accusing. I would tell him to at least take into consideration the suggestions given by the NECO because whenever we

say something, you say that we are accusing you. In the interest of the country we say certain things; please take note of the NECO's recommendations.

To act as a watch dog for the energy conservation, three agencies have been suggested—one is a management cadre for the energy conservation headed by an energy manager, second is energy cells in every Ministry involved in distribution and use of energy and third is the nodal agency which is the apex body funded both by the Governmental as well as non-governmental organisations which will finance or give loans for buying and updating energy efficient equipment. I think the NECO has given a very good suggestion and the Hon. Minister should consider all these points.

Finally, before I wind up, I would tell the Hon. Minister that my State is totally neglected. We don't have power, we don't have water. We were occupying during Dr. Karunanidhi's period third place in the industrial arena. During his period only almost all the villages were electrified and all the pumpsets were given connections for irrigation purposes. Now as per our Minister of State for Home, Mr. Chidambaram's statement, we are now occupying in Presidents rule 19th position in the industrial arena. He has made recently a statement in Tamil Nadu. Now you can very well understand the situation. It is because of shortage of power, shortage of water for which only I plead the Hon. Minister Mr. Vasant Sathe who has got a very well oblige us by sanctioning more thermal power plants. Since you are not allowing import of coal from Australia many of the thermal power stations in Tamil Nadu and especially in my constituency are suffering, namely, Basin Bridge power station at Park Town constituency, Ennanore thermal power station in North Madras constituency and thermal power station at Tuticorin. With the good heart and influence with the Prime Minister he can get more coal from Australia which is both cheaper and of good quality so that—these thermal power stations may not suffer. There are pending projects like nuclear power project in Tinneveli district and hydro-electric project at Ogannekkal. Finally there are thermal

plants at South Arcot and Coimbatore districts. USSR has said that Tamil Nadu is the best available place for starting thermal plants. I request the hon. Minister to consider all my requests and oblige.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki) : I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy. First of all I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for the commendable performance. In spite of drought and other adverse conditions, the total energy available has not declined. Sir, the Seventh Plan target has been fixed 23000 MW. I presume that we will be able to achieve the target but even if the target is achieved it is reported that we will have a shortage of about 10000 MW. Towards the end of Eight Plan the shortage will be about 20000 MW. Therefore, even when we go on generating more the gap of shortage is increasing. This is a problem that we have to tackle.

Over the years we have changed from hydro-electric to thermal power generation. In early 1960s our hydel generation was considerably high. Now we are investing more on thermal generation. Actually only 3. % of total generation is hydel. Our hydel potential is more than 85000 MW out of which I understand not even one-fifth has been tapped so far I would request the Minister to give more emphasis to hydel power generation because even though hydel generation is costly in the initial stages in the long run operational cost is less and, therefore we should invest more in hydel generation.

When I say about hydel generation I cannot but say something about mini hydel projects. There is a large potential for mini hydel generation in our country. It is estimated that at least 5000 MW of energy can be generated from mini hydel projects whereas today we are producing only 100 MW or so from mini hydel projects. We have only a couple of mini hydel projects. China is at present producing 10000 MW of electricity from mini hydel projects. Here is a vast potential which we have not so far tapped. You should ask for more money from the Planning Commission and invest it in mini-hydel projects. To overcome the difficulty we are facing now and we are going to face at the end of the 7th and 8th Plan what is

needed is proper energy mix. How it is possible it will not be possible by thermal and hydro-electric alone. We have to go for nuclear energy in a high way? Though it is not coming in your Department, you will have to see that. There is already a scare in this country. Because of the Chernobyl accident. If some incident has taken place at some place at some time, that is not going to repeat everywhere. We should invest more money in nuclear power. Our coal is getting depleted. If coal is used at the present rate I have no doubt that within the next 50 or 75 years, our coal will be totally exhausted. Therefore, we have to go for nuclear power generation.

In this connection, I have to say sentence about the demand of some of our friends for importing coal from Australia. I am supporting that because if imported coal is cheaper and if the quality is better, why, don't we import. Postelity will be grateful to you. It is good not to exhaust our coal completely. But if you can import, import coal so that our coal is reserved for posterity. Therefore, I am supporting the demand for import of coal from Australia.

Even with the thermal plants, hydro-electric plants and nuclear plants, we are not going to reach the target of our requirement, not the target you have put in the Plant, but what I say is including the shortage we have to meet. For that, you have to go in for solar power generation. That is going to be a source where by a large quantity of energy can be generated.

Our country is blessed with solar energy. Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and most of the northern States are having sufficient bright sun. The sun is available in the month of May, June, July and throughout except for a couple of months. Therefore, we should go in a big way for the generation of solar energy.

I would like to know from the Minister whether we have got the technical from how far generation of solar energy. I know there are solar cookers, small solar heaters, etc. But have you got the technical know-how for producing solar energy in a big way? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. I saw some Press reports

that one American company has entered into a collaboration agreement with one public enterprises in Punjab or setting up a 30 MW solar energy plant. If that is correct, I would like the Government to explore the possibility of investing more on solar energy using that technology. If needed, you go in for important of technology. You can import from Russia also if they have that technology.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : We did not say anything. Simply by having a look on us, he starts speaking like this. He has a guilty conscience.'

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : But there is an argument against solar energy. That the initial cost is high. It is true that the initial cost is high. For thermal generation of one megawatt, you require more than Rs. 1.5 crores. For solar energy, you require more than nearly Rs. 3 crores. But for thermal energy when you say Rs. 1.5 crores, you do not compute the investment in the coalmining. You do not compute the investment in the rail transport. So, compute the investment in the infrastructure. Then you will find that solar energy is comparable to energy from thermal stations.

At the same time, solar energy has other advantages. Transmissionwise advantages are there. There is no pollution. It does not cause ecological imbalance. Further, it is available in plenty when you have less monsoon.

14.00 hrs.

Therefore, to compensate for the loss or the shortage in other sectors, the only solution is solar energy. But I am sorry that in the Budget only a small amount of Rs. 100 crores or so had been allotted for non-conventional energy. I request the Planning Commission to allot more funds for non-conventional energy and a major chunk should be diverted for solar energy.

It is not enough to produce more. We have also to see how our existing plants are working. I should congratulate the Minister for the increase in efficiency. Performance-wise there is an increase. The Plant Load

Factor is no the increase, and now you have achieved 53.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : No, it is 56.

PROF. P.J. KUREIN : I stand corrected. It is 56. But that is not enough. We can increase it to at least 65 to 70 when we compare with the developed countries. I do compliment the Minister. Effort should continue to increase the plant load factor further.

Next is about energy loss and conservation. At present no effort is made in this regard. I read in one report that our steel plants are spending 100 per cent more energy than similar steel plants in Japan. Our steel plants are spending nearly 60 per cent more energy than the similar plants in UK and other countries. Are we not to think about it? Therefore, conservation of energy is very important. What we produce should be conserved. There are fluorescent lamps and incandescent electric bulbs. Suppose we change all electric bulbs by fluorescent lamps, how much energy will be saved? I am told it will be of the order of 1200 crores. This I read in a report produced by your own Ministry. The change is so much. But you are not bothered about such things. Sir, conservation of energy is very important. It is more important than production.

There was same proposal to have an agency to monitor the conservation of energy. I do know what happened to that proposal. Such important proposals seems to be shelved somewhere under the tables of the bureaucrats. I would request the Minister that the proposal should be revived and an independent agency should be formed which will monitor the conservation of energy. It is in the best interest of the country.

Everybody said about transmission and distribution loss. I do not want to say about that but one thing is very disappointing to me. Our T & D loss is on the increase. In the 1960s, it was about 13-14 per cent and now it has come to 20 per cent. Every year it is on the increase. The main reason is theft we have passed an amendment to the Electricity Act to give stringent punishment for theft. But that

has not been implemented by the State Electricity Boards. Sir some effort should be put in to reduce the T & D loss from 21 and if possible, it should be brought down to 10. If all-round efforts in production and in conservation are made, then only the gap in production will be bridged. That is my suggestion.

About my state, I would say that total generation is hydro-electrical. The monsoon failed for the last four years and therefore, we have no electricity. Acute shortage is there. My suggestion is that you should give one thermal plant and one nuclear plant to the State of Kerala. The suggestion earlier was for a thermal power plant and as one hon. Member mentioned, Kayamkulam was selected for the purpose, but I understand that the State of Kerala for political considerations are interested more in politicalising it rather than getting the thermal power plant. The Central Government had identified Kayamkulam for this purpose, but the State Government of Kerala want to shift it to some other place due to political and parochial consideration. I would request the Minister to kindly consider this. The people of Kerala are interested in this project and we want the Central Government to help us. I would request that this project be set up in the Central sector at Kayamkulam itself.

Then, about the Poyangutti hydro-electric project about which a discussion was held in this House and there was a controversy whether it should be allowed or not. That project is at present pending with the Ministry of Environment for clearance. I would request you to sanction this with the condition that whatever forests would be destroyed, that much will be replanted by the Government. In fact, for 100 acres, they should re-plant 200 acres of forest, otherwise there should be no reason for stopping it. I request that the Poyangutti project should also be sanctioned.

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

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to all those hon. Members who offered valuable suggestions in the House. I would like to assure them that I will consider their suggestions seriously.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members towards the unprecedented drought that confronted the country this year and the manner in which the Department of Energy foiled the effect of this natural calamity. This drought which had confronted the country has been unprecedented in the history of the present century. 14 States in the country were affected by drought. The rainfall was scanty and moreover it was in time. As a result of this all our reservoirs become dry.

First of all, we had to see that crops and life of the people and cattle are protected. We had to ensure that loss should be minimum. At the same time we had to see that the power generation capacity is increased to the maximum wherever it was possible in the prevailing circumstances.

The food, employment and shelter are the basic needs of life. In the absence of these three things, no progress can be made. Power is essential factor for the progress can be made. Power is essential factor for the progress. We require agriculture for food and for agriculture the require irrigation, pumpset and development of the entire rural areas. Besides, we should install machines for providing jobs, all the factories should run and all this is not possible without power.

14.08 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

When our economic condition improves a little, we think of building a house for shelter. Even if the house is made of marble but if it does not have electricity, one would feel that something is lacking.

Electricity is, therefore, very essential among three things essential for life. When these three things are available, it will be easy to march ahead on the path of progress and we can take steps for further development.

It has all along been the effort of our party and due attention has been paid towards it in every five year plan for the development of the country.

Agriculture is given top priority in Five Year Plans and particularly this year, when such a severe drought has occurred in the country, attention has been paid on how to supply more and more power to the farmers, run the pump sets, provide benefits of agricultural produce to the farmers and achieve the target by increasing the agricultural production in the next crop by the making maximum efforts.

Sir, I take the pleasure of making this statement that the Government played a very important role in the power and energy sectors. It is called hat-trick in English. I do not know the term which should be used if the number of achievements increases to 4.

Our plant load factor is 56.4 per cent, which is an historic achievement. 10 years ago it was 55.9 per cent and this time it is 56.4 per cent which is the maximum.

In addition, our present generation capacity is 201.8 billion units which used to be 186 billion units some time back. In other words this year's generation has been on the higher side. This year's additional generation capacity. We have set a record in this sector also and it is more than the target. Despite drought it has come to 4981 Megawat. We have achieved a major break through in this sector despite drought.

In the field of new technology also, we achieved a major break through. Our Rural Electrification Corporation has set a good record. It achieved its target also. The farmers have been supplied maximum power and pump sets have been energised. It was possible to achieve record this only if we had affected changes from top to bottom. We resorted to that also. All our Power Ministers, Chairmen, Engineers,

Scientists and other Officials played a very important role in meeting the challenge confronting the country. Had they not made concerted efforts in this period of crisis, this problem would not have been solved. It is evident from this that if our countrymen make up their mind that they have to do certain thing then they can do the same quite conveniently. So if we take up any major obstacle as a challenge and work unitedly, there will be no difficulty in achieving the goal, howsoever difficult it may be. I congratulate all and especially those working in the power sector through this august House.

When the drought occurred, the question arose how to face it. The Prime Minister held several meeting with of all us. All of us presented our plans of action. As everybody is aware, an amount of Rs. 200 crores had been allocated for power and energy, in the first plan. But this time about Rs. 45 thousand crores have been earmarked for this sector in the Seventh Five Year Plan. One of our hon. Members, who is not present now, said that there has been no increase in the percentage. I do not know what it should be called, if not devaluation, if there has not been an increase of 20 to 21 per cent. But it is certain that there must be some difference with the provision of Rs. 45 thousand crores. The attention that has been paid to this sector this year has never been paid to any other sector. I admit that the funds allocated for power sector is not adequate. Had the allocation been more, we could have met more demands.

In addition, we have since started preparations for the Eighth Five Year Plan. The works related to power take 4 to 5 years and it is, therefore, necessary that these works should be started in advance. We have earmarked an additional amount of Rs. 10,000 crores to utilise it for various works included in the Eight Five Year Plan. However, it is not adequate keeping in view the demand.

Priority was accorded to agriculture in the plan of action prepared at the time of drought 75 per cent people are engaged in agriculture and large number of families of farmers are dependent on it. The farmer is the backbone of society. We

had expected that there will be a hydel short fall of one billion units. But attention was paid to generate maximum power through thermal system. I express my gratitude to the Department of coal, Government of India, hon. Minister, hon. Minister of State, all the officers and member of Staff of the Department of Coal who fully met the demand of coal of power stations. Despite the strike call given by a handful of persons, all of them co-operated in this gigantic task. Had they not extended their co-operation, it would have been difficult to generate power in the thermal stations. Out of the hydel short fall of 9 billion units, additional 6 billions units were provided by the thermal generation and thus we reached close to target. We have achieved 98½ per cent of the last year's target on which we are working. Despite all these efforts our country experienced shortage and this thing was brought to our notice at various places. We had expected that there will be 9½ per cent minimum shortage of power, but it rose to 11 per cent. The percentage varied slightly from place to place. At this juncture, evaluation of our concept of national grid is being made. 5 regional grids have already been set up for this purpose. These five grids are functioning in different regions of the country and load centres for these grids have also been built at different places. With this arrangement those States which are having surplus power, are supplying power to States experiencing acute shortage. In this way, the neighbouring States meet their mutual requirement of power as inter-regions and the grid has been functioning continuously. It is due to this, that the regions experiencing acute shortage have been supplied some power by the surplus regions. The concept of national grid is taking shape by following give and take policy by various states. We hope that the national grid will become fully functional within next few years. It will help us meet the difficulties confronting us.

The Central sector played a special role in this work. The N.T.P.C. also did a good job last year. It had to construct Super Thermal stations of 500 megawatt capacity. It constructed 4 Super Thermal Stations of 500 megawatt capacity out of which 3 stations were completed much

ahead of schedule. One was constructed 1 month the other one 5 months and the third one 4 months before the schedule. It is evident from the above that a set target, effective monitoring, good co-ordination and right decision help us complete any work much ahead of schedule. I would like to congratulate the N.H.P.C for their work. It is due to the N.H.P.C. that Central sector has its 21 per cent (approximately) share in the total installed capacity of 54 thousand megawatt in the country. I hope that we will march ahead day by day and share of Central sector will also go on increasing.

I would like to make a submission about the N.H.P.C. which is another corporation in the Central sector and deals with water. In this connection, I fully agree with the views of several hon. Members that we have got large quantities of water which is a renewable source of energy, it is pollution free and cheap. Therefore, we should tap it to the maximum extent whether it is a mini, micro, small or major project. We are making all out efforts even at the individual level to develop more and more hydel projects. To-day our country has acquired a capacity of 85 thousand Megawatt power. We can generate this much quantity of hydel power. Out of this quantity, major portion is available in North-Eastern States like Arunachal Pradesh where we have 2 major projects. These projects will require huge funds. Besides, large stretch of land will be submerged and some people will have to be displaced from these sites. We are, therefore, contacting the State Governments for their co-operation. We have to see how to make maximum use of available water. Attention has been paid to mini, micro, small projects. I would urge the State Boards, Ministers of States, Ministers and our hon. Members to see that if Boards and State Governments concentrate on mini, micro and small projects then they need not come to the Central Electricity Authority. They can take up these works at their own levels. There are about 94 projects which are under scrutiny and some of them under construction. It will be better if these small projects are completed. These projects would not require much investment. But most of the States have not taken up these projects. Perhaps they are more interested in major

projects. It should be noted that small things have got their own utility. We should pay our attention to minor projects also. I, therefore, request the hon. Members to call for the minor projects from their respective States and we shall furnish necessary information whichever is required. They should ensure that these small projects are completed. They will go a long way in the development of the country.

In addition to this we have got two major projects. We have signed an agreement for Soviet Collaboration for our Tehri project. This project will generate 24,000 Megawatt power. It will be a very big achievement when this project will become fully operational. Apart from this there is a proposal to construct the Nathpa Jhakhri project. A corporation for this project has also been set up. It is a major project. We have got large potentials for both small and major projects. We are making efforts to tap that capacity for which we are very anxious.

I would like to draw your attention towards the Salal Projects which has been under construction for the last 15 to 16 years. A lot of discussion took place with regard to this project. Several questions were put and it was also a matter of concern, because it was delayed. This project is set up in Kashmir. There has been a lot of delay in this project and huge sums of money have been invested on it. When I visited the site of the project for the first time, I saw for myself the circumstances under which our engineers and workers were working there. They have no safety, no basic amenity is available to them but the way our scientists dedicatedly prepared the design of the project and completed the work, they deserve congratulations even though the project has been delayed. The most important thing is that our Hon. Prime Minister himself went there in last February and inaugurated the project. He said that this project was hundred per cent indigenous. The design and entire technology used in this project is 100 per cent Indian. It is true that we have to upgrade our technology. We have to acquire latest technological know-how in the field of energy, we have to upgrade our skill and impart training to our staff. In no way we should lag behind other countries,

rather we should march ahead of them. We have got that much capacity. Our BHEL is doing a very good job. Had the BHEL not supplied big machines, big turbines to our Super Thermal Power Stations, it would have not been possible for us to make this much progress.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : You have said about the Salal Hydel Project. I as well as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir visited the site of the project. How much time did it take and how much loss has been incurred in this project? It should have been executed according the schedule prescribed for the completion of this project. It was not constructed within the time schedule. I want to know whether the Government have set up any committee to probe into the causes of delay in its construction? You have talked high of the project. But several corruption charges have also been levelled in the course of its construction. Did the Government take any action on them?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I shall also reply to your point. It would have been better had I completed my reply. Nevertheless, since you have raised only one point, I am replying to it.

Sir, when this thing was brought to our notice, we sent a most expert team to find out the truth. But no such leakage was proved which was more than the approved degree. It was thoroughly proved but nothing had been detected. As regards delay and cost escalation, I have myself admitted it.

Sir, there are several things, many basins in the country have to be developed for hydel power. Having been convinced by it, we have chalked out a scheme of national level. A National Institute for Hydel Power Research and Development at Dehradun is being set up. We would like to concentrate our future plans on hydel power. We shall utilise the experience we gained from Salal Hydel Project in respect of other Projects. We shall see that the drawbacks noticed and delay caused in that project is not repeated in respect of other projects. The above institute has been set up to conduct research on all these things and suggest improvements. I

hope that this institute will be set up in Dehradun during this month itself.

Apart from that, among the various sources of integrated energy development, I am not going to say anything about non-conventional sources of energy which is looked after by my senior colleague, Gas is very good source but people have different views on the availability of gas some say—

[English]

More or less it is a matter of luck.

[Translation]

I had the opportunity of looking after the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas. People say that its availability depends on luck and fortunately it has been good. A number of belts have been struck where both oil and natural gas have been found. We wish that more and more natural gas should be used. It will be better if it is utilised in the priority sector because gas is comparatively cheaper. We have taken some steps in this direction. H.B.J. pipe line has already been approved. The construction work on this pipe line is progressing. There is also a proposal in respect of Dadri which is in addition to the national capital thermal project. Priority should be accorded to gas for power generation. It will be better if we accord approval for using more and more gas and utilise it to the optimum. He has raised the issue of Salal Hydel Project. I have found out and came to know.

[English]

There is a slight leakage from the rock dam which is within the permissible design limits.

[Translation]

Any doubt in your mind about the Salal. Project must be cleared.

We are according priority to gas because it is cheaper. Now we would like to confirm as to how much quantity is available and whether it is continuous or not, what quantity of gas could become available

to us, where it is available. We are taking measures in this direction. I hope that we shall accord priority to gas day by day and use it.

Beside that, study is also being done in respect of tidal energy and research is going on in that field. We hope that perhaps we will be able to produce 840 or 900 Megawatt electricity in Gujarat from the sea waves. The report for the same is awaited after which we will examine as to how much money will be required for the same. Study is being conducted without any break in respect of all these projects. The engineers, technicians and agencies of our country as well as foreign personnel are busy in this and only on receipt of the report the work will start. I will not touch the subject of non-conventional since our hon. Minister will speak on this subject in detail. We should keep integrated energy approach in mind and with a view make use of the collective gain we shall see that the aspirations and needs of the people are fulfilled to the maximum possible extent with our limited resources. As the hon. Members have said, we should be able to keep energy under some check by paying special attention to energy management, energy control and conservation. We require huge funds. We have prepared a report on power. If we stretch it to the end of this century or till 2000 A.D. then lakhs and crores of rupees will be required and then alone will we able to fulfill the requirements of our nation. Therefore we will have to keep restraint on ourselves, pay due consideration on energy and, it goes without saying that on the basis of priority due attention has to be paid on conservation. Ofcourse generation and conservation are both very essential. If we reduce even one per cent of transmission distribution loss, then crores of rupees can be saved and someone even says that this may result in a saving amounting to Rs. 500 crores. 56 per cent of our electricity is consumed in the industrial sector. According to the experts, if we change the design of the equipment, modernise them and manufacture them as per our requirement, then 15 per cent energy can be conserved. We have decided in this direction and have communicated it to all concerned in the country as well through the state Boards that if any

industry reduces its consumption through conservation then.

[English]

This will prove as an incentive rather than as a disincentive for the further allocation of power.

[Translation]

If it is saved and it maintains the same capacity of work without bringing any fall in the output, then this conservation of energy may be termed as a bonus. If in future also, if there is any need for giving energy, then it will be kept in view. In my view this will happen in the industrial sector.

Besides, we have also made efforts in the field of agriculture. We have carried out experiment of thousands of pumping sets functioning under the Department Agriculture. If they are proved to be standard pumping sets or if their design is slightly changed, then nearly 28 per cent electricity would be saved which is quite significant. If 28 per cent electricity is saved then a huge amount of money can be saved. It takes Rupees 1 or 1.25 crore to generate one megawatt electricity. In this way crores of rupees can be saved in this and energy conserved in such a way can be distributed within the country wherever it is required.

I would also like to mention that we had convened a number of meetings for the purpose of monitoring. Last year from the very beginning we had started this work since 14th April itself. We have State level projects and if we consider them Statewise in order to find out the course of delay and at which place the equipment is reaching late, from which agency supplies have not been received and how can we co-ordinate with each other—we had discussed these points. (Interruptions).

In this way we paid attention on co-ordination, Mr. Yadav, you have been in the Government and have remained a very successful Minister. This need for co-ordination must have been felt in Ministry of Education as well. From the 14th April itself we called meetings at State level,

regional level and zonal level, which were attended by hon. Ministers, Secretaries and Chairmen. Irrespective of the fact whether it is Department of Coal, Railways or whether it is BHEL through which projects is made, each project was discussed across the table consequent upon these discussions, the result was that our Korba Project which was to be completed in 88-89 after three-four months was ready before 31st March 1988. This was made possible due to the monitoring and the attention paid to the points of delay and slackness. Our Power Finance Corporation constituted last year has got nearly Rs. 160 crore which is not quite sufficient. Therefore it sent small amounts of money to the State Government in a planned manner and made efforts that the equipment and other accessories should reach there in time. Sometimes there is a delay on our part and the cost of project is escalated in some cases. This is matter of concern and of serious nature it has been considered in depth and needs the same consideration in future too because the power sector is highly capital intensive and in case of slightest delay it causes a huge loss of crores of rupees.

If often happens that clearance is not given in respect of forest areas and the land acquisition causes further delay. There are land disputes among different parties which also cause delay. Sometimes I do not want to take the name, but in some States as our hon. Minister sitting here is aware, indiscipline is created or labour trouble comes up. I leave all this to Shri Sathe.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Please say something about Bihar also.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Don't ask me to speak on Bihar. I would speak on it later, otherwise I may miss some other important points.

(Interruptions)

We should try to see that things are not delayed. In this matter our State Boards and hon. Members can help us if they take up the dormant projects at their

own level, whether it is Bihar, Bengal or Uttar Pradesh. If there is any problem, then it should be brought to our notice. We have discussed with their Power Ministers, separately, a number of times. In Bihar, despite our best efforts the plant load factor goes on decreasing instead of increasing....(Interruptions).

SHRI D. P. YADAV : The offices of the Minister of Coal should be set up there.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : This time eleven electricity boards have made a lot of improvement. I would like to congratulate them for the same. The P.L.F. of the State which always used to remain 49 per cent, and not even 50 per cent has now reached approximately 53 per cent. This has indeed been a remarkable achievement. This is not a trick but a fact and I welcome it. Yet we have a lot more to do. I would like to say one thing before the House that often a lot is said against the State Electricity Boards that it is corrupt, incompetent and does not have a working policy. There are a number of such charges which spoil their image. If all this happens and had our State Electricity Boards not done all this work, even then at least it should be appreciated that State Electricity Boards have to undergo many difficulties. I want to bring this fact on record that no useful purpose can be served by demoralising anyone. What are the financial constraints of State Electricity Boards? They do not have a single penny in hand. Whatever they have got is in the form of loan or borrowings on which they have to pay interest. When the constraint as well as the interest goes on increasing then 20 per cent of the whole project goes in the form of interest. We took up this issue during the meeting of the Power Ministers too and we are trying by all means to see that their 50 per cent loan may be converted into equity. We have raised this issue and we want the hon. Members also to raise them in their respective States and try that the 50 per cent loan may be converted into equity so that the money thus available could be utilised for modernisation and removable and thus we will be able to increase our capacity. Beside this, according to the

World Bank Agreement, it is obligatory for every State to give the rural subsidy to its Board, whereas State Electricity Board is a commercial undertaking and has to show 3 per cent surplus. In spite of being a commercial undertaking there are a number of States which have given them the rural electrification subsidy. The result is that we are committed to rural electrification, reform in rural areas and development on socio-economic front. This is the plan of action but why are the commercial organisations like State Electricity Boards being penalised for this? We raised this matter in the meeting of Power Minister and have also taken up the matter of capital re-structuring of State Electricity Boards. Along with this we have also requested the Ministers that they should see that their respective States provide rural subsidy. The question of Tariff is also linked with it. All of us have to endeavour to provide electricity to the villages. Today approximately 74.5 per cent of rural areas have been electrified. But I do not consider it electrification if it reaches only 5-6 places in a village or it just passes through a village.

We have to keep in mind the resources available in the country. Today the Rural Electrification Corporation is giving priority to harijan, tribal and backward areas and in particular to States where less than 65% of the villages are electrified. Priority must be given to such areas. It is hoped that by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan all villages in the country would be electrified. Recently, electrification has been completed in rural areas of Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Electrification in some more States is nearing completion. A scheme called 'Kutir Jyoti' has been envisaged in the Budget. What would be the life without light?

It has been decided to provide a single point light connection for the 5 lakh people living below the poverty line in rural areas during 1988-89. Similarly a provision has been made to provide 50,000 sets to poor farmers under the 'Jaldhara' scheme. There is another thing. A very good programme has been chalked out for renovation and modernisation. It was hoped that the work would be completed in 3-4

years because the initial stage takes time. If the work had been completed in the States having 162 units and 34 stations, an additional 1375 megawatt of electricity would have been available through this renovation and modernisation. This is certainly remarkable. Our Plant Load Factor has also increased. Some projects are nearing completion in Bhatinda, Ropar and Kota. Wherever this work has been undertaken, the results have been satisfactory. The Government invites hon. Members to pinpoint any Lacunae in its working but they are requested to highlight its achievements also. A Centrally-sponsored amount of Rs. 500 crores have been kept aside for this. The Centre can also release it. This plan was meant for thermal units. Now, greater emphasis is being laid on hydel power through a programme called 'Operating and Renovation Hydel Scheme.' Nearly 60 such projects have been identified which were conceived for producing hydel power and further improvement can be made in their working if old hydel equipments is renovated. Hon. Members mentioned the Koel Karo Project. I can not say much about it because they might have more information :—

[English]

As I mentioned before, land acquisition is one of the objects which keep many a matter pending and delay the project. A writ petition regarding land acquisition for Koel Karo project is pending in Supreme Court. The matter is *sub judice*. I hope, the hon. Member will not press me after this explanation.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : It is the hon. Minister who is taking time.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I have not made any complaint.

[English]

The plant load factor of Bihar in 1987-88 was 32.2% up to Feb. 1988.

[Translation]

Now, please tell me. The hon. Minister

of Bihar has given his co-operation. There are certain historical things. It takes time to mend ways. I also come from Uttar Pradesh and I know that in some cases it takes time to set them on right path. Yet Bihar has always shown a tendency to be more backward instead of forward. The Koel Karo Project is *sub-judice* but not the plant load factor. You should sit together and make efforts to finalise something. The level in Bihar is 20% below than that of the national level. Bihar has been in the forefront of the freedom struggle and has contributed in the nation-building process. The country will benefit if the State is given national-level importance. I shall not take much time. I shall just say that the Government does have certain shortcomings. Many objectives are far from being achieved. The country's resources are limited. Renovation and modernisation should be undertaken. An important issue is that of transmission and distribution losses. This was given a lot of attention when the Electricity Supply Act was amended in the House. A provision was made to make it a cognisable offence and punish the people who are found guilty. Some work has been done but a lot remains. We had chalked out a scheme in consultation with each other. I throw a challenge not just to the Chairman, Secretary or officials of State Electricity Boards but anyone, any citizen of India, any scientist in the country may bring an innovative scheme or give concrete suggestions to reduce transmission and distribution losses. The Government is willing to give crores of rupees as reward. I repeat this challenge and say that this is an important decision taken by the Government and announced that not only our Chairman will see that person but even if any person submit a scheme and prove thereby that transmission losses can be reduced then not only he but every official of that division would be welcomed and honoured. Our engineers and technicians may try to formulate a plan and prove thereby that the 20-21% loss in transmission and a loss Rs. 500 crores being incurred by the country can be saved. I seek the co-operation of all hon. Members on this respect.

The country has made historical progress this year yet we are not fully satisfied

The Government is hopeful of succeeding in its objective and eradicating poverty from the country. Power and energy have a major role to play to achieve this objective. These two sectors can take our country forward. The Government will take special care of rural areas in its efforts to take the country forward. Apart from rural areas, factories and industries with shortage of electricity and manpower will also be given special attention. For solving the problem of unemployment and implementing the Government's plans, we need your cooperation. I seek this co-operation from all hon. Members so that we may work together to realise the hon. Prime Minister's dream of taking India into the 21st century. With these words I conclude.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Chairman Sir, just now the hon. Minister gave a speech. She lauded the Government's achievements in the energy sector, whether in coal production or in power projects. She also thanked the officials of her Department.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Should I take it back ?

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : No, in fact I want the hon. Minister to go still further. If the demands of the workers employed in these industries are not met, they resort to agitations and even strikes but in that situation the Government adopts oppressive methods. I feel that the Government should stop playing foe and lend a friendly ear to their grievances. The Government's attitude towards the workers must be generous, if it wants to develop these industries and bring in the socialist framework it visualises.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, in this time of crisis neither the workers nor the Government has adopted an aggressive attitude towards each other.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Just now it was discussed that there is a power shortage in our country. Drought has only magnified this problem. In power shortages, drought has created a national crisis. Now a question arises how to coordinate the

power projects because we are unable to control drought and floods and both cause destruction. A solution can be found to save the country from the destruction caused by these natural calamities.

Mr. Chairman Sir, now the situation is that drought has led to a water scarcity which in turn has led to a fall in the production of hydro-electric power. Sir, although the Government is fully aware of all these things but I should still like to emphasize that there should be co-ordination between the hydro-electric and thermal power sectors. Power cuts can create a lot of inconveniences. So adjustments should be made in such a way that one sector makes up for a shortfall in the other. In this manner a crisis of this kind can be averted. In this connection I would like to refer to North-Eastern region which has always been a flood prone area. If the Government takes the stand that in the flood prone regions, Hydro-Electric Projects are to be started on a large scale, then the North-East region, which has so far been neglected and is far behind with regard to electricity generation, should get top priority. Now the need of the hour is this that the Government should make arrangement for hydro-electricity generation and also take up hydro-electric projects in the three states i.e. Bihar, Bengal and Assam which are backward in electricity generation, on priority basis so as to exploit the hydro-electric potential of the regions.

This is the region where basic facilities and infrastructure for setting up Thermal Power Stations such as coal is available in abundance, but it is a matter of regret that the regions despite being rich in coal deposits, are lacking in the thermal Power Stations, whereas they have been set up in other regions where coal is scarce, by transporting coal from other regions. In these regions shortage of electricity is not so alarming as is in Bihar, Bengal and Assam.

Why is this done? I read somewhere that during the British rule a policy was framed that Thermal Power Stations and Super-Thermal Power Plants were to be set up near coal-pits. I come from Bihar, which is rich in coal deposits, but there

power situation is the worst as compared to other regions in the country. Per capita production and consumption of electricity is the lowest in Bihar. According to 1985-86 data, the All-India average of per capita production of electricity is 243.37 kilowatt as against 123.54 kilowatt in Bihar.

In Seventh Plan, Rs. 1083 crores have been allocated for Power sector in Bihar. It appears that it stands at 8th position in order of priority with regard to money given to States by the Centre. Just intervening in the debate, the hon. Minister has stated the regions, where there is regional imbalance and where there is shortage of power, will be given priority. In the face of above statement I fail to understand as to why Bihar has been positioned 8th in the matter of allocation of funds for it, rather it should have been given top priority in the Seventh Plan because it is a backward state.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :
Please also tell me as to where Rajasthan stands.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Bihar is far below Rajasthan.

This is the situation in Bihar. Along with rural electrification, it has also been said that the Government is much concerned about farmers. But what is the condition of farmers? Out of the total power generated how much is supplied to them?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, with your permission I want to say one thing. The Government has tried its best for Bihar. In Bihar a consultancy team was also sent to go into the functioning of Electricity Board and suggest ways and measures to improve the situation. That team also returned without doing any concrete thing.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was referring to backwardness of Bihar, and the extent to which the Central Government is accountable for this. As far as the question of allotment of funds to the plan heads is concerned, Bihar has no say in it. Whatever you are saying I

agree to that Bihar Government, which is the Government of the Ruling Party and the officers sent there are responsible for it. When this matter was taken up in to the Consultative Committee for discussion a question was raised as to whether the matter be left over to the State Government or not? In the end it was decided that the matter should not be totally left over to the State Government alone. Today the Central Government is well aware of the situation in Bihar. I think you will find it difficult to bale out the state from its present situation. In the absence of effective monitoring, the situation in Bihar will never improve.

Now I want to talk about rural electrification. It has been stated that the target has been fixed to supply electricity to approximately 75% villages in the country. But in Bihar electricity has so far been supplied to 58 per cent villages only, though the hon. Minister little while ago has stated that electricity has already been supplied to 65 per cent villages in the country. Government is requested to take steps to supply electricity to more and more villiages.

Now I would like to talk about few old schemes for which Bihar is not at fault. There is one Damodar Valley Corporation. The water of rivers which should have naturally gone to Bihar is not being made available to it. The supply of water has been discontinued to Tilaiya which should have been made available to it. Due to this, Bihar has been suffered on many counts. Bihar lost its land, water and money by way of sharing one third of the cost of the project but in return it got electricity for the name-sake only. Same is the case with Farakka also. Government built a dam on the river Ganga. Land pertaining to Bihar was acquired for this also. Not only this, Bihar have to make part with its coal and water too, but it failed to get electricity from the project. This is the condition of Bihar today. I want to emphasise that Bihar is the only state which kept quiet at that time. Had there been another state it would have revolted against it. Bihar has been subjected to all kind of injustices and exploitations. This is the reason why situation is deteriorating in Bihar. I fail

to understand the reasons why the Central Government is not paying any attention towards it. From Bihar, only 4 to 5 opposition candidates have been elected to the House. Majority of the Members in this House from Bihar belongs to the Congress Party. It appears to me that these Congress M.Ps from Bihar have failed to impress upon the Congress High Command and the High Command in Delhi about the condition prevailing in Bihar. Bihar is slowly drifting towards hell. Nobody knows what the future of Bihar is in the offing.

It is claimed that national grid is being set up and entire net work of transmission lines in the country is being connected with it. It is a good thing which should be done. What is the reason for not paying attention to the area where all the facilities are already available.

Just now matter was raised about Koelkaro and Salal Projects. This project has been lying incomplete for the last 15 to 16 years. The cost has escalated. It is a good thing that increased cost has been borne by the Government. The Government is scrapping the Koelkaro project in the name of cost escalation. The Government says that the cost of electricity generation will come about 155 paise per unit there. It is not known why the Government is not approving the scheme. Whole matter did came up before the Consultative Committee. I don't know whether all bottlenecks have so far been cleared. Both the Parties went to the court. On the one hand there was land dispute and on the other tribals were agitated.

15.00hrs.

Whole of the matter has been settled but Government is soughting extension of time from the court... (*Interruptions*)... I want to say only one thing more that my district Nalanda is situated very near from the coal pit and since 1980 when I become Member of the House, I have been continuously making demand to set up even a small Thermal-Power Plant on the bank of river Ganges either at Bokhtyarpur or Fatuha. As the hon. Minister is saying that small schemes will be good, my idea is by taking 2 to 3 districts as a unit and by keeping in

mind the needs of 10 years hence, small projects should be planned and in this connection I would like to make a demand that in order to meet the needs of electricity of Nalanda and Patna districts a Thermal Power Plant should be set up either at Bokhtyarpur or Fatuha.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having called me to speak in this debate on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy.

Sir, I rise to support the Demands. As the time is short, I won't like to explain how important is energy to our economy. In fact we cannot move forward an inch along the path of economic development, progress and prosperity without energy, without power. And that is why it has been rightly said that energy is one of the four sectors of production land, labour and capital, and then comes energy. You know how prominent a position the Soviet Union occupies in the whole of the world. In fact it is a super power now and a few years before, a top Soviet leader while explaining their achievements said that they had achieved two things. One was Soviet and other thing was power. That is, they had generated power in required quantity, in abundant measure, and they had organised the Soviet people, the Panchayats they had channelised properly the people's power, lok shakti, blending of the two—people's power together with or coupled with energy they had made tremendous impact in the whole of the world and they had converted the Soviet Union into the greatest power of the world.

Sir, energy is very important and we are discussing it here—

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : (Bolpur) Energy power. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : That is only haunting you. Somnathji, that is

one-thing that haunts you not energy power, and that is why you are getting power famine in West Bengal.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have enough power. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Very good. Then why are you clamouring here for power projects ?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You have surplus now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, this time should not be deducted from the time allotted to me. I am in no way responsible for these interruptions.

I congratulate the Government particularly our Ministers who are quite energetic. Under their able guidance the power sector had performed well during this year under review, that is, the outgoing year. Although, we have a very serious drought this year, the power generation position is by and large satisfactory. In fact, the hydel power generation has been good. The thermal power generation is all time higher. It is a matter of gratification that plant load factor has risen as high as 56.4 Last year, it was 53 point something. It is a tremendous achievement.

Over and above, one thing is that our Energy Ministry has proved equally to the task and risen to the occasion by energising 2.27 lakh pump sets during a short period from August to November. This is under the drought scheme and there is an achievement of 2.27 lakh pump sets against the target of 1.5 lakh. It is almost double. This shows the keen interest they have taken in the functioning of the Ministry.

By the time we achieved independence, our total power generation was as low as 1700 mega watt. Now, over the years since independence, we have gone beyond 50,000 mega watt. So, it is a tremendous achievement. But with this, there should not be any room for complacency on the part of the Government of India. As you know, half of the country now is facing power shortage. In fact, in answer to a question, the hon. Minister has stated that

overall powers shortage is of the order of 11%. But there are States like Karnataka and Orissa, where there is acute power shortage. The main objective of the 7th Plan in the power sector was to attain self-sufficiency but that is not going to happen. In that way, that purpose is going to be defeated. Of course, there are several constraints—funds constraint, resource constraint etc. But any way, by the end of the 7th Plan, we will be having the Government also admits—power shortage of 10,000 mega watt. Again it would rise to to the tune of 15,000 mega watt by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan. How do you meet this shortage ? That is the question. This is a subject in the concurrent list that we are discussing here. However sincere the Government of India may be, as I have told you, in the Central sector, the total power generation accounts for only 21%. The rest is generated in the power houses run and controlled by the State Governments, State Electricity Boards. Again the work of transmission and distribution is being looked after by the State Electricity Boards. Virtually, there is very little control in the Government of India under the Ministry of Energy, to exercise its power over the work of the State Electricity Board or on the performance in the power sector. As you know, the condition of many of the State Electricity Boards is just miserable and awful. They are in red. They are sustaining about 1100 crores of rupees as loss annually. I am not talking about coal raw. But I am giving a reference about it. There is an alarming proportion of arrears to the tune of more than rupees 1,000 crores which are accumulated against the State Electricity Boards towards payment of coal bills. Such a high arrear of about more than Rs. 1,000 crores is pending. The hon. Minister Shri Vasant Sathé is having his one hand on coal and the other on power. Are the State Electricity Boards amenable to discipline ? What is the level of efficiency ? Is all the concern expressed by us reflected in the working of the Boards ? Every year we are expressing concern here. But does it show any improvement in the functioning of the State Electricity Board ? I have my reservation and doubts. I would like to have an answer from the hon. Minister how they are thinking about it. Rampant

corruption is going on in the functioning of the Boards. For months together, the lines are out of order. There are instances where the mechanics do not turn up to attend to the repairs. I would suggest that there should be a restriction that if there is power failure and power is not supplied to any consumer for a minimum of 20 days in a month and minimum of 16 hours a day, no electricity bill should be given to such consumers. In spite of power failures, they are going out of the way to collect their dues. (*Interruptions*)

I congratulate the Government for their performance on the plant load factor. But it should be further raised to 60%.

T and D loss is something on which our heads hang in shame because it is very unfavourable compared with the PLF obtaining in the developing countries. In Japan it is 3.5%, in West Germany 4.7%, USA 6.6%. In our country, if T and D loss is reduced to 10% and PLF is raised to 60%, I believe, about 7 to 8,000 MW of power could be saved and that would amount to the saving of Rs. 8,000 crores.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
You have to change them.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
This could be done. T and D Programme has to be speeded up and properly mentioned. The Control Electricity Authority has to be tightened up. BHEL is doing good work. It should be brought under the control of the Ministry of Energy ? The nodal Conservation Organisation should be set up. There is a draft laws by the Indian Law Institute for this. If everything is tightend up and all cooperate, about 20% energy could be conserved by proper management of energy.

What is the objection to involve private sector in the power generation programme ? Without power we cannot move an inch. In a developing country, there is always resource constraint. With proper restrictions, with proper safeguards, if the Private Sector is encouraged and involved, there is no harm. While giving new licences to the industrialists, to have the captive power plant for their own purpose

should be made as a pre-condition. At the same time, the big industrial houses, who are talking quite a lot of power when we are facing power shortage, they should be prevailed upon to go in for their own captive power plant. As far as the NRIs are concerned, they should be encouraged.

So far as Orissa is concerned, there is the Talcher Super Thermal Power Plant which of late is going to have World Bank finance. But it is yet to take off. No work has started. It should be expedited. The II Valley Thermal Power Plant in Brajrarnagar in the Sambalpur District of Orissa as well as the Talcher unit falls in my constituency. Orissa is a backward State. We are fighting for the removal of the State's backwardness. Because of power shortage, students cannot read and pump-sets do not work. Due to shortage of power, electricity is not available there. It is very much hardhitting the economic growth of the State. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to give personal attention to these two proposed power projects so that the work can start immediately.

Now I come to Coal. As far as Coal is concerned, I would like to congratulate the Government and the Coal India Limited because they have performed better this year also. They have made record production. At the same time, I would like to mention that they have reached not only the production target but also there is an improvement in productivity in OMS also. In regard to safety measures, housing, sanitation, drinking-water coverage and other welfare measures, there is some good improvement. I would like to point out that when there is more production, there is more loss also. It is a matter of concern. We have to see as to how to increase production and productivity and bring down the production cost. This factor has to be gone into in depth.

Further, the working conditions of our coal mines are not comparable with the Western countries. Of course they can be compared with that of China. There, the OMS is 2.01 Mt. whereas in India, it is only 1.08 Mt. Again, this OMS in underground mining is decreasing and the quality of coal is decreasing. We have to upgrade the quality of coal, improve the quality

of coal and we have to bring down the production cost. These are our problems. By the end of this century, our requirement in coal will be 417 million tonnes. Now, in many of the coal mines, the gestation period is 12 years. Unless all such coal mines start working right now or some of them will be starting shortly—we cannot reach this target. This is our problem. Keeping all these factors in mind, there should be a comprehensive planning. Money should be sanctioned. Projects should be sanctioned. Required funds should be made available. There are certain problems regarding land acquisition. Workers' participation in management should be expedited. I know that the hon. Minister's mind is engaged in this matter. This should be expedited. Let the workers have their own say. Let us involve the workers. Let the Managers be made more accountable. Let there be stability continuity together with accountability as far managerial level is concerned, development status of coal should be a mix of booths underground mining and open cast mining. New people should be brought in. Old people above 45 years should be given an option to retire. There should be some mechanisation. Also, there is the human factor.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
What about Members of Parliament above 45 years of age ?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
You please start yourself resorting to that. You are quite a senior Member..... (*Interruptions*). I am concluding. Before that I would like to say something about the periphery development. Job has to be linked with the land acquisition programme. One has to appreciate and the miseries of the people who are being uprooted for the expansion of coal field Job has to be linked up. Environment pollution is very much there. Please find out social welfare measures and measures for peripheral development will have to be taken with sincerity and seriousness. I now conclude with one request. As in other fields of coal also, Orissa which has huge reserves of coal, remains neglected and ignored. It should be completely streamlined in Orissa immediately.

I wish the Ministry and the energetic

Minister well. It is quite a challenging job, as you know, power holds the key to our economic development. Even the Planning Commission going out of the way, should allot more funds to this Ministry to face the challenge.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is no use repeating the good points that have already been made. It was a wonderful speech.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You realised it after he finished.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I want to say a few words about coal. I feel.....

(Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are very fond of Mr. Jaffar Sharief.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Yes, Sir. It is a very good team under the stewardship of Mr. Sathe. Coal does not seem to be in good shape. I have not collected figures like my friends. I feel the Minister of Energy and his friends, are all energetic people. And Mr. Sathe has already earned laurels for his clarity at the conceptual level. (Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It is a Laurel and Hardy. (Interruptions).

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I want that he should pay his attention to the coal sector. I have the privilege of seeing some coal mines. Certain mines are very weak. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Nowadays we are having Laurel and Hardy here and Marx Brothers on that side. It is all full of humour. (Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I want you to be humorous. But simultaneously you take thing very seriously. I had the privilege

of seeing certain mines. We reached rock bottom. But there was no coal. And the ready answer would be to close down it. But you should not close down mines unless you find employment for the people who are working there. What I expect from you is not close down the mines. What I expect from you is to respond to the situation. Something has to be done. And that something has to be a radical one. You have reached rock bottom. I have lot of sympathy for the labour because most of the time I am left of centre. If the labour force has no job to do they will feel utterly demoralised because they will not be earning the wages. In order to instil in them a sense of making some contribution to the nation-building, we are wasting the labour force. Therefore, I will not mention the names of those mines because you know better, you are an expert by this time. You have an open cast mine which is very good, there you can see how you can exploit coal reserves. In the case of certain mines, you have reached rock bottom. There is no scope of getting coal. Therefore, if you close down and throw the labour force on to the road side, that cannot be accepted. There should be some scheme whereby you will find alternative employment for labour. I wish and that some day, you will come and tell us that such and such mine is closed because there is no coal and you have found solution to the problem of employment.

As my friend was saying, there is a lot of— I will not say corruption because corruption is an all-pervading situation—indiscipline. He was referring to the electricity boards. Some people wanted to convince me that it was a matter of book adjustment. It is a government institution and that is also a government institution. But there is terrible financial indiscipline. It may be Western Coal Fields or Eastern Coal Fields or the holding company, the Coal India keeps records updated. If an electricity board owes money, it should pay within the stipulated period. Otherwise, I have seen so many industries incurring the losses that accumulate over the years. I am not mentioning of a small industry. It has been incurring losses for the last one decade and as of now the losses have accumulated to Rs. 200 crores. But they balance the budget every year. They show how much loss is

there and everybody gets pay and they don't worry about it. Therefore, this financial indiscipline must be eradicated.

The Eastern Coal Fields are in bad shape, so also BCCL. As for J and K State, we don't get good quality of coal. But in Nichama there was some hope Handwara. The Minister has visited J and K States; he takes a lot of interest I offer; greetings for that sentiment. He must know better about Kalaket coal. I want him to satisfy himself whether J and K is deficient in stocks of coal or whether there is any possibility for exploitation. If he satisfies himself and say that J and K has no coal reserves, that will be based on good survey. I will be awaiting his scrutiny of facts when he comes forward with something concrete.

One more word about coal. He was suggesting that he will be requiring 470 million tonnes by the turn of the century and the coal production is very low. Somebody suggested that we should import coal from Australia. But there should be some document from an efficient Minister like him that he feels concerned about coal, coal is not in good shape. Next time we must hear from him or when he replies to this debate whether our dependency about coal reserves, coal exploitation, coal production, loss and the financial indiscipline is a correct picture or not.

About energy I expect Mr. Sathe—because nobody can doubt his conceptual clarity which is very much needed in Ministers who handle such important departments and his capacity to deal with situations—to tell us whether he will organise a national grid or not. The grid is very important because the country is one; in one part there is darkness and in another part there is a lot of electricity and so there is a lot of imbalance. We want Mr. Sathe to organise a *pucca* definite national grid.

In the north where I am concerned with HP and other hilly areas including J and K there should be northern grid. It has to be a viable proposition. As of now, I don't feel it is a viable proposition because we should have sufficient electricity in J and K.

We may be deficient at this moment of time. But if there is a grid, we can benefit from that. Mr. Sathe knows that we don't have even transmitter lines.

Mr. Sathe has been in charge of so many Ministries and he had the time to understand the culture mosaic and the industrial development of various regions. I tell you, we don't have a viable industrial sector. Once I asked a question to the Finance Minister as to what is the share of Jammu and Kashmir in the public sector. He said our share was Rs. 6.7 crores, that is, HMT unit. It comes to 0.07 per cent of the total investment. We have no regrets on that account because essentially big industry may not be required there. We have three resources—water, forests and tourism. In the absence of any big industry in J and K there are sectors which should receive tremendous attention.

We are thankful to the Government of India particularly Prime Minister that during the last one and a half years tourism has received lot of attention and also generation of electricity. But a person like Mr. Sathe should understand that we have the capacity to produce 20000 MW of electricity. Perhaps we are second only to Assam in water resources. We have so far harnessed only 208 MW and the credit for that goes to Sheikh Abdullah in whose eight years period tremendous attention was paid to generation of electricity. Then we came little upward on the map.

Salal has changed the situation but you will give us some electricity from Salal—may be 75 MW—that could meet our requirements. Our biggest problem is that there are no transmission lines. Something should be done to give individual consumers there is Kashmir. About Salal we have some complaint but Mrs. Rohtagi got a chit from her colleague saying that it was within the reasonable time.

“Salal ki ham thodi si bahar dekh len. Uska aap khyal kijiye.”

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I said the leakage was within the reasonable limit.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : There is corruption and sluggishness. Kindly look into that. Make us benefit from Salal.

Then Dulhasti is also sluggish. Uri project has received the attention of Mr. Sathe but I want if you decide at this moment to make people of J and K State very happy you can commit yourself today that within 2 years you will make J and K self-sufficient in electricity. At some point of time we will be exporting electricity but today we except from the Minister that there should be no shut down particularly in Kashmir province which is having cold climate. If there is no electricity there are no facilities. Everyday there is shut down for 3 hours at intervals. That leaves bad taste in the mouth. That makes the whole life miserable. We do not care much of electricity but whatever little quantity is required, I think the hon. Minister can commit himself that within 2 years he will make us self-sufficient. Then you will also be advising other Ministries to create some industry which is pollution free and capital light such as electronics and other industries.

There is one proposal. I have said about Dulhasti and Uri projects. About Uri, I would say that engineers, as are available, and the labour force, as are available in Jammu and Kashmir State, must be employed. We should not get people from other parts of the country. There is lot of unemployment. If you get some junior, engineers they will get promotional steps. They will feel happy. So, you will kindly consider that you will employ those people who are available there.

There is a proposal with you about gas turbine. I think, by this time, it must have been cleared. I don't know but at one point of time, the Chief Minister was very much worried about that. It should be easily done. In this transitional period, that can ease the situation. If it has been cleared, well and good. If it has not been cleared, I will request you, when you reply to the debate, kindly say a word about gas turbine so that electricity shortage in the traditional period will be overcome.

There are smaller units also—one in Ladakh and in other parts of Jammu and Kashmir State. Those projects should also receive attention. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to discuss

a few matters of the context. The matter with regard to Electricity Boards was being discussed just now. I feel disappointed to see rampant corruption in the Electricity Boards. Not even a single State Electricity Board is exception to it. The concerned employees were found to be involved in selling valuable things of the Boards. Assets worth crores of rupees were found when the houses of some officers of Electricity Boards in States were raided. Electricity Boards are not at all bothered about returning the large amount of money payable to the Ministry.

When we talk about Energy here the Central Government is held responsible for various lapses. But this fact is ignored that Electricity Boards have grabbed large amounts of money belonging to the Central Government. The problem cannot be solved merely by blaming the Central Government. I suggest you to make one point programme for the welfare of the public and no leniency should be allowed in removing hurdles whatsoever they may be in implementing it. This House is sovereign, I suggest you to bring all the Electricity Boards under Central Government. The names of Electricity Boards may be changed by calling them as energy Centres and they are brought under the control of the Central Government. In order to achieve this end, a law should be made.

15.37 hrs.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the Chair*]

Even at present, the various departments of Central Government like Railway and the Post Offices are working quite efficiently. With mere bringing of Electricity Boards under the control of Central Government and setting up of a Central grid, a lot of improvement and efficiency will be seen in their working. You do take a bold step like this.

I have emphasised upon the preparation of one point programme for the welfare of people. How shameful it is that we remain a silent spectator to the theft of power being done in the name of transmission loss to the tune of 10 to 20%. We let such things nappen before our own eyes,

for which we have to suffer ultimately. Proper attention must be paid towards this. Anyone trying to create obstacles in the work of public welfare should be dealt with strictly.

Bihar is lagging far behind in the field of Electricity inspite of having better resources. It is not a matter to laugh at people make fun whenever the matter relating to Bihar is raised either in the House or elsewhere. It is not a matter of fun. Bihar is also a part of India and it needs Government assistance. This particular state should not be neglected any cost. There is no scarcity of resources in Bihar. I told earlier in the House that the rivers emanating from Nepal had been causing havoc to Northern Bihar. We have good relations with Nepal at present. We should enter into some sort of agreement with them in order to save Bihar from the fury of the rivers. Through I am aware of the fact that this matter does not come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Energy, but this Ministry also has some responsibility. Think so. We may enter into an agreement with Nepal under which rivers of Nepal could be harnessed. Power so generated by constructing dams on the rivers in Nepal will help to bring prosperity not only in Nepal but also in Northern parts of India. I made a mention to it the Prime Minister also. He raised this issue in the SAARC conference and also talked to the Maharaja of Nepal. But I want that the matter should be further pursued.

Bihar is a very rich in coal deposits. But the people of Bihar are supplied coal at very high rates, though it is costly in other parts of the country also. Sufficient quantity of coal is not supplied to the power houses in Bihar. I praise Shri Jaffer Shareef for giving an assurance to take action against Mafia. Shri Vasant Sathe have also given the same assurance. In fact, actions are being taken against them for the last few months, but it requires to be further accelerated with the joint efforts of the Centre and States. A handful of people should not be allowed to create troubles in this regard. Shri Sathe has rightly stated that the serious view is to be taken against such activities

which are taking the country to dogs. You are very well aware of the prices of Steel prevailing in Japan and Korea. We have to see our selves as to where we stand in the export market. Labourers on the other hand, should not be deprived of their rightful claims.

It is observed that member of a family who joins an Organised sector enjoys a good salary while the other who continues to be in a village finds it difficult even to make his both ends meet, and this is not justified. I am in favour of the economic development of the whole country. If at all there is need of creating trade unionism, it should be healthy trade unionism and their representatives should also be elected by secret ballot. You have chosen a wise method. (*Interruptions*) I was saying that it was quite appreciating that workers participation in Management was being ensured. But this participation should be from the lowest level to the highest level and it should not be like that a man after obtaining the signature of 10 to 20 thousand persons with the help of muscle power, claims himself to be a representative, whatever decisions are taken, they should be taken through secret ballot only. Only then, people participation in real sense will be ensured.

A number of major coal mines of Bihar have been under fire for many years. Though Government has made efforts to extinguish it, but it has not been able to bring satisfactory result. In this way, our precious national wealth is being destroyed. Every possible attempt should be made to extinguish the fire of these mines. A huge open cost mine has been found in Ialmatia in Raj Mahal in Bihar. But it is not being exploited fully. It is most unfortunate that Mafia has been able to spread their drag-net at that place also. I happened to know from your report that the coal field of Raj Mahal could not be properly exploited because NTPC did not take coal in the required quantities. Both of these department are under your jurisdiction, be it coal field of Raj Mahal, or Farakka or Kahalgaon projects of NTPC, they come under your jurisdiction. They should be coordinated. The pace of the development of thermal power plant in Kehalgaon is also very slow. As the

local people are pinning high from this thermal power plant, it should be developed speedily.

I would like to make one more point. Coal India has acquired big machines. But a proper planning has not been mooted of these machines to make use. The hon. Minister is requested to say something about this also in his reply. When I visited Dhanbad, I was told that the machines bought many years ago have not at all been utilized. But they have caused increase in the cost of production, because expenditure incurred on machines is included in the cost of production. Proper Planning should be made. Machines should be bought only when they are absolutely required because our emphasis should be to reduce the price of coal to the extent possible. The economy of this country depends entirely on coal. Power is generated by coal and power will enable to bring industrialization. So the immediate requirement is to reduce the price of coal as much as possible, but certainly not at the cost of profit.

I have seen the annual report of the Ministry and from this it appears that the Government is considering for setting up mini Hydel Projects. In this regard, I would like to submit that there are many small rivers in South Bihar on which the mini Hydel Projects can be set up and the power can also be generated from these projects.

The emphasis on the non-conventional sources of energy has been given for the last several years by Shri Vasant Sathe and this is a remarkable thing but unfortunately, its benefits could not reach to the villages. Generally, the rural people do not know any thing about these programmes. May be the people of only two or three villages know about this but the inhabitants of North Bihar know nothing about this. Shri D.P. Yadav has contributed a lot in this regard. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister that the Government should pay its maximum attention for educating public about non-conventional sources of energy and should also create a modern village in every district so that the people may get knowledge about the non-conventional energy.

At last, I would like to say one thing. (*Interruptions*) ... There is no shortage of Uranium in Bihar. Uranium is the main raw material for generation of Nuclear Power and Bihar is the only State where Uranium is found in abundance but till now not even a single Nuclear Power Plant has been set up in Bihar. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to set up at least two Nuclear Power Plants so that we may say with proud at the time of discussion on Energy Ministry next year that the whole of the Bihar has been electrified and lighted.

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakonam): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I wish to say a few words in support of the demands for grants moved by the Hon. Minister of Energy.

Severe drought conditions prevailed in Tamil Nadu last year which affected the power production in the State. Despite this, due to the sustained hard work of our farmers, they were able to maintain the food production at an appreciable level. This hardwork of our farmers, I hope, would move the Hon. Minister to set up more power plants in the State for increasing the power production.

Monsoons have continuously failed in the State. Even this year there is no hope of receiving rainfall. So far there is no rain. Therefore, there is no hope of producing power through Jaldhara scheme. We must pay attention to other sources of production. Atomic and thermal power production should be encouraged and steps must be taken to produce atomic and thermal power in the State.

For the past 20 years, dravidian parties ruled the State. The two dravidian parties which ruled the State did not draw any basic plan for increasing power production in the State. (*Interruptions*)

I know. Yes, Yes, I know. I was in power. I know.

* Translate of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI : (Modras Central) Just listen to me. During the period of Dr. Kalaingar only all the villages were electrified. Power connections were given to all the pumsets.

He should not give any wrong information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Sit down.

[Translation]

* SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : That time also, Dr. When the dravidian parties were in power, no basic plan was drawn for power production in the State.

I would like to remind them one thing. Hon. Kalaingar was then the Chief Minister. Hon. MGR was in a separate party. At that time, MGR toured the districts of Tamil Nadu and came to know that the farmers were not being provided electricity in the requisite quantities. He, therefore, mobilised the farmers to start an agitation against the Government. Hon. Dr. Kalanidhi should know this. If farmers would have been provided with adequate electricity, MGR would not have started an agitation at all.

[English]

DR. KALANIDHI : No, no. He is giving wrong information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When your turn comes, you may speak. This is not the way. Please take your seat.

DR. KALANIDHI : He is giving wrong information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When your turn comes, you reply to him.

[Translation]

* SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Therefore, Sir, a specific plan for increasing

power production in the State is necessary. Hon. member is getting agitated.

Over the past 20 years when the dravidian parties were in power, Tamil Nadu had gone backward in industrial development. When the President Hon. R. Venkataraman was the Industries Minister in the State, Tamil Nadu stood fourth in industrial development.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Please take your seat. He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

DR. A. KALANIDHI : During the period of Shri, R. Venkataraman, Tamil Nadu was in the 4th position in industrial development. During DMK rule it was elevated to the 3rd position. Now the Hon. Minister of State for Home says, during the President's rule, the State has gone to 19th position.

[Translation]

* SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Over the past 20 years, Tamil Nadu had not achieved any progress in industrial development. (Interruptions)

I know. I was there. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. When your turn comes, you reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He may not speak what you like. He will put his own views. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

* SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : During the rule of dravidian parties, Tamil Nadu had been relegated to 16th position as far as industrial development is concerned.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI : That is not rect, Sir.

[Translation]

* SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Power sector was not managed properly. It had been managed properly, Tamil Nadu would not have gone backward this

Not only this. During the time of Dravidian parties' rule, mass recruitments were made to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. There were many malpractices in the recruitment and selection process. Corruption reigned from many defects. Corruption was rampant in the recruitment process. There were serious complaints. The panels drawn up are still there. This was the condition when Dravidian parties were in rule. Now there is President's rule.

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI : You rode on the back of us, in 1980 on DMK and in 1984 on AIADMK. If corruption was there during MGR's time, then is corruption a criterion for crowning him with Bharat Ratna ?

[Translation]

* SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : I must refer to the past things. Then only come to things which exist now.

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI : You conferred Bharat Ratna on MGR. Why did you confer Bharat Ratna on MGR ?

[Translation]

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : At the time of this President's rule power distribution must be increased and distributed to the farmers and others in a proper manner. (Interruptions).

Sri Lanka ? Next. Today or tomorrow.

During the rule of the Dravidian parties, the electricity charge for domestic use was increased to 55P from 20P or so when Congress was in power, when Shri Kamraj was the Chief Minister. For small industries, the electricity charge during Congress rule was only 40P. and now it is Re. 1 per unit. The Minister may kindly take a note of this. I, therefore, request the Minister to take steps to reduce electricity charges particularly in the case of small industrialists, traders and handloom workers.

For the past 20 years when the Dravidian parties were in rule, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board had been incurring losses. An expert Committee must be constituted to go into the whole question,

(Interruptions)

[English]

Everything is true, Dr. Why do you get agitated ?

DR. A. KALANIDHI : Nothing is true. You are misleading the House.

* SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : The quality of bulbs available in the market is far from satisfactory. An expert committee must be set up to specify standards for these bulbs. After 4 or 5 days of use, these bulbs go out of order, particularly, the tube lights. Poor people are affected by this. I therefore, request that these manufacturing defects must be removed and a seal in token of having conformed to the approved standard must be affixed before these bulbs arrive in the market.

Next is about the workers in the electricity department. The Dravidian parties which ruled the State for 20 years did not regularise the services of many workers who are still working on temporary basis.

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI : If you go on regularly referring to the Dravidian parties' rule, I will go on interrupting.

(Interruptions)

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is anything unparliamentary, it will be removed. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

* SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Government must look into this matter. Steps must be taken to regularise their services. The President's rule is no party's rule. That's why I am making this request. If they had served for 2 or 3 years, their services should be made permanent. There is a bad practice of terminating their services after every 45 days and reemploying them so as to deprive them of their claim for regularisation of their services. Hon. Minister may please examine this and take suitable steps.

Sir, one more minute.

Let me say a few words about coal. In Tamil Nadu, second mine has been commissioned in Neyveli by the Hon. Minister 2 or 3 days back. Survey should be undertaken to find out fresh collieries in the State.

16.00 hrs.

The dravidian parties were persistently demanding that coal may be allowed to be imported from foreign countries particularly from Australia.

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI : The Government of India has imported 3000 tonnes of coal for SAIL. There is nothing wrong in importing coal from Australia for thermal power production in Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interrupting every time ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : No Government should be allowed to make such a demand and even if such a demand is made, permission should not be granted. There is plenty of coal in India. That

should be harnessed. Permission in should no case be granted for import of coal from foreign countries.

There was a proposal when the dravidian parties were in power for entrusting thermal power production to private entrepreneurs. I do not know whether that proposal came to the Central Government. I had even mentioned about this in my last speech. Thermal power production should not be entrusted to private parties. Hon. Minister may please take this into account.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you conclude. You take your seat.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : One or two minutes. There are certain more demands.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you take your seat.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Next is about overbilling. If payments are made after due date, connections are cut. For restoring the connection, consumers have to pay a panel fee. I do not think this is correct. The whole system of billing and collection of electricity charges needs review.

16.03 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : SRI LANKA

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : Government have seen newspaper reports about

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.