

programme which is the need to of the hour has to be given due weightage in our policy making programmes towards making successful the family planning programme in our country.

12.15 hrs.

ATOMIC ENERGY (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1986—Contd

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri K.R. Narayanan on the 26th November, 1986, namely :

“That the Bill further to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 1986 and would like to give some suggestions. I expect from the hon. Minister that in view of the increasing importance of the atomic energy, he will bring a comprehensive legislation in the near future in which every aspect will be considered seriously and priorities will be fixed as per our needs. Energy is becoming increasingly important for our development. At present, 40 per cent need of our energy is met from non-commercial sources, such as fuel wood, dung, biogas and other sources. Electricity meets only 17 per cent requirement of our energy. If we look at the energy consumption all over the world, we shall find that per capita consumption in our country is 1/10th of the world average. It is very clear as to how much energy we shall require in the coming time and how much more energy can be generated by exploiting our resources. In the field of atomic energy we have not only become self-sufficients but we have also developed sophisticated technology in this field which is much more advanced than other countries.

12.17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

In this field of Atomic Energy, at present our country holds the Sixth position. This Bill has mentioned about some minerals and other things and about the acquisition of land. I would like to submit that it was necessary to amend the Sections 6 and 11 of the Act of 1962 to provide that the acquisition of land should not be treated as purchase of land. It will definitely benefit us and will remove unnecessary difficulties and objection in the exploration of the minerals. But we have to see that we have fixed our target of 10,000 MW generation of nuclear power by 2001 A.D. whereas at present the generation capacity of our nuclear plants is about 117 MWs. We have set a target to achieve a capacity of about 2300 MW. by 1990. We have a Nuclear Power Board which has formulated its programmes for the next 15 years to generate electricity through Atomic energy plants for which it has demanded a sum of Rs. 14,000 crores. If we have to achieve our target of 10,000 MW. capacity and to we have to develop Atomic energy to meet our needs, we shall have to provide financial resources for it. We have to provide sufficient funds for this purpose in the Budget.

In the Seventh Five Year Plan, a total allocation of Rs. 2800 crores has been made for atomic energy, out of which Rs. 315 crores for R and D work, Rs. 1075 crores for industry and minerals and Rs. 1410 crores for power generation have been provided. I fail to understand how the target can be achieved by allocating only Rs. 1400 crores in every five year plan against the total requirement of Rs. 14000 crores. Therefore, it is necessary to provide more and more funds for this purpose. If we convert the present Nuclear Power Board, which is an autonomous body, into a corporation and float public equity, we would be able to mobilise sufficient funds and this target can be achieved. The Tarapur Atomic Plant was set up with the help of U.S.A.

Thereafter, Rajasthan Atomic Reactor was established with the assistance of Canada and Indian engineers and scientists. Then Madras Atomic Power Plant.

M.A.P.P.-1, was set up in Kalapakkam. Our engineers built that Power Plant successfully with our own know-how by developing 100 per cent Indian technology. This plant was successfully launched in November, 1985. In the near future, power plants are also going to be established in Narora and Kakrapar in Gujarat. They are also based on 100 per cent indigenous technology and design developed by our engineers. Our country has successfully achieved the Fast Breeder Technology and in near future we are going to build reactors upto 500 MW. capacity. How can we achieve these targets with such a meagre allocation. If we want to derive benefit from the achievements of our engineers and scientists in the fields of Atomic Energy, to meet our national requirement, we must fix the priorities and also make requisite funds available in the Eighth and the Ninth Five Year Plans.

So far as the question of exploration of Uranium or Thorium is concerned, our country is very rich in natural resources. According to a survey, we can exploit near about 73,000 tonnes of Uranium in next 15 to 16 years. If we fix a target of achieving a capacity of 10,000 M.W. by the year 2001 A.D., then certainly the requirement of natural uranium would go up to 37000 or 38000 tonnes and resources are available with us for meeting this requirement. An Atomic Reactor has a life of 25 years, after that either it is abandoned or modified for further operation. Why do you not take up the exploration of Uranium deposits in order to meet the requirement for the next 25 years and this exploration work should be done at a rapid pace by adopting safety measures and precautions. For this purpose, it is essential that we should make available funds for I and M division.

In another survey our scientists have found that in the near future we shall be able to develop Fast Breeder Technology and the spent Uranium from it could be used again as fuel in the Fast Breeder Reactor after reprocessing and mixing it with plutonium.

We are also going to have large reserves of Thorium in our country. According to

an estimate even if we set up one lakh M.W. of power generation capacity through nuclear process, we may still be able to use Thorium as a source of energy for the next 600 years. In this connection we shall have to keep this fact in mind that we have limited deposits of coal in our country. Even the petroleum products would be available for the next 20 to 25 years only and natural gas and coal would be available for the next 40 to 50 years. So, we should develop Atomic energy in such a way that it may not create any doubts in one's mind about its development. We should take precautions at an early stage regarding its safety any radiation problems and also take a lesson from the big tragedy of Chernobyl. We are proud to know that the design of our Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor is modern. The accident in Chernobyl occurred due to Graphite reactors and open type of reactors and there was only one shield for protection. We have a provision of double shield. With the keen interest and foresight of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and our earlier scientist in the field of energy, Shri Homi Jehangir Bhabha, we have made tremendous progress in the field of atomic energy. That is why, the technology initially adopted by us is still proving relevant. We are also thankful to our young Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi who has encouraged fast breeder technology by opening the Indira Gandhi Atomic Reactor Research Centre in the name of Shrimati Indira Gandhi at Kalapakkam Atomic Reactor and also by providing every help to Dr. Raja Ramanna in developing technical manpower in the field of Atomic energy to meet the current as well as future needs of the country.

In the end, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister for Science and Technology and Atomic Energy towards the fact that around our country the political and geographical situation is fast changing and we shall have to take a policy decision in this regard. For how long can we ignore the fact that we shall have to develop nuclear energy not only for peaceful purposes but also for Atomic weaponry. It is the need of the hour in view of the activities of our neighbouring countries, resulting in an atmosphere of insecurity to develop Atomic energy for defence purposes. Our

[Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

last test has established this fact that we have achieved the technology. Therefore, there is no harm in accepting it openly. The countries, which have developed the atomic energy, are making rapid progress.

I support this Bill and hope that after taking the charge of the Departments of Science and Technology and Atomic Energy, you will work with dedication and dynamism in promoting this programme.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Sir, the development of atomic energy is a subject on which this House very rarely gets opportunity to have in-depth discussion. The Budget grants of this ministry, as far as I can recall, are generally guillotined before they are reached every year. This Bill, although it deals with a very specific issue, does give the House an opportunity to at least draw attention to certain aspects of this development of atomic energy which is one of our top priority areas of development. As far as the Bill is concerned, I think that perhaps it is meant to deal with some legal or technical difficulty which may have arisen in the process of acquisition by the Government of India of these materials, mineral, concentrates and other materials which are required for the development of atomic energy. It is said the Bill will have retrospective effect and that, therefore, confirms my doubt that it is meant to cover up some difficulties which have arisen in the past when some acquisition took place over the question of terms of compensation. Well, it is for the Minister of course to take care to see that even this Amending Bill does not become subject to some legal dispute. He must have examined I suppose, from that point of view before it was drafted. The compensation is sought to be given only on the cost of production which the party which has mined, which has produced these minerals; may have incurred the cost. It is not meant to compensate for the stocks of that mineral which may be lying underground and which are being taken over by the Government. However, I am not in the know of what are these difficulties or disputes which may have arisen. I think the process of determining the compensation will continue to be governed as it says here

by Section 21 of the Act. So, it is all right. But that compensation also, I think is subject to appeal to the higher courts. I am interested in seeing that this does not become a long drawn litigation matter between the Central Government and perhaps some State Governments which are on the other side of the deal involved in this acquisition process. However I what I want to say is now-a-days we are often debating the question whether atomic energy should be or should not be utilised by us for non-peaceful purposes. But one point I would like to draw the Minister's attention to is that even on the question of development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes recently a school of thought has emerged which is trying to argue vehemently that atomic energy should not be developed at all, because it is a very very risky field and that it is very dangerous. It causes environmental pollution apart from harm and damage to human life. It is a hazard. Reference is always made to the recent accident which took place at Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor in Ukraine in Soviet Union which was of course a major accident. There is no doubt about it. There have been previously accidents in the United States also in the several atomic reactors of their's. But Chernobyl was certainly on a much bigger scale than any previous one. Now this school of thought is, therefore, theorising now that learning from the experience of what happened at Chernobyl that it is better not to go in for this atomic energy which is a major hazard to environment, health and all that. I expect the Minister to make it clear that our Government has no intention whatsoever of subscribing to such a ridiculous theory. Accidents can take place anywhere any time. I think more people were killed by the gas leakage from the Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal than were killed by the Chernobyl fire or emission of radiation from the Chernobyl plant. Many more people were killed by the Union Carbide factory's poisoned gas, which was certainly not nuclear. So What is the point? I mean, in that case we should say no factory producing chemicals or toxic materials should be permitted in our country in future because of what happened in Bhopal. These are all illogical arguments. Sir, the development of atomic energy, is a must, for peaceful purposes. It is a must for us, for our self-reliant development. It is

necessary not only for energy, for power but it is necessary, for space research. It can be harnessed for various uses including control of floods, it can be used for medicinal purposes and for so many other purposes. Moreover, in the long run it is much more Volatile, much more efficient and much more economic than other fuels. That has been proved by international experience. So, what is really necessary is that we should have proper and upto date safety measures. Proper safety measures and safeguards should be inbuilt into the nuclear plants and nuclear reactors which may be constructed by us in this country. That is the main thing and I think Government knows very well that on the very morrow of the Chernobyl accident, the Soviet Government came forward with a public announcement that it was prepared to share with all countries of the world the experience of what happened in Chernobyl and how to make more fool-proof the safeguards and safety measures which are required in this respect. So, I think our Government can also try to benefit to whatever extent is possible, take advantage of the fact that we are having such good Indo-Soviet cooperation in so many fields. At the present moment, we know talks are going on covering a very vast field. So, in this field also of atomic energy development—this Chernobyl disaster may, in a sense, be a blessing for us because it will give concrete evidence of how it is necessary to plug certain loopholes by which these safety measures and safeguards can be adequately strengthened and inbuilt. But we should not agree to any slow-down or slackening of our atomic energy development programme.

Having said that, I must say that from all accounts our nuclear plants at Tarapore, at Kota in Rajasthan and at Kalpakkam near Madras are not functioning very satisfactorily. I do not know the reasons for it. But we all know that there have been shut-downs. It happened at Kota, it happened at Tarapore for a long period. Recently it happened at Kalpakkam due to some leakage involving perhaps heavy water, I do not know. But we should like the Minister to tell us. These nuclear plants which we have set up is very creditable for our country that among the developing nations we are perhaps the only one which is able to go ahead with construction of our

own nuclear plants. In the beginning we took foreign assistance including from the U.S.A., Canada and so on. Even those plants have not functioned very well and there have been constant hold-ups and stoppages, shut-downs and all that. But Kalpakkam if it can function properly, if we can manage it properly, should put us more firmly on the road to self-reliance in this field.

As far as the question of enrichment of uranium is concerned, it is the key question—the enrichment of uranium to produce plutonium in fast breeder reactors and all that. We are already engaged in this work, we all know that that is not a secret. But I should like to repeat what is our point of view that we should not be stampeded into any kind of nuclear arms race which is also a motive of the foreign powers specially the Americans and others who are supposed to be assisting Pakistan clandestinely in this field to create an atmosphere of insecurity and uncertainty and panic which would stampede us also into diverting a large part of our resources for the production of nuclear weapons. Pokhran was our first implosion and we remember that when Pokhran implosion took place, it led to a motivated campaign in certain quarters against India's intention. We were suspected from that time that Pokhran implosion was really meant only to help India to develop a nuclear weapon which, of course, was not. But now because of what is happening around our border, there is again a renewal of pressure from various quarters. But I would like to say that it is unimaginable to think of a nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan which will remain a local affair. It is unimaginable. Any nuclear conflict between our two countries would become a global issue immediately and it might have incalculable consequences, and whatever Pakistan may do, it is ruled by military junta, after all not by a democratically elected government—we at least should not be stampeded or panicked into any kind of hasty step which would only ruin our economy and would certainly not add to our security at all. Moreover, it would make us suspect in the eyes of smaller neighbouring countries which are around us. Any-way, this is not a issue on which perhaps this Ministry has anything to say, because it is not under its charge.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

As far as other nuclear power plants are concerned, I support the Member who said that this is the only field in which expeditious development can conserve our other energy resources which are fast being depleted, whether it is coal or firewood. Well, bio-gas, we have just started on now. But this atomic energy is essential for the speedy all-round economic development of the country and we should go ahead on that unhesitatingly. And we should be assured that the management and conduct of these existing nuclear plants are better managed and they function properly which they do not seem to be doing at all.

Otherwise, this Bill is evident of the Government's sense of urgency, I suppose, regarding the acquisition of minerals required for this atomic energy. With these words, I support this Bill.

12.43 hrs.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amending Bill. Sir, a point was raised as to why after 24 years, the Government had thought it fit to come to the House with this amendment, and with retrospective effect. What has provoked the Government in bringing in this measure is a question which may be explained by the hon. Minister.

Shri C. Madhav Reddi yesterday has said that instead of acquiring these minerals from time to time, why don't you nationalise all such minerals? There is a point in it. It is because if you are allowing the private parties to do the mining, there is a danger that it may be misused. Only 3 or 4 days ago, my friend Mr. Shiv Prasad Sahu who comes from Ranchi had raised his voice against the alleged practice of clandestinely smuggling uranium from Singbbum to Pakistan *ia* Nepal. I would submit that the hon Minister may kindly inquire into this point and take adequate measures to stop this, if at all it exists. This provides an opportunity, as my friend, Mr. Indrajit Gupta said that demands, relating to the Ministry are seldom discussed in the House and we do not get an opportunity to

discuss. Now we have the time to offer our views on the subject.

The entire world seems to be exercised over the question of safety after the Chernobyl accident. Although there was an accident in the Three Mile Island in USA, it has caused widespread self-doubt even among scientists. It was contained but it has created widespread apprehension and doubts and fear among the people.

The hon. Prime Minister said that he would like a national debate to take place about the capability of our country to deal with the aftermath of an accident in order to allay the alleged fears in the minds of the general public.

Recently there was an international conference of International Atomic Energy Agency over which Dr. Ramanna presided. Two international conventions were signed by 58 countries including India whereby they pledged to work together to meet the challenge of an accident. This shows that there is a possibility of an accident and you cannot rule it out altogether. The Russian delegate a very frank statement about the causes of accident in his country and, therefore, the convention was signed by these countries to help each other in the event of an accident. This itself shows that we cannot altogether allay the possibility of such an eventuality and, therefore, it is necessary as our Prime Minister said that the Government should have initiated a debate on the subject and taken not only the House into confidence but the entire people because it is for the first time a proposal to set up a nuclear plant at Kaiga has been opposed by the people of that area because they all feel scared by this accident.

Leakages have also taken place from time to time. The hon. Minister knows very well about the Selawela leakage in UK and, therefore, we have to be very cautious in taking adequate measures to ensure against any such risk. I know that our country is depending too much on our own indigenous technology and wherever they have produced a project, it is much better than what they have done in collaboration with other countries. Take

the case of Rajasthan Atomic Power Unit No. 1 which was set up in the country with Canadian collaboration. It developed trouble and it was closed from 1982 to 1985 and today it is under the consideration of the nuclear power Board and the Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board is thinking whether to decommission it or to restart it. But the Unit No. 3 which has been set up with indigenous technology has been working well and it has continuously worked for 120 days. Here and there, there are some pitfalls. Take the case of Madras Atomic Power Station. In the first unit, there was snag for four months. The second unit developed some trouble with regard to the rod getting struck up and the unit had to be closed. The Kota unit is also not functioning. All these are situated on the banks of either river or sea. So, we have to take adequate measures to ensure that no leakage takes place. We have to allay the mind of the people. So far as I am concerned, I am pretty certain that the technology that has been adopted by our country, based on their own indigenous talents, is good. We are not expecting any kind of leakage or accident here. Yet to allay the public mind, it is necessary for the Government to come out very clearly because if you are embarking upon a big project of nuclear power generation, you have to face certain problems of waste disposal, possible impact on environment and also the effects on the life-forms in course of time, even in conditions of safety. Because, there is some kind of radiation always taking place. Therefore, my submission to the hon. Minister is that he should allay the fears of the people. The resistance offered by the people in Kaiga is a point to be taken into consideration. The Department of Environment also did not clear it. The point is that one Department proposes and another Department disposes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are going to pass this Bill before 1.30 p.m. Please conclude.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Sir, I will take only a few minutes. Here is the case where the Department of Atomic Energy has proposed and the Department of Environment has disposed it of. They have not concurred.

I would like the hon. Minister to take the House into confidence as to the reasons why the Department of Environment has not given its concurrence. Is it something beyond what meets our eye. It is for them to tell.

Sir, I should not be misunderstood to say that I am against development of nuclear power. I am all for it. I know that with our limited resources, it is the only alternative which will sustain us through. But, unfortunately, it appears that the progress that we are making is not very fast. The allocations made is also very small and it will not help us to achieve the target that we have laid down to achieve by the turn of the century. So, we have added only 1000 MW. so far. Dr. Ramanna says that in the whole world, 15 per cent of the power generation is accounted for by nuclear power. France is having 60 per cent. What do we have in our country? If you have to produce 10000 MW, you have to provide for more. In this respect again, I would submit to the Minister to take into consideration the delay in setting up of these plants. Some plants are taking 15 years to consummate. Whereas, in other countries, these plants are set up in five or six years. This fact has also to be taken into consideration, because this will add to the cost ultimately...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Sinha, please wind up.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Sir, I will suggest two points. I will not take much time of the House. I will say only this much that it has been suggested that the people's mind should be allayed. Here, I would like to quote the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Dr. Hans Blix...

"It is fair to say that, with the significant exception of Chernobyl, the risks of nuclear electricity generation to health and environment have remained hypothetical while the daily and normal use of coal and oil to generate electricity has had the most serious environmental consequences."

I would only say that my suggestion will be that we should concentrate on

[Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha]

possible dangers from leakages, the slow but insidious poisoning of the atmosphere through radiation carrying dust, water and other pollutants. Our plants are located near large water reservoirs as in Kota and Kaiga. Therefore, the public will have to be fully satisfied that there is no inflow of radio-active waste into these waters. The other day, the hon. Minister said that they had taken care for the disposal of the waste, but it is a very difficult problem. Even in America, the Minister may be knowing, the people of America are opposing disposal of the waste in their locality. Although it is buried deep, yet they are afraid of radiation and they are opposing it. A similar kind of resistance may be expected here if you are not going to allay their doubts and fears.

The second suggestion is that the hon. Minister may kindly explain to us whether the Nuclear Power Board or the Department of Environment would be keeping a continuous watch on the collected data regarding radiation levels in and around nuclear plants after their construction. I understand that at the moment these data are obtained by BARC and analysed in their own laboratories. Would it not be better if others also had access to these data in order to judge it independently? That may create public confidence. Periodic checks on radio-active materials in the environment and in life forms are essential. Therefore, it is necessary that you should diversify this arrangement and some other agencies should also be entrusted with analysing the data to find out as to what is the radiation level.

With these words, I support the Bill

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan): Sir, the Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill seeks to amend sections 6 and 11 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, with retrospective effect. It lays down that compulsory acquisition of minerals, concentrates and other materials by the Government must not be preceded by compulsory payment of compensation. I understand that because of innumerable litigation Government has brought this amendment. It is true, the question of compensation often becomes disgusting and consequently Government cannot acquire

the property. Therefore, this Bill, it is expected, will remove that difficulty. But it is also a fact that people often suffer because of the bureaucratic red-tapism, delay and procrastination; they do not get compensation in time; they are harassed in various ways. Therefore, I would request the hon Minister to make sure that the parties get at least 80 per cent of the compensation before the property is acquired. In West Bengal it has become the practice that, whenever Government acquires some property, 80 per cent of the compensation is paid to the people concerned before acquisition. It is really a simple Bill. But I would like to dwell something on atomic energy. It is true that we are opposed to proliferation of nuclear weapons. Our friend Mr. Indrajit Gupta has rightly pointed out that we do not like to enter into the mad race which is going on in the world. Specially, the imperialist countries are trying to disintegrate our country. The US imperialist is encouraging the ruling Junta in Pakistan so that they can explode their nuclear bomb which is called the Islamic Bomb. We do not like to enter in this mad race. But certainly we must lay emphasis on the generation of nuclear power.

13.00 hrs.

After the Chernobyl accident there are many voluntary organisations which argue that generation of nuclear power should be stopped because it destroys the ecological balance, it pollutes the environment, it affects the future generation and therefore we should stop the generation of nuclear power. But we cannot accept this argument because our scientists have clearly stated—the eminent scientist Dr. Raja Ramanna has said—that nuclear power is one of the cleanest sources of power. If we take adequate safeguards, then there is nothing to fear from nuclear power.

Specially our country is reeling under severe power-cuts. We find that coal deposits are being depleted fast. Together with thermal power and hydel power, we should also emphasize on the generation of nuclear power. What is required is that people's fear must be allayed. There must be proper propaganda so that people do not suffer from any mis-conception. Not

only this, adequate safeguards must also be taken, so that people's life in general is made safe.

Fortunately we can exchange our experience with 58 countries. We have already ratified the necessary convention. As Mr. Indrajit Gupta has suggested, we may also exchange fruitfully our experience with Soviet Russia which is a great nuclear power. They have taken adequate safeguards against future accidents. As many Hon. Members have pointed out, accidents are accidents. Therefore, what is required is to take adequate safeguards for the safety of the common people, for the safety of the workers. It has been brought to our notice that often workers suffer serious injuries in our existing nuclear plants and, therefore, the workers' safety must be given the utmost consideration.

We should try to lay emphasis on the deployment of indigenous technology. As has been rightly pointed out, at Kota and Tarapur often our atomic energy plants were shut down and we had to rely on foreign technology. If we develop our indigenous technology, if we develop our self-reliant technology, then we may go ahead in this respect.

I must point out that though the Government says that by 2000 AD there would be nearly 10000 MW of power generated from atomic plants, only 1100 MW atomic power is generated now. The money allotted is not at all adequate, it is rather meagre. Therefore, there should be an all out effort for the generation of nuclear power because it is extremely necessary for the all-round economic development of the country.

Countries like France and Japan have done much in this regard. They depend on atomic power for their industrialisation and electrification. We can also follow Japan and France in this respect.

Sir, by issuing bonds we can mobilise the resources. The Planning Commission should also come forward with more allocation.

With these words I conclude and thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY (Bettiah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Atomic Energy Amendment Bill. As a matter of fact this is a matter of great happiness for all of us and on behalf of all the hon. Members sitting in the House I would like to congratulate all the scientists of India, who have made us self dependent in the field of Atomic energy. You might recall that in the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant, which was run with the help of American Uranium, we had encountered considerable difficulties owing to delay in getting the supplies of uranium. Now our scientists have managed to run it with heavy water with indigenous technology. We have also, on our own, reduced the consumption of Uranium in it. After the Chernobyl accident, it became a matter of general concern and people thought that Atomic Power Plant might not be suitable for us. But if we condemn a system just because of an accident, it will not be proper. I also agree with Shri Indrajit Gupta that we shall have to conserve coal if we want to make progress in the field of power in the country. With this end in view, we have to conserve the coal reserves for our future use. Atomic Power Plant is the only way to conserve the coal deposits. The Government of India has, therefore, increased the installed capacity of nuclear plants in the Sixth Five Year Plan from 640 M.W. to 1100 M.W. and nuclear power has a contribution of 2.6 per cent in our total Power Generation. The most important thing is that we are using the expertise in this field which has been developed indigenously. Research and Development is the most important thing for Atomic Power Plants. Our scientists made optimum use of the funds earmarked by the Government of India for Research and Development, and managed our Atomic Energy Centres with great self-confidence. Above all, 4 new nuclear plants have been proposed to be set up in the Fifth Five Year Plan—one at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan, second in Kaiga, third one is Madras Phase-II and fourth one is Narora Phase-I and at Jaduguda.

You might remember that the hon Prime Minister had talked about a uranium mine at Jaduguda in Singhbhum district in

[Shri Manoj Pandey]

Bihar, in this House. We also had demanded in this very House that an Atomic Plant be set up there. This demand is under consideration of our hon. Prime Minister. With this I also want to make a demand for an Atomic Power Plant in the Seventh Five Year Plan for Bihar which is a backward State in the field of energy.

Above all, I would like to refer to rare-earth-potential which is generally found in sandy places. There are two or three metals which require to be conserved. These include Titanium and Zirconium and also Thorium which is used as material in nuclear plants. Thorium is a very important metal. It is used as energy to run the Fast Breeder Reactors by mixing it with Uranium. Therefore, considering its importance it needs to be conserved. We have a Thorium reserve of 36 lakh tonnes which is almost equal to 600 billion tonnes of coal. In this way, we can conserve our coal reserves. There is an organisation called Rare Earths Ltd. which is responsible for this job. Today, our greatest need is to produce radio isotopes. Radio isotopes are used for agriculture and health purposes.

Sir, there are a number of such diseases which can be diagnosed through Radio isotopes only. The Radio Isotopes can be made only if we have the necessary expertise. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that he should take measures to conserve the rare earth elements.

[English]

DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the very purpose of this Bill has not been made clear by the Minister, particularly the retrospective effect of this amendment.

Now, the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 is going to be amended after 24 years. The 1962 Act has a provision for secrecy. That means anything about the atomic energy should not be disclosed to the public or even to the House. This Parliament is supreme and if it cannot be disclosed to the House, what does it mean? In a democratic set-up things should not be like this. We

are using atomic energy only for peaceful purposes, we are not going to use it for military or defence purposes. We have declared that, but what is wrong in telling to the people of this country, this House, what is going on in the field of atomic energy? I do not understand that. I entirely disagree with the Minister who has come forward with this amending Bill. He should have come forward with an amendment whereby the provision of secrecy should have been removed.

Today, the entire world wants to create a public opinion against the hazards of nuclear armament, but without the supply of material and necessary information to the Common man, to the House, who are the representatives of the people, how can you have such a public opinion? Only during the last week, the hon Prime Minister said that before going to establish any project, particularly the Kaiga atomic energy project in my State, he wanted to have public opinion. Only when the people know what is actually going on inside the atomic energy establishments, they will be able to give their opinion freely. It is only one-sided information and the scientists will always say that everything is fine and good. I, therefore, expected that an amendment doing away with the provision about secrecy will be brought by the Minister, but he has not done that. This is a different amendment. I am very sorry for that. The Government is planning to generate 10,000 megawatts by 2000 AD. In this connection, I would like to tell you that we have ignored our other sources of energy. Everybody is sick of this atomic energy and nowadays even the advanced countries are not going ahead with new projects or ventures in atomic energy because of its great hazards. Our Government has failed to develop hydro-electric projects for which we have a lot of resources in the form of rivers. As a matter of fact, our rivers are overflowing. There are huge floods and a huge amount of water is being wasted, which we are not able to utilise properly. By utilising these waters, we can generate electricity and we can also check drought as well as flood conditions. But I am sorry to say that the Government is not at all bothered about this. They have not developed any technology to exploit this very important resource of our country.

About solar energy also, the Government have developed cold feet. They should have done something about generating energy from sea waves, but they are not bothered about it. They are worried only about the scope of atomic energy. As far as energy from biogas is concerned, our State has progressed a lot. In India 80 to 90 per cent of our population lives in villages and this bio-gas can be very easily used by the villagers because it is very simple to use and it does not pose any hazards. Our Government should have advertised more about the benefits of biogas among the villagers.

Coming to the hazards of the nuclear energy, I would say that this would lead to nothing but human destruction. By producing this kind of energy, a lot of accidents are occurring throughout the world. Though nobody is coming forward with the truth, that there are accidents, somehow the news leaks out. Even though the Governments try to hide it, the news reaches the people. Leakage in the atomic energy establishments is increasing the incidence of leukaemia, which is caused by exposure to radiation. There are other developmental deformities because of radiation. That is why I would say that this atomic energy pose a great threat to the very existence of human beings. Even the Russian leader Mr. Gorbachev has not included the subject of atomic energy in his agenda to be discussed with our Prime Minister. What is the meaning of all this? It proves that this is a very serious thing and that is why even the Super Power is not willing to go in for this kind of energy. And I do not understand why our Government of India is so interested in it. It is high time that we develop alternate sources of energy and expand them to the maximum and not this atomic energy which has become a curse to human existence in this world.

SHRI K S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. As my hon. colleagues have mentioned, this retrospective effect clause is gaining the attention of everybody particularly because of this 24 years period. Possibly, there must be enough reasons for the hon. Minister to include this clause, either from the judiciary point of view or from some other sectors, which might be coming in the way of acquiring the land. I only wish to say that

the hon. Minister must go into the details of the financial implications of these amendments, particularly with regard to sale. It is said that it could not be considered as a sale by which there is a possibility of some people acquiring certain lands a little in advance of the Government coming and acquiring it, so that they can avoid capital gains tax, sales tax, etc. The compensation amount also can be fixed depending on the market value of the land because the Government acquired total power for producing uranium out of this land. There is no need for any ambiguity about the amount of compensation and there need not be any delay also in this respect. This should also not be a means for the concerned officers to harass the landowners, sending notices for acquisition and then withdrawing them later.

So, I request the hon. Minister to go into these aspects of finance—whether it affects the income of the Government by way of taxation, or it is only to see that those people are not penalized. If it is only to see that they are not penalized, it is okay. I wish that there is a time limit also fixed, for the payment of compensation. The Act nowhere provided for time-limit for the payment of compensation—by which people who have got a meagre land there are put to great inconvenience if by chance uranium is found there. Let it not be left exclusively to the officers concerned. Let there be a time limit. Let there be a mention of the quantum of payment of compensation to these people.

In this context, we have been hearing that there is power shortage in many parts of the country, which is affecting our industrial growth. So, in course of time, atomic power certainly takes precedence over other things with, of course, proper measures and security as well. So, with a view to enhance the growth or production of power if this amendment is brought, I can understand the necessity to pass the Bill also, immediately.

In this context, I wish to make a request to the hon. Minister regarding the proposal to locate the atomic power plant at Nagarjunasagar in Andhra Pradesh. As it is said that the experts themselves have felt that Nagarjunasagar is the best place where

[Shri K S Rao]

it can be located, no other factor should come in the way of the Government, except that of merit. I am of the opinion that Nagarjunasagar is the best place to locate it. So, I wish the hon. Minister to pay some attention and see that this is taken up immediately, and Andhra Pradesh is given this plant.

We have Narora, and Kalpakkam and two plants have been given to Tamil Nadu, whereas Andhra Pradesh has not been given even one, inspite of its best resources. My other friends have already mentioned other factors. So, these two aspects I would like to emphasize, viz, financial losses to Government, and no harassment to people.

13.22 hrs.

SHRI M. MAHALINGAM (Nagapattinam) : Sir : On behalf of the AIADMK Party, I rise to support the above Bill which seeks to amend the provision with regard to payment of compensation for compulsory acquiring of mineral concentrate premises etc. for use in atomic energy reactors and plants,

Sir, while I agree that by this amendment, maximum exploitation and exploration of our rich uranium deposits is possible, every effort is to be made to avoid any radio-active element leakage at any process of exploration or exploitation. As it is a known fact that the radio-active elements at the atomic reactor plants is very hazardous, it is imperative that all precautionary efforts are made to plug such leakages in time, to avoid untoward happenings. Involvement of scientists of CSIR and experts of Geological Survey of India and State Governments may also be thought of, while exploration and exploitation of these minerals are made.

Only recently we have heard, and also discussed in this House, about the leakage at the Chernobyl atomic plant in Russia, which caused a heavy damage. This should not be repeated in India under any circumstances. It was said that 100% precaution has been taken in our atomic plants, by using double protection valves. We have seen

two shut-downs in the Kalpakkam reactor some time back. So, it has to be made doubly sure that leakage is eliminated at all costs. The research division of the Atomic Energy Department should be asked to prepare a programme of action in this regard, so that the element of doubt and apprehension of the common man with regard to the atomic reactor and its working are completely removed.

In this connection, I would like to add about the power produced at the Kalpakkam Plant. Originally it was told that the first reactor at the plant is exclusively for Tamilnadu only, but it is seen that the power is being distributed among other States also. Now the 2nd reactor has been installed at Kalpakkam and started producing atomic power. It is more easy and possible that the power produced at the first reactor is exclusively earmarked for Tamilnadu, as this State is in dire need for power due to heavy shortage from other sources.

Sir, as the august House is well aware that our State has been longing for another atomic power plant at Koodankulam in Tamilnadu and we have not been able to know much about the same inspite of repeated requests for its urgent need. We urge on the government to make speedy action for its inclusion in the next plan budget and make necessary surveys for the same.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam) : I rise to support this Bill. There is not much to discuss on the contents of this Bill. But the introduction of this Bill has given an opportunity to discuss a subject which has been widely talked about in our country.

Atomic energy is a double-edged field; it can be either a gold mine or a mine sweep; it depends in which direction we make use of this. It has been the policy of our country to make use of atomic power only for peaceful purposes. We had very basic reasons to follow this policy. When the British Government left India, we were producing only about 2,300 MW energy. From that stage, we have developed about 43,000 MW energy; and this has been made possible because we could make use of thermal power, hydro-electric power and the nuclear power; and by 2000 AD we should

have about 10 per cent energy contribution from the nuclear sector. It is in this context that we have to think that we should make use of nuclear power for the production of the electricity in this country.

It is true that there have been accidents in Three Mile Island and later in Chernobyl. When we look into the entire picture of the atomic energy and nuclear science, we can find out that there are a very large number of atomic reactors and only in a few cases there have been failures.

As the hon. Minister informed the House yesterday during discussion, we can be very proud that we have progressed to a greater extent in atomic science. Our contribution to Nuclear Physics is to that extent that we have come to a stage when we can export the power reactors. This is a tremendous achievement that we have made and now at this stage we cannot think of going back from whatever progress we have made.

Only one thing, which we have to think is, how effective our safety measures are. And secondly, if an accident takes place, how effective is our evacuating apparatus.

My request to the hon. Minister is that we should look into the possibility of a disaster and if there is a disaster, how effectively we can make the evacuation.

In this connection, I would like to mention one more point. A unit of the Indian Rareearths Limited is there near my constituency, Ernakulam. There has been a discussion going on throughout the country regarding the safety measures taken there. I know very well that our honourable Prime Minister has appointed a Committee to look into the safety measures there. Even though that Committee has been asked to look into it, and the Atomic Energy Commission has also found that ample safety measures have been taken there, still there is a feeling among the workers that they are exposed to the hazards of radiation. There is also a feeling among the people of that area that the boxes used to dump the atomic waste may leak out some thing. So, even though the Atomic Energy Commission has made a detailed study into this subject and has found that there is nothing to worry about it, I request the hon. Minister to appoint another

independent commission so that the fears of the workers and also the public in that area and in Kerala, will be wiped out.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, I am very grateful to the Members for the frank, free and friendly expression of views they have given on this Bill.

I think, with regard to the use of atomic energy for purposes of generating power it has been accepted by everyone in this House. There have been some fears about the question of safety, the question of proper and efficient functioning of the nuclear plants and also about the rapid development of nuclear power in the country.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Disposal of waste material also.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : Development includes disposal also. But before I come to those general questions, let me come to the specific purpose of this Bill. Some Members have apprehended mysterious hidden reasons for bringing forward this Bill. The purpose of this Bill is really technical, in the sense that compulsory acquisition of uranium concentrates today, according to the wording of the existing Bill could be misconstrued as sale. And if it is construed as sale, then certain conclusions follow, including certain financial questions as my hon. friend, Shri K.S. Rao mentioned, like tax, specially sales tax. I want to inform the House that one of the reasons for bringing this Bill is to overcome the technical difficulty with regard to this. There are no private uranium mines or mills in the country. The uranium corporation in question is in the Bihar State and this was acquired from the Bihar Government. From 1961 we had this mine and mill existing in Jaduguda. It was, at that time, an integral part of the atomic energy establishment and there was no question of the sale or sales tax at that time. In 1967 the establishment was converted into a public undertaking. It is

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after that this question arose from the Bihar Government of the Corporation giving sales tax for the uranium concentrates which are being transferred to the Atomic Energy Department. According to our own view and according to the best legal interpretation we have obtained, even under the existing Act this transfer of uranium concentrate cannot be construed as sale. But because of certain wordings of section 2 and section 12 of the existing Act, there was the doubt that it could be construed in such a way. This was important because the Bihar Government has been demanding payment of sales tax. This question has been discussed with them for a number of years. In fact, in 1978, the then distinguished Prime Minister took up this matter with the Bihar Government asserting that this transfer of uranium concentrate is not a sale but just a transfer between two government departments. It was due to these consultations, talks and negotiations which were going on with the Bihar Government and because we thought that this matter could be decided through this method, that the delay took place in bringing this Bill for the amendment of the Act. This is the main reason why we have given retrospective effect to this amendment. There is no mysterious reason behind it. That is why, at the very outset, I said that it is a simple Bill to make a technical amendment in order to get over the practical difficulty we are facing.

One or two hon. Members have asked as to why this secrecy about atomic energy. Actually in the atomic energy establishment there is no secrecy except normal secrecy we have to observe in regard to such strategic materials. The reports of the atomic energy establishment and all the corporations under the Atomic Energy Department, are placed before Parliament. The budget is an open book. There is no secret expenditure. So, anybody reading the budget could very easily understand as to what is going on in our various atomic energy establishments. And there is, of course, the opportunity for debating the question at budget time in Parliament. Any way, I want to make it absolutely clear that there is nothing mysterious or secret going on there except the production of power and production of atomic energy for

peaceful uses for electricity, for medicine, for agricultural and industrial purposes.

Having clarified this, as far as the retrospective clause is concerned, we have consulted the Law Ministry and other competent legal opinion and we have been assured that it is perfectly justifiable and is a legally valid clause to be included in this amendment.

About the general questions raised, I am glad that every Member has admitted the need for development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes especially for the generation of power. It is the policy of the Government to promote the development of power from all sources—from coal, from hydel sources, from non-conventional source of energy, may be solar, wind, wave energy. We have to go into all these because with our immense population and with our gigantic needs for development, we need power. We are hungry for power, in fact, and, therefore, atomic energy is an important constituent in this.

I would like to just quote something from the Seventh Plan Document—not introduced by the Atomic Energy Establishment or the Ministry of Science and Technology—about the importance of atomic power for this country, not only from uranium but also from thorium. The Plan Document says that we have uranium. 70,000 tonnes of uranium resources equivalent to 1900 million tonnes of coal. It is not too much but it is sufficient for our purposes. The resources of thorium available is so immense that it will be equivalent to 600 billion tonnes of coal when used in breeder reactors. The Plan Document says: "Thus thorium can be viewed as the single most important energy resource in the long run especially because of the breeder reactors we have put into operation."

It is not enough to say that we want atomic power, but the questions raised about its safety are exceedingly important and valid. The Prime Minister himself has publicly recognised this and said that he would like a national debate on this question and he would like us to prepare contingency plans for dealing with any untoward accident which might take place

in one of our nuclear plants. But while we are taking these precautions, let me say that we should not be daunted by these dangers or these possibilities in developing atomic energy. One hon. Member has mentioned that 15 per cent of world energy comes from nuclear sources. There are over 370 nuclear reactors in the world to-day. As a matter of fact, other countries are going in for more and more nuclear reactors and not cutting down the number of reactors in the world even after the Chernobyl incident. Nearly 60% of power in France is from nuclear energy. Even in a small island territory like Taiwan, 40 per cent will come from nuclear energy by the year 2000. In a country like Bulgaria it will be over 30 per cent, in Britain around 20 per cent. In United States about 13 per cent of the electricity is produced from nuclear energy. We produce, at the moment, about three per cent and at the end of the century we propose to produce ten per cent of our total electricity.

Therefore, if you look at the world and what the rest of the world is doing, we cannot say that we are doing something reckless in going in for building atomic reactors. I think it is an open fact that the nuclear genie is out of the bottle. We cannot put it back. The only thing is to master it and to utilise it for peaceful construction and peaceful development. If you do not use it, there is no guarantee that others will not use it; Others are using, as I just pointed out, on a very large-scale for industrial, agricultural, medical and other purposes. We know that they are using it for military purposes also. While so much has been said about the dangers inherent in nuclear reactors, I think people have ignored the fact that the real danger to the world of nuclear power comes from its military uses, from the vast accumulation of nuclear weapons in the arsenals of nations. Even if you do not put up one single reactor this possession of nuclear power by other countries will constitute a danger to us. Therefore, not to take advantage of this power while being exposed to the danger of it from world, to my mind, will be a foolish or shortsighted policy to follow. Therefore, we have to try to master this technology, master its use and put it for the development of our country.

One hon. member has pointed out— why we not bring about a comprehensive bill including all the safety measures in this Act? We have not done this. It is because if you read the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 which is being amended in a minor detail to-day, it contains those provisions. In fact I will specifically say that Section 3 and Section 17 give the Government full authority for taking all the measures required to protect the health of the people from radiation dangers and other hazards. Government is given all power to declare "prohibited area." As you know we have now a five kilometres radius of safety. Even that had been anticipated as long as 1962—control over radio active substances, radiation generating plants, preventing radiation hazards, secure public safety; ensure safety, disposal of radio active material wastes and other materials.

Now this Act gives us full power to put into motion any measure for the execution or the intention of the Government for ensuring the safety and safeguarding the health of the people and the environment. It is following this that some measures have already been taken. The Atomic Energy Agency in Trombay has set up a Health Physics Division. It has set up a Division for Radiological Protection. These are full-fledged divisions on the atomic energy establishment. In addition to that the Prime Minister has entrusted the Cabinet Secretary with the task of preparing contingency plans in case of untoward, unlikely accident in any of the nuclear power stations. This involves not only the safety of the plant but safety around the plant and for this purpose we propose to educate the public in methods of safeguarding against radiation and also for organising official and non-official organisations in the case of an emergency. Such a plan will be prepared. It is in the process of being prepared for submission to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. But let me say what is most important is the actual safety measures, features engineered in to the reactors themselves. Yet we have to be prepared for the contingency of a major accident in a reactor. As a matter of fact during the last 24, 28 years there has not been a single accident or fatality in any of the Indian reactors or atomic energy esta-

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blishment as a result of radiation or any other hazard. But Chernobyl, of course, has high lighted this problem as a legitimate and urgent issue. We should learn lesson from Chernobyl.

I have in the House, in response to various questions, tried to explain the safety measures built into our reactors. I do not have to repeat these here, but all kinds of devices including double containment, redundancy of instruments have been built into the reactors. So, ours are what you call pressurised heavy water power reactors. They are one of the safest kind of reactors because they need not have to be heated up to a tremendous degree. To moderate it and cool it heavy water is used, which would normally prevent any sort of tragic accident which took place in Chernobyl, which was the result of running the reactor at a very high temperature suddenly.

Having dealt with the question of safety, I should like to mention the question of the functioning of the reactors. Members have voiced legitimate concern about the shut-down etc. in some of the atomic reactors. But if you take the whole picture, it is not a story of failure, but of fairly successful functioning. I have figures here for 1985-86 to show what was the capacity factor and the availability factor in our atomic energy reactors. TAPS I and II achieved capacity factors of 75 per cent and 65 per cent for the year. RAPS II achieved around 60 per cent and MAPS I about 63 per cent. The recently commissioned MAPS II also performed satisfactorily, averaging about 55 to 60 per cent for the last three months of the year.

So, I do not want to read out all the statistics, but it is a fact that if you compare the capacity factor or the plant load factor of the nuclear reactors with those of the thermal power stations, it is more or less the same; in some respects the nuclear reactors are much better off.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : There is one question now. He has referred to one unit. The first Unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant had outages numbring 255 during the period 1973 to

1981 and now Mr. M.P. Srinivasan, Chairman of the Nuclear Board, has declared that it shall not be put into operation again, although we have invested Rs. 30 lakhs in repairs of the plant. There never has been generation of power above 40 per cent from Unit I. Now, my question is whether you are intending to put the claim with the Government of Canada to pay compensation for Unit I because we have paid Rs. 178 crores for the purchase of Canadian plant in Rajasthan.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : Well, about Rajasthan Plant I do not know the legal question, but I can tell you that we have not put any claim for compensation from Canada.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : The question is whether you will examine from this angle, whether there is any stipulation of payment of compensation in the agreement of purchase because we have suffered a lot since 1973, and the agriculturists and industrialists have suffered a lot.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : We are prepared to examine that, but the question is that we are still optimistic in repairing that plant and running it. Until our scientists give up...

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : It has been declared as scrap.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : It has not been declared as scrap. Dr. Srinivasan has disclaimed this that he made such a press statement. The press reported it, but he has said to me and to the public that he did not make that statement. Actually, he and his colleagues are now trying to get the reactor running. And if he fails, then we will think of de-commissioning it or using it for some other purpose.

Now, I think, I need not have to range over the entire policy of nuclear power generation but some Members have asked me some specific questions. A Member from Tamil Nadu enquired how much power is allotted from MAPP to Tamil Nadu. (Interruptions.) The answer is, 75% of the power is allocated to Tamil Nadu and the allocation is made not by my Ministry but by the Ministry of Energy. Our friend

from Andhra Pradesh asked about Nagarjunasagar, this was one of the proposals before the Site Selection Committee. It is under submission to the Government and under consideration of the Government.

The question has been asked again and again in the House and also during the debate about the decommissioning of plants and how do you ultimately bury a plant and whether we know the technology of decommissioning. I want to tell the House that our scientists and technologists are fully aware of the technology of decommissioning. As far as the cost of decommissioning is concerned somebody asked whether it is part of the cost structure. We put an element, about one paisa in the tariff of the power sold by Atomic Energy Agency to the people in order to create a fund. The amount goes into a fund which is to be ultimately used for the purpose of decommissioning of a plant when it outlives its economic life. It is almost like the Ming and Moghul Emperors planning their tombs as soon as they ascend the throne. We are making arrangements for this. Not only financial arrangements, but even more than that we are in possession of the technology of decommissioning. I think, I have touched upon almost all the major issues mentioned by the hon. Members.

I would once again like to assure them that what is foremost in our mind is, first of all, the safety in the nuclear power plants, the health of the people, and secondly the proper functioning of the plant so that we have enough power at our disposal for the development of the nation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, Enacting formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill be passed."

Yes, I am allowing Mr. Vyas.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : The question does not pertain to my constituency. It is for the general benefit of the entire country. I would like to know whether the nuclear scientists in the country have developed the robot technology so that one part of the plant which has been declared to be imperative may be replaced by another part.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : If you go to the Atomic Energy plant, BARC, you will find a kind of automatic electronic hand coming and picking up things. But we have not robotised all nuclear plants.

14.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : I would like to know from

[Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas]

the hon. Minister whether the Centre will provide compensation to Rajasthan for the losses that it has suffered as a result of the first Rawatbhata unit lying idle for so many years, as it had to incur so much expenditure for arranging supply of power from other States. My second question is regarding the two units which you are going to instal shortly, and in this connection, I would ask as to when these units will be commissioned.

[English]

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : The RAPPs 3 and 4 will be the compensation for Rajasthan. They will be building two more nuclear plants in Rajasthan. I think during 1994-95 period, it will be completed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we will take up Discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : This is circulated only today. We have been demanding it all these last two to three weeks and today morning we got the information that this is being discussed today. It is very bad.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The demand was there from all the Members for long. Everybody demanded a discussion on it. The BAC decided to take up this Discussion under Rule 193 only two days before because of shortage of time and because next week the Session is coming to an end. Therefore, when Members are very particular about the matters under Rule 193, there is no alternative.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Today morning only we are informed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only recently that has been finalised, two days before.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : I want to draw your kind attention to Rule 194, Clauses 2 :

“(2) The Speaker may allot two sittings in a week on which such matters may be taken up for discussion; and allow such time for discussion not exceeding one hour at or before the end of the sitting, as he may consider appropriate in the circumstances.”

The Discussion cannot take place at 2 O'clock. It should be either one hour before the close or one hour after the close of the sitting. The Speaker has no power to extend the time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is already circulated in the Bulletin as pointed out.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : I welcome the discussion. But you can do one thing. You can suspend this rule. You cannot violate the rule and go on with the discussion. I want to cooperate with you. You may suspend this rule and then you start the discussion. Otherwise, the discussion may start at 4 O'clock. Nothing could be done. You suspend this rule. Within one hour, the discussion should be completed. It should not made an affair where all Members participate and linger on with the discussion. You also can control the speeches and the hon. Minister will make a short statement. You cannot violate Rule 194. I cannot advise anybody to violate this specific rule.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want to inform the hon. Members that on 26th November it was circulated in the Bulletin also. Of course, you have got it today morning. It was decided like that. In the BAC also, they took a decision : we adopted it.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : We cannot violate the rule.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You want to have one-hour time limit.

(Interruptions)