

12.10 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[*English*]

Situation arising out of reported acute power shortage in various parts of the country

MR. SPEAKER : Shri V.S. Krishna Iyer. Calling Attention.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : I call the attention of the Minister of Energy to the following matter of urgent public important and request that he may make a statement thereon :—

“Situation arising out of the reported acute power shortage in various parts of the country and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto.”

12.12 hrs.

[**SHRI SHARAD DIGHE** *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Sir, I share the concern of the Hon'ble Members about the power shortage in the country. The present power shortage is mainly on account of the demand for power outstripping the generation and reduced hydel generation due to low reservoir levels.

In the Southern region, the shortage in States such as Karnataka and Kerala mainly due to low hydel generation. In the Northern and Eastern regions, the shortage in States such as Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa was largely on account of the unsatisfactory performance of their thermal stations.

The power shortage has to be viewed in the context of our economic growth since independence. The installed capacity in the country in 1950 was only about 1700 MW. The total generating capacity in utilities is now over 47,000 MW. We have achieved a growth of about 5% in each successive Five Year Plan in the installed capacity and our objective is to achieve an installed capacity of over 1.25 lakh MW by the end of the century i.e. nearly 3 times the present capacity. The present per capita consumption of electricity in one country still is about 170 units and a massive investment effort

would be required to reach the level of per capita consumption of energy in some of the developed countries which is over 10,000 units.

The Working Group on Power had recommended a capacity addition of about 30,000 MW during the Seventh Five Year Plan to meet the power demand. The capacity addition approved for the Seventh Plan was, however, 22,245 MW, primarily because of the constraint of resources. The gap between demand and supply by the end of Seventh Plan has been assessed at about 10,000 MW. To meet this gap, short gestation gas based power stations with a total capacity of over 2000 MW are being set up. In addition it is proposed to avail bilateral offers of assistance for setting up thermal and hydel projects. Private participation in the power generation is also welcome if such proposals bring additionality of funds. Captive power plants are also being allowed to be set up to augment power availability.

Hon'ble Members are aware that at present about 84% of the total power in the country is being generated in the State sector and about 16% is generated in the Central sector. The Power stations in the Central sector have continued to perform at a high level of efficiency. The plant load factor achieved by the Super Thermal Stations of NTPC and the Stations of NLC during April-October 1986 was about 75% and 73% respectively. In the State sector during April-October 1986 some of the States such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Delhi had a plant Load factor of over 60%. However, States such as Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and Assam continued to have a plant load factor below 40%.

Out of the total power generated in the country about 18% is supplied to the agricultural sector. In view of its vital importance, the States are according a high priority to the agricultural sector in the supply of power so that the minimum requirements of farmers can be met. States such as Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka have imposed no restrictions in power consumption by the agricultural sector. The supply to the agricultural sector in other States varied from 5½ hrs. to 22 hrs. per day.

[*Sh. Vasant Sathe*]

About 57% of the power generated in the country is consumed by industries and the States have been meeting the requirement of the industrial sector to the extent possible, depending upon the availability of power. A higher priority is accorded to the core sector industries such as aluminium, coal steel and fertiliser.

In 1980-81 the generation was 110 billion units which has increased to 170 billion units in 1985-86 registering an aggregate increase of about 53%. In 1985-86 the increase was 8.6% over the previous year, In 1986-87 we intend to achieve an increase of about 12%.

A number of measures are being taken to improve the availability of power. We have so far added over 5000 MW of new generating capacity in the Seventh Plan period. For optimum utilisation of existing thermal capacity, a Centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation programme has been initiated with a Central component of Rs. 500 crores. The States have also been asked to take stringent measures to reduce their transmission and distribution losses. Hon'ble Members are aware that the Indian Electricity Act has been amended to make the theft of energy a cognizable offence. For reducing technical losses, capacitors are being installed and extra high voltage lines being constructed which will ultimately lead to the formation of the National Grid. Power conserved is power produced, and energy conservation and demand management measures are also being accorded a high priority. Simultaneously, the development of micro, mini and small hydel power stations is being encouraged and States can now implement on their own, schemes costing upto Rs. 5 crores.

For the vast majority of our people who live in villages in rural areas the biggest immediate need for energy is for domestic purposes, primarily for cooking, where energy is required in the form of heat. Supply of electricity for cooking purposes would be prohibitive both for the individuals in the rural areas and for the nation. Locally available non-conventional energy source could provide the best solution.

Major programme have therefore been mounted in respect of biogas, improved smokeless chulhas and energy plantations. These are already beginning to make an impact in providing clean fuel, saving wood and reducing the destruction of our forests and improving the environment. Within a short space of 2½ to 3 years the biogas plants and improved chulhas have spread to all parts of the country and are already saving 4 million tonnes of wood equivalent per year valued at over Rs. 140 crores per year and production of fertilizer worth Rs. 85 crores per year. This takes into account the actual percentage of success in these plants, which has now reached high overall value for the nation, even though there are differences in performances from area to area. Non-conventional energy source have also started supplying the small power needs of villages as well as the heat energy requirements through solar, biomass and wind sources. The concept of Urjagrams i.e. energy sufficient villages where all the energy requirements of the village could be supplied from locally available renewable sources, has been initiated. Solar energy systems are already producing heat energy of about 200 million units per year, which is also beginning to save power. The non-conventional energy sources have potential for increasingly meeting energy requirements, particularly in the rural areas in a way which preserves the environment and improves the quality of life. Developments in these technologies have now also made it possible to consider supplying increasing amounts of electric power from biomass, wind, solar and small hydro energy sources. A perspective plan has been drawn up according to which, by the turn of the century 15,000 MW of power could be supplied from these sources, if adequate investments are made in this area. Decentralised smaller size power generation from such sources would also help to reduce transmission losses, and to bring up capacity quickly since the gestation period for power from non-conventional energy sources is relatively very small.

Hon'ble Members would appreciate that within the overall constraint of resources, a number of measures are being taken to improve the availability of power. However, some States are still facing power shortages and concerted efforts are being

made to reduce these shortages. I may assure the House that no effort will be spared to assist the States in all possible ways to meet their power requirements to the maximum extent possible.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Mr. Chairman, Sir, during every session we discuss about the power crisis in our country, particularly in some States. When we read the statement of the hon. Minister not only now but even previously, even his reply to the demands for grants for the Energy Ministry, he gives us a lot of hope. But unfortunately, I would like to mention here that the position in some of the States is going from bad to worse. The hon. Minister assured us during the last Session that he would call for a meeting of the Energy Ministers and take steps to see that the Plant Load Factor is improved. At the same time he stated then— if I remember correct — that if one per cent of PLF is increased, the country is saving Rs. 500 crores. I think the figure is here. But now I see that the PLF in the case of Central Sector—whether it is thermal plant or otherwise—is 73 to 75 per cent. But in the case of State sector it is very dismal, it is less than 40 per cent and not more than that. What steps has the hon. Minister taken to see that the power plant load factor is improved in the State sector also. It is a better investment here than having fresh plants. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about this, because I see from the statement that there has been absolutely no improvement as far as the PLF is concerned. He also promised at that time that he will take steps to re-organise or re-structure the Electricity Boards. Our State Electricity Boards are in a very bad shape. There is inefficiency and corruption. If I am correct, the hon. Minister himself stated that the accumulated loss in the Sixth Plan Period by the various Electricity Boards is of the order of more than Rs. 4000 crores. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government of India has taken to see that the State Electricity Boards function effectively.

The hon. Minister has now stated that he has added 5000 mw during the Seventh Plan Period, so far. But I would like to know from the Hon. Minister one clarification because he should not be merely making

a jugglery of figures. The demand for the Energy Ministry—if I am correct—was Rs. 67000 crores. But they have been given only Rs. 34000 crores. How is he going to fill up the gap? He has said that he is able to generate power to the extent of 15000 mw by way of non-conventional energy. I welcome it. It is very important. Our rural people in India who are living in villages should also have the same comforts as that of the urban people. But then, what is the amount you have provided for that? You have not stated that in your reply here. You have stated that 15000 MW electricity could be generated. What is the amount you have provided for? If I remember, hardly Rs. 150-200 crores have been provided for non-conventional energy. What is the money provided for non-conventional energy? What amount you are going to spend?

I want a categorical answer from the Hon. Minister as to how is he going to improve the state sector. We know very well that the centre produces only 16⁰/₁₀₀ of the energy that is produced in the country and the rest is coming from the states. Every year it is going on, but the position has not improved. I want to know categorically from the Hon. Minister as to what steps he is going to take to see that the PLF is improved in the state sector and also to see that the restructuring of the State Electricity Boards in the country is effected.

I will now come to my own State—Karnataka. You know that we have to depend upon the hydel power, i.e., we have to depend upon the vagaries of the monsoon. In Karnataka, as the Hon. Minister is very well aware, power-cut has been there to the extent of 80 to 85% even during this year. For the past four years there were no rains. This year, fortunately there were rains; but the catchment area of the hydel projects did not have rains and the position remains the same as it was last year. We are depending purely on the hydel projects. Therefore, the Karnataka Government decided to approach the Centre to take up some projects which have short gestation periods.

I would like to mention the projects which are pending for the last two or three years in the Ministry of Energy and other Ministries in the Government of India.

[*Sh. V.S. Krishna Iyar*]

First of all, I come to the 120 MW Gas Turbine Plant to be installed in Bangalore. Bangalore is a prestigious city which has now become internationally famous also. The Central Government has got so much interest in Bangalore. Bangalore problem is a national problem in so far as power is concerned because most of the sophisticated industries and the strategic industries like Defence, Railways, HAL, BEL, HMT, ITI, all big industries are located in Bangalore.

For the past two years our Chief Minister has written [not less than 50 or 60 letters to the Energy Minister and an equal number of letters to the Prime Minister. Generally, when he writes a letter, he sends a copy to all the MPs of Karnataka. Unfortunately, Government of India has not cleared anything. The Hon. Minister says in his statement that he is prepared to encourage the private sector. He says that upto 25 MW they can go ahead. But when the State Government which is facing power crisis approaches the Centre, what is the treatment given to them? I know what you have cleared. The Ministry of Energy has cleared that, but the Ministry of Petroleum says that they are prepared to clear it provided the Finance Ministry gives the foreign exchange. One Ministry is passing on the buck to another Ministry. The Government has a joint responsibility, they should take action. For two years it is bogged down and not given clearance. By this time this plant could have been installed. Who is funding the plant? It is the industry that will provide the funds. The same public sector industries like HAL, HMT are providing funds. The planned funds will not be utilised for this. Even then, till this moment that is not cleared. So, I want to have a categorical reply from the Hon. Minister for this. You must see that the clearance is given to the 120 MW Gas Turbine Plant to be installed in Bangalore. I would, at the same time, like to tell the Hon. Minister that if he gives permission for the plant, the foreign exchange earned will be more than the foreign exchange spent for the oil that he is going to supply. Industrial production will increase by Rs. 500 crores. You have to spend Rs. 80 crores only on foreign

exchange. It is all export oriented industries. Most of the Defence industries are also there. So, I would request the Hon. Minister to come out with a statement today to see that clearance is given to the 120 MW GTP.

Karnataka Government has also sent proposals for installation of 33 MW Diesel Generating Stations in four rural areas. We have spoken so much on rural areas. You have devoted most of your speech for the rural areas. We welcome it because we know that it is our duty to see that rural agricultural power should be given. The Karnataka Government and so many other State Governments have given full quota or agricultural demand. We want to improve the power supply there and also to have a control over the voltage drop. We have asked for four diesel generating stations in four rural parts i.e., Kolar, Bidar, Indi and Jamkhandi. Even that is hanging fire for the last two years. Sir, the Karnataka Government has proposed to import from Japan four generators because they are 50 per cent cheaper over there. No doubt we want to encourage indigenous industry but Japan is prepared to supply it immediately and at less cost. So I request the Central Government to give permission for import of 4 generators from Japan and also ensure supply of oil required for the purpose.

Sir, it was announced on the Floor of the House by the then Energy Minister that during the Sixth Plan period a 250 MW multi-fuel power plant will be set-up at Mangalore. I am told the Planning Commission has not given its clearance as yet. So necessary steps should be taken because in Karnataka deficiency of power is to the extent of 25-30 per cent. I request the hon. Minister to get it cleared soon.

There are two-three more proposals sent by the Karnataka Government which are still pending. They are : Third and Fourth units of Raichur thermal plant. It should also be cleared early. Then 2×16 MW generating units for Ghataprabha hydel project ; Shravati Race hydro-electric project and finally Katla and Palna diversion scheme to Kalindi basin. These are the projects which are pending in your Ministry for the last two years. I request thy

Government to clear these projects. Further, Sir, Karnataka Power Corporation has been approaching the Central Government for permission to issue bonds but unfortunately you have not so far given that permission. When you have given permission to NTC and ITI to issue bonds then Karnataka Power Corporation should also be given clearance on that account. I request the Minister to use his good offices in this regard.

Sir, the hon. Minister had said by the end of the Seventh Plan they will be increasing the per capita consumption of energy. I am sorry to say that per capita consumption of power in the most progressive State of Karnataka is the lowest. It is about 150 units. At one time Karnataka was the pioneer in this field. The first hydro-electric project was set-up there. So, I request the hon. Minister to see that the proposals sent by Karnataka Government are given clearance. They are short-gestation proposals and, therefore, must be cleared immediately.

We are happy that we are getting a nuclear plant. That is the first Central investment in Karnataka. But what is its gestation period? It will take five to six years and in the meantime we will be losing crores of rupees. We request the hon. Minister to clear these projects. I hope the hon. Minister will do something, so that there is no need of having such a discussion in the next Session.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for his long and sermon-like speech. I used the word 'sermon-like', because his reply clearly reflects the helplessness of his Ministry. It does not tell us as to what concrete steps are being taken to fill the present power generation gap. You have talked of setting up some captive power plants in the country but it does not clearly indicate what proposals you have to remove the shortfall of power generation during the Seventh Five Year Plan and as to what type of cooperation you expect from the private sector? It also does not make it clear as to what concrete steps you are going to take to remove the power shortage for the farmers and industries established in

priority sector? A first I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards his statement. He has repeated those very things in his present statement which he had mentioned in the statement he had given on this subject in the last session. It appears that the duty of the Members is to draw your attention towards, the power shortage and your duty is merely to repeat whatever you had said in your statement given in the last session. Actually you should have laid the progress report of the different projects on the table of the House so that we might have been in a position to tell the country about them. You should have informed us about steps your Ministry is taking to remove the shortfall in power generation. There is power shortage in all parts of the country, somewhere less, somewhere more. There is shortage of power in Andhra but it is more acute in Karnataka. We always ask you a question as to what action you have taken to set up the National Grid and Regional Grid and what is the progress in this direction and the hon. Minister always says that a conference of the Ministers of Energy of all the States is being convened and it will be discussed there so that effective steps may be taken to remove the power shortage in the country. The hon. Minister has repeated the same thing today also. I request you to state clearly when a policy decision to create Regional Grid and National Grid will be taken and in how much time it will be implemented? The Thermal Power Plants in the Central Sector are working satisfactorily and they have considerably improved their working but the condition of the Thermal Power Plants of the States is a quite deplorable. Many States, such as Uttar Pradesh, have demanded Central assistance to improve the working of their Thermal Power Plants and to strengthen their infrastructure. Some other States also might have asked for assistance. Therefore, I request you to provide adequate assistance to the States to strengthen the infrastructure of the Thermal Power Plants. The State Electricity Boards have been running at a loss for quite a long time and corruption and mismanagement have become known phenomena there. The loan granted by the Centre to the States under REC is utilised by the State Electricity Boards on the salaries of their staff or to cover their

[*Sh. Harish Rawat*]

losses. That is why the rural electrification work is lagging behind and progressing very slowly. I know the examples of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal where the rural electrification work has been lagging far behind as compared to other States. The State Electricity Boards are totally responsible for it. You should try to improve the functioning of these Electricity Boards in consultation with the Energy Ministers of the States. You should formulate a long term scheme so that an overall improvement is brought in the deteriorating functioning of the Electricity Boards. I think the work that transmission losses has become a civilised name for power pilferage. Under your very nose, the transmission losses in DESU are as high as 21 or 22 percent. If we succeed in reducing these losses even by one per cent, it will benefit the country to the tune of crores of rupees. Similar conditions prevail in other States also. In some States this transmission loss is even upto 25 to 30 per cent which is causing loss of billions of rupees every year. I request you to formulate a definite plan to reduce this transmission loss. If you have outline of such a plan in your mind, please tell us about it. There is much talk about the alternative sources of energy but in this direction work is not being done in a planned manner to the desired extent. You are not getting cooperation from the State Governments. You should, therefore, formulate a clear cut policy in this regard also. I would request the hon. Minister that his future statement must reflect some improvement over the earlier or the present statements. The industries and farmers should not face any difficulty in getting power. Now-a-days the power is supplied to the farmer during night which causes them heavy losses and wastage of time as well. You should tell us as to what steps you are taking to ensure 24 hour power supply to the farmers, specially during sowing season.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present we are discussing power here. The prosperity of any country can be assessed from its power generation and the investment made thereon. All the industries run with electricity and it is very necessary for agriculture also. It is a very important matter. I would like to

make it clear that the position of electricity supply in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal is really deplorable. I would like to draw your attention towards those districts of Uttar Pradesh which have been declared as drought affected areas by the State Government. There are so many districts such as Ballia, Jaunpur, Varanasi, Azamgarh, Gazipur, Mainpuri etc. where there is shortage of electricity. It is the sowing season these days and the farmers are looking to their tubewells and canals for water to irrigate their fields in order to make your green revolution a success. On the one hand, there is strike in the State and on the other hand, there is power cut. How then can they work? Even if the farmers go to their fields at 11 or 12 at night there is no guarantee that they will be getting the power supply. Therefore, special attention should be paid towards it. I got an opportunity to visit Ranchi in Bihar. The Government has opened an R and D. Centre there, it is equipped with computers on which crores of rupees have been invested. It is designed to indicate the availability of power. But all the equipments are lying idle there as they fail to provide this information. I went to another district of Bihar, namely, Buxar. There also no electricity was available.

The State Electricity Board of Uttar Pradesh is so useless that the loss said the better. It asks the farmers to make advance deposit with this it and promises to supply electricity on subsidised rates. Being a student of Law, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Energy under what law they are supplying electricity on contract basis. That too they are not supplying properly. It is all due to the inefficiency of the Electricity Board. The officials are corrupt and the farmers have to grease their palms. The fault is yours and the farmers are penalised for that. Have you ever seen or heard of such a contract in this world? Is there any one sided contract? The hon. Minister should give a proper reply to it as to whether it is legally correct?

Secondly, I would like to say that in 1978 I had written a letter, which was replied is as follows.

[*English*]

“Regarding the installation of 2×210 MW Dohrighat Thermal Power Station in

distt. Azamgarh, it is to mention as below :—

The project report of 2 × 210 MW Dohrihat TPS in distt. Azamgarh was submitted to Central Electricity Authority, New Delhi, in May, 1978, for techno-economic clearance. The project report was, however, returned by CEA, as the coal could not be available for the Project before 1989-90."

[*Translation*]

Among the Thermal Power Stations undertaken by the State Electricity Board, I am mentioning Unchahar to which Jaipur and Agra are being linked. Here coal is available upto 1989. In such a situation clearance should have been given to this project. Here I would like to refer specifically to Dohrihat Thermal Power Station besides other projects of Uttar Pradesh. In case coal is made available for it by 1990, will it be included in next Five Year Plan. Shri Vasant Sathe had stated in his reply in this House that he would write to the Uttar Pradesh Government that Dohrihat Thermal Power Station was a very important project and should be undertaken for the upliftment of the backward area. We had approached Shri Arif Mohammad Khan also, when he was a Minister. He had told us that he had already written a letter in this connection but he was helpless as no action was being taken thereon. I think it is a matter of great concern if the Central Government expresses its helplessness and the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board acts in an arbitrary. The hon. Minister should pay attention towards it.

So far as the question of power generation is concerned, major part of it has to be generated by the States. The Centre has also its involvement in it. There is steep fall in the power generation in the public sector. I would like to draw your attention towards Uttar Pradesh. In Mirzapur, Birla has his own Hydro Electric Station in which more power than its target is generated but in the public sector the percentage is quite low. We have been drawing the attention of the Uttar Pradesh Government and the Central Government towards it for decades. What have you done for this during the last 10 to 20 years? The hon. Minister should pay attention towards it.

The hon. Minister has made a statement on the captive power plants. I would like to know what is the special plan? The issue of setting up a National Grid has come up several times in this House. When a learned person like our hon. Minister is the head of the Department, what is the difficulty then? Immediate arrangements should be made to provide electricity to those States where there is shortage of power.

At present the position of electricity in Uttar Pradesh is critical. Eastern and Northern parts of the State are affected by drought and the State Government Employees are on strike. People are not getting any electricity supply. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what alternative arrangement is being made for the farmers so that they may complete the sowing operation. I think it is necessary for the Government to give maximum priority of this work.

So far as the question of power supply is concerned, it is important for the rural areas as well as for the urban areas. You have agreed in principle to provide electricity to the rural areas and electric poles have been erected but the work is lying incomplete somewhere for want of wire and somewhere for want of transformers or staff. As a result, either there has been no progress in the rural electrification or it is quite less. The electric poles there are of no use to the villagers. Domestic connections too are negligible. Electricity is not supplied even during Diwali, Holi or Dussehra festivals. Such carelessness is prevailing in Uttar Pradesh. I would like the hon. Minister to give precise reply and assure the House that the Government is going to take effective steps in this direction.

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am thankful to the hon. Members. To the hon. Member from Karnataka, I would like to say that I have myself been having a series of meetings with the Chief Minister, and the Energy Minister of Karnataka. I am aware of the problem of shortages in Karnataka. About what is natural, i.e. due to shortage of monsoon and the hydel reservoir plant being filled, we cannot do much, but we are

[*Sh. Vasant Sathe*]

trying to assist in commissioning some thermal projects, so that Karnataka is helped.

The projects which have been already commissioned in 1985-86 have been: Kalinadi 50 MW, Kalinadi II 50 MW and Raichur Unit II 21 MW. I may inform the hon. Member that Raichur Unit-III of 210 MW has also been sanctioned by Planning Commission. However, the Karnataka Power Corporation has not been able to place orders for the main plant and equipment so far, probably due to shortage of funds. So, funds are a constraint, whether it is the State or the Centre. This is a well known fact ; but as far as we are concerned, we do not delay clearing of the projects at least, so that as soon as resources are available from any quarter, you can go ahead with the project.

As far as the programme for on going projects in Karnataka is concerned, there is a list of projects—I will pass it on to my hon. friend—but Ghataprabha, Gangawali, Raichur III, Kalinadi Extension, Shivpur, Malappur, Sirwar—all these projects are already included ; and we have also cleared from CEA, the Sharavathi 4×60, Maddur gas turbines 4×30 i.e. the gas turbines which you were talking about, we have cleared from CEA. (*Interruptions*). But again, it is a question not only of finance. You need this help. It is the Ministry of Petroleum which has to find the diesel for the diesel generating set ; and it is natural because whatever diesel is produced is already tied up. If additionality is desired, then they are willing to import ; but they say : 'Please make foreign exchange available.'

About Karnataka's proposal, I may inform the hon. Member that we have prepared a note, and decided to take the matter to the Cabinet for approval, of not only these four projects, but also the gas turbine project of 120 MW.

As far as my Ministry is concerned, we are very keen, and we will do our best to help setting up of projects in Karnataka.

As far as the Mangalore thermal power station is concerned, the main problem is linkage of coal, because there is no nearby region, from which you can get coal ; and it has to be brought all the way via sea or be imported. These are the matters which require to be considered from the economic feasibility point of view. Again, the question of resources also will come up. But in principle, we have accepted the idea. We have to see whether all the things required, will be available.

As far as the rural areas are concerned, in spite of the shortages, I am glad to say that Karnataka is one of the States which is supplying full electricity to rural areas—twenty four hours.

It does hurt the industrial sector; but for industrial sector, as I said, we have to have a plan of setting up capital power stations and other short gestation period stations. So, this is about the specific question raised about Karnataka. To general questions, I will come later. First, may I take up the specific points raised by members in the House.

Shri Harish Rawat, apart from perfracing his remarks, which normally he does by saying that government is not performing properly and repeat his replies, etc. to that all also I will come later, but I would like to say that we do not do that. In my statement itself I have mentioned the improvement we have made in the last year, not only last year but in the last four years also. I have given details to which I will come later. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the hon. members Shri Rai and Shri Harish Rawat were anxious to ask something. I may say that even in Uttar Pradesh, from the central sector, apart from what he himself said how the power generation in Uttar Pradesh is, with all the efforts that are being made and with all the agitations which are there, which we hear from time to time, stopping the power production, which has stagnated virtually, although there is some small increase, if that satisfies him, in Uttar Pradesh—if I may take the lean period—in 1984-85, PLF has gone down to 31.6 per cent. Now in 1985-86, they increased it to 37.3 per cent ; and upto

October, this year, it has been 37.6 per cent. But my colleague who also comes from UP is very keen in its development ; he had a special meeting of Uttar Pradesh Energy Minister, Power Minister and also all our officials sat with him and the Chief Minister to see how plant by plant in Uttar Pradesh, plant load factor can be improved. Whatever assistance, we can give, we are willing to do ; and in this meeting, they had assured us that they will try to improve plant load factor this year and bring it at least to average of the north region 45 PLF.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Whatever we have asked for, you at least give that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : That assistance we are giving.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : We want you to be more specific.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : An allegation was made that we are not being fair to Uttar Pradesh, but that is not fair to say so. I would like the hon. member to see that the share from Singrauli — this is the main station and it is wrong to say as my hon. friend and colleague, Shri Rai said, that the NTPC stations are not performing well ; private stations are doing well ; it is not true ; NTPC stations are performing extremely well ; and the record average comes to about 75 per cent, this takes into account the outages and the maintenance and other things : it means there is a good performance by any standard. The share of Uttar Pradesh from central power station, as you are well aware, the States have their shares ; the State in which the project is and other regional States also have their shares, is 35 per cent. But that means in terms of units it will come to 1004.3 Mu ; but they are drawing to the extent of 1,791.3 Mu, about 53% more. Uttar Pradesh is getting not only this in 1983-84, in 1984-85, their share was 1,643 and they drew 3,365 MW.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Double !

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Then in 1985-86 their share was 2,044 and they drew 3,545 Mu !

AN HON. MEMBER : Penalise them.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : And we know it, because, it Singrauli is based in U.P., and U.P. has a shortage we keep quiet. And let us be honest and straight, that it is ultimately at the cost of the others in the Northern region. Let us not make this allegation that the Centre is not giving the due, or the proper share of the U.P. This will not be correct.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : They are supplying in a way that we are not being benefited.

[*English*]

Justice should not only be done but it should seen to be done.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : How will it seem to be so ? After all, it is for U.P. legislative Board to ensure that the agriculturists get a proper time and proper power. If, Karn taka where also there is shortage can assure the agriculturist adequate, I do not see why U.P. should not be able to do so. But, for that you will have to plan and at least stop the thefts. Now, we have passed a law, a very stringent law. The U.P. Government also has a law. But unless you implement them it will be of no use. They will only remain on paper.

So, we are now trying to persuade the U.P. Government and the other State Governments — the Chief Ministers — to take steps to prevent thefts or at least collusion in thefts, because without collusion no theft can be committed.

Now I want to come to a specific thing which Hon. Member Shri Rawat had about a project, capacity of which is 2×210 MW.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA (Shajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister is giving information about Uttar

[*Sh. Bapulal Malviya*]

Pradesh and Karnataka, I would request him to let us know the position in Madhya Pradesh also.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : During the next Calling Attention.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What ever points are raised, he will reply to them.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : This 2 × 210 MW plant is at Dorghat in Azamgarh district, in U.P.

[*Translation*]

Actually linkage of the coal in this project is involved. We have agreed to this project in principle but there is no likelihood of getting coal by 1990. But we are agreeable to include this project in the Eighth Five Year Plan. I have said in the House that we are agreeable to it. There is a gap of ten thousand megawatt and in order to narrow the gap it would be better to undertake as many projects as possible. We have the objection to the location of the projects as all the places are in the country. We shall be happy and it is our effort that all the projects may be completed as and when resources are available. I have already said about Dohrihat. Now I would take up the general questions.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : There are a number of projects of Uttar Pradesh lying with you, like Dhauli Ganga in Sharda Valley, Tehri Ganga and Vishnu Prayag etc.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : You are going to take up the Tehri Ganga Project with Mr. Gorbachev. I would like to submit that there is a small project, namely, Dohrihat Project which concerns five to seven districts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Why do you not take up this project with him ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : From where Mr. Gorbachev will supply coal? The problem is of coal.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : You may supply the coal. Get it completed by 1990 or 1991. This is not a big thing...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not want to give a false assurance.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHIELA DIKSHIT) : In order to accommodate Members who want to speak on the Supplementary Demands, I propose that the lunch hour today may be dispensed with.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the Members to dispense with lunch hour today ?

SOM HO N. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as these projects are concerned which we are posing for bilateral assistance either with the Soviet Union or with any other country—many projects which are ready on the shelf, where coal is available like in Talchar—one thing is there that the coal production also has to grow. It is planned that it will grow to 260 million tonnes by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan and will grow to 400 million tonnes by the end of the century. So, when coal production grows and it becomes available, these projects like Dohrihat, which are principally agreed, will definitely be taken up. I can assure the hon. Member that this project will be taken up as soon as that linkage is found.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (*Pali*) : What about Rajasthan ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We are taking up the lignite plant at Palana.

I have stated that 10,000 MW is the gap. But as far as power is concerned, the more you give, the more you want. Even the developed countries which are having 10,000 kwh per capita, feel that they do not have enough power. What is our per capita

It is 170 kwh after a miraculous rise from 1700 mw, within 30 years of planning to 47,000 mw. Any nation can be proud of that achievement. But in spite of that, because of doubling of our population and all that, the fact remains that our per capita is 170 kwh and in rural areas it comes to about 30 kwh. That is what we must understand. What is the need? If we have to meet this need, then what is the best way of doing it? We have to find resources. When we began planning, the cost of setting up one MW was about Rs 10 lakhs. Today it is Rs. 1 crore. Transmission is another Rs. 50 lakhs. If we have to spend Rs. 1 crore for 1 mw of power, then we must find resources. Setting up of power plant is something which nobody can steal away. What can you do with that? So, we have been saying that within the framework of our industrial policy, in national interest, if any one wants to set up a power plant, whosoever he may be, if this brings additionality, we will say 'welcome'. Set it up whether it is thermal, hydel or any project. Otherwise, although we are undertaking 2000 MW of additionality with gas plant, but 8000 remains. We are making proposals for bilateral. Suppose a couple of thousand MW may come from that, still the gap will be there. In fact I would like to appeal to all those in the country who have money, whatever money they have got, to come and set up power generation unit in the country. Even if they do it for their own industries collectively as a captive power unit, even that will be most welcome. There can be no magic as far as power is concerned.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : You want it to be given to the private sector.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have heard that remark. This is a very populist way of approach *(interruptions)*.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : He has also said.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : No one has ever said that Public Sector should be handed over to the private sector. No one. I want to repeat this. Such an allegation if

made by anybody is mischievous, not only false but mischievous allegation. Therefore, we are all in favour of public sector. We want public sectors to have commanding height. That can be done only when they become efficient sector. But as I said it is a misnomer. Please disabuse the minds of those who talk of populist slogans. In this connection what you call private they also use more than 80% funds of public money.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : That is the beauty. It is the public money. They, therefore, pocket the money in their own pocket. *(interruptions)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE : What is the solution?

[Translation]

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Are you aware that the Government of Maharashtra has permitted private sector?

[English]

You have given to Private Sector in Bombay.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Therefore bring even the private sector in the discipline of national need. That is what you want to do and that is the philosophy that we are trying to accept as far as our general policy is concerned.

As far as non-conventional source of energy is concerned, I want to say word about that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes, to BSES we have already given.

[Translation]

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Do you know that you have granted permission to Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Company. In Bombay, the Maharashtra Government has given extension for two years.

[*Sh. Murli Deora*]

[*English*]

You want 500 MW power plant to be given to somebody with permission of two years extension.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Two years extension is a provision for them to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not bring all this detailed discussion. It is not a discussion on the whole Department. It is only a Calling Attention Notice.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will you guarantee power supply to the poor and the farmers after taking advance money from them ? Will you issue such a direction ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Regarding the matters relating to Uttar Pradesh, at the most I can talk to the concerned Chief Minister and I will discuss these with him.

[*English*]

I would like to conclude with some remarks on the non-conventional energy. I think one of the quicker and a better solution particularly for our rural areas is the non-conventional energy source. That is why we have this Integrated Energy Village scheme—the *urja gram*.

[*English*]

This will become—within a short period of three years biogas movement. There will be more than 25 lakh improved chulas, more than 6 lakh biogas plant in a short period. It is definitely a bigger thing.

As I said, whatever investment we have made of Rs. 240 crores, in one year the whole thing is made good both in terms of fertilizers and as a fuel substitute.

India has a very big coastline.

We can have wind mill farms. We can have solar complexes in rural areas and also in urban areas. We have found that they

have an excellent heat substitute. Even in hotels and hostels we have seen that they are useful and therefore, Sir, I feel that we would like to take up this project, and one thing I can assure the House—we will try to improve as much plant load factor as we can because as I said, power conserved is power produced without additional cost. Therefore, Sir, we will try to do that and already during the last four years the PLF in the country has grown by nearly 8 per cent. Therefore, we cannot say that there is no improvement, much more needs to be done and I hope the House will appreciate the efforts made and also will try to support the effort that have been made to generate more power in the country. Thank you.

13.15 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[*English*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate a member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Shantimoy Ghosh died and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha.”

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is : “That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate a member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Shantimoy Ghosh died and to communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha.”

The motion was adopted.