

tion of perspective and annual action plans, monitoring of evaluation of the programme etc. Funds for the IRDP are shared by the Central and the State Government on 50:50 basis and the Central share is released directly to the Agency.

While determining the quantum of allocation of funds for various developmental programmes, I would urge the Government that an equal percentage of the amount of the allocation to be made to an M.P. and M.L.A. either block-wise or Constituency-wise should be fixed so that they can develop their respective areas according to its needs without any hinderance.

12.22 hrs.

INDIAN ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up item No. 8 on the Agenda—Further consideration of the motion moved by Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi on the 31st July, 1986. Already we have taken two hours and 28 minutes. The time allotted for this Bill is two hours. We are going to permit three or four speakers and I request them to be very brief taking only five minutes each.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amendment Bill in regard to electricity provides that the theft of electricity will be regarded as a serious offence. There is no denying that the theft of electricity should be regarded as a serious offence but what will be its result ? Mostly the poor farmers will be caught under this crime and the big industrialists who commit theft of electricity will go scot free because the personnel of Electricity Department help them in this theft of electricity.

The provision for theft of electricity as serious offence will implicate the poor farmers only. The employees of Electricity

Department like linesman, overseers etc. take bribe from the influential persons and allow them to utilize electricity illegally. Unless action is taken against the employees of the Electricity Department, it is doubtful whether by amending the law the Electricity Department will register improvement, and theft of electricity will be checked. At the most, it will cause harassment to the small farmers.

I would like to give an example in this respect. There was an owner of cold storage in our region. He used to commit theft of electricity to the tune of about Rs. 10,000 per month. There is no record for how many years he had been committing the theft of electricity. When an overseer caught him, his superior officers warned him not to do this as it would only harm him. As a result thereof the overseer was transferred from that area. If some subordinate honest officer wants to bring to book such person, the higher officers harass him because they themselves are involved in it. This is what has happened to such an overseer of our area.

I would, therefore, like to say that so far as the theft of electricity is concerned, it should be checked. The nation is bearing a huge loss due to this theft of electricity in the Electricity Department. Strict action should be taken against such officers in the Electricity Department as help in the act of theft. Only after this the amendment, which is being brought by the hon. Minister, can be implemented in a proper way. I would like to request the hon. Minister that first they should streamline the functioning of the Electricity Department.

The electricity situation in the rural areas is very bad. There the electricity plays hide and seek with the people. Whenever the supply is restored, they rush to start the motor but on reaching the farms, they find that the electricity has gone again. Due to this the development of the country is being hampered.

In villages, the farmers are surrendering the electricity connections. You will have to think over it seriously. The country needs electricity for the development but it is an irony that farmers are surrendering the electricity connections. They say categorically that they don't need electricity because

they are forced to mortgage their land because they have to make payment continuously for the electric connections while they are not getting electricity.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to streamline the working of the Electricity Department and the Electricity Board in the first instance. Only after this, can this Act have the desired effect.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI G.L. DOGRA : (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Electricity (Amendment) Bill. From the discussion we had on the floor of the House on this Bill, it appears that the infrastructure and superstructure of electricity in the country is producing more thieves than light. I would say that as far as this Bill is concerned, it is a good step to prevent theft but theft is not the only negative factor in the production of energy. Theft takes place from the very beginning, when the project is started. Therefore, we should be very careful during the construction of various projects so that it is seen that no malpractices are indulged while the people are floating tenders or using materials and false and undue payments are not made to the parties. These are the very things which we should look into. But to prevent the theft of power, the only thing is, we should have abundance of electricity. For that various projects have been started in the country and investigations are being carried out for new projects.

So far as our projects in Jammu and Kashmir are concerned, Salal is one project and Dulhasti is another project, which are under construction. Salal is an important project in the hands of NHPC. The completion of Salal is being deferred from time to time. A couple of days ago, there was a news item that following floods in a nallah, the power house was damaged. It is astonishing because we have constructed a gate on that nallah to prevent water coming into the hydel-project area. But I wonder why in this rainy season, why that gate was kept open and whether it is deliberately done or it is a matter of negligence, on behalf of the project administration. In both the cases, very serious

notice has to be taken and conduct of local administration at Salal has created lack of confidence in the local people of the area so far as the administration of the project is concerned. People talk many things which are scandalous. It was a good thing that the Chairman of the NHPC, who is very honest and efficient man, flew to Jammu and reached the project immediately the next day and he took stock of how much damage has been done. Otherwise, over-estimate of damage may lead to very scandalous position. Therefore, I would say that the Chairman should be asked to look into this personally and see that the responsibility is fixed and that no further damage is done and that the project is completed within the given time so that the shortage of electricity in the Northern region is reduced to the extent electricity is produced in that project.

There are three other projects which have been investigated by NHPC. Their project reports and investigations have been completed. These three projects are Sawalkot, Bhajliar and Radal of NHPC. They have written to the Kashmir Government to accept the power sharing formula. Power sharing formula is determined in respect of Salal as well as Dulhasti. These two projects are already sanctioned. But there is no policy decision involved. Lack of acceptance is obstructing the progress of these three projects. I wonder why the Governor who is said to be a very efficient man is not giving approval to the power sharing formula. Lot of publicity is being given to the work done by the Governor in the State. A couple of days ago, there was a supplement in 'Hindustan Times' with regard to efficient functioning of Governor. But the real publicity is to expedite these projects. These projects cannot proceed unless sanction to power sharing is given. I wonder why the State Government is sleeping over this matter.

We are also having super-thermal station in the country. So far as this is concerned, we have to remember that it is not a very wise thing to over-use coal we are trustees of the coal on behalf of future generations. We should tackle water resources because it goes to sea and part of it is being used by Pakistan. Water once gone is gone for ever but so far as coal is concerned, we should

[Shri G.L. Dogra]

use coal only for lean season. Wherever, hydro-electricity is possible, it should be produced. Our suggestion is that the greatest attention should be paid so far as hydro-electric projects are concerned. I would request the Madam Minister to write to the Kashmir Government to give sanction to the power sharing formula of the three projects which I mentioned just now.

So far as power sharing formula is concerned, the sanction should be given by J and K Government without delay. This should be done very quickly so that these projects can be taken in hand. We seek approval of the J and K Government.

With these suggestions, I think. I once again say that so far as the Bill is concerned, the real way to prevent the theft is to produce lot of electricity and we should produce as much electricity as is required in the country. We have lot of hydro-electric potential. The whole of Himalayas is full of potential. Therefore, we should properly utilise it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very essential to remove Chapter V by which the Electricity Boards have been given wide powers, from the principal Electricity Act. The Electricity Boards are charging full amount of service charges from the consumers, for providing electricity to villages for agriculture and for setting up industry irrespective of the fact whether it is 3 HP or 5 HP connection or the flour mill, chillies grinder or turmeric grinder. If the Board goes bankrupt, it makes up the deficit by charging the consumers. Therefore, in my opinion it is essential to delete Chapter V from the Act. In this connection, I have given notice under 377 also. In the villages of Andhra Pradesh if someone wants to set up industry with 5 HP or 3 HP connection, he is asked to bear the expenditure for setting up 4 to 5 poles to carry electricity upto the industry. Previously the Electricity Board used to bear this cost and only the cost of wire upto 30 meters was charged from the consumer. But now the consumer has to pay full amount whether it is HTO or LTO

as a result of which the factory owners have to face great difficulty in getting electricity. In a way, electric connection has become a source of harassment. Particularly the small factory owners have to face great difficulty. I would, therefore, request that it is essential to delete Chapter V from the Act. I am making appeal particularly for this.

Besides, it should also be enquired whether the funds earmarked for rural electrification are being utilised for that purpose or not. If the funds meant for providing electric connection to the rural people are utilised in the generation of electricity only, what is the use of rural electrification programme? In case the funds earmarked by Rural Electrification Corporation for meeting the demand of electricity for the development of villages, is utilised for the generation of power, what penalty are you awarding in such matters? In villages, the farmers are facing difficulty due to the shortage of power. Only in my district in Andhra Pradesh applications submitted by at least 30,000 persons are pending for the last 4 years. The Board is not able to provide more than 5,000 connections and that also in the case of one pole or no pole. They do not erect transformer also. In this way we see that the fund earmarked for rural electrification is not being utilised properly. For the proper utilisation of the fund, it is essential to audit the accounts so that the benefit of the funds may reach the farmers. The main objective of the rural electrification is to provide electricity to the farmers or the small factory owners so that the heavy cost incurred in drawing water with the help of oil engine is obviated. It is, therefore, essential to provide electricity for this purpose. What does it mean if it takes five years in getting electric connection in spite of having a 'C' Form? I would, therefore, like to say that more funds should be allotted for rural electrification and also it should be checked whether it is being utilised properly or not. Besides, the farmer should be provided with the power connection within two months from the date of submission of application.

In Andhra Pradesh, slab rates are in force. There the Chairman of the Electricity Board flatly refuses to provide

electricity to the consumer. He regards himself a very important person. He says that the Board will suffer loss if they provide electricity to such consumers and so they will not provide electricity to such consumers. But the electricity is not the personal property of anyone. The Centre and the State Government have invested money in the generation of electricity. But they think themselves very important persons. I want that there should be such provision in the Act that no Government or the electricity Board can refuse electric connection to those who have obtained 'C' Forms. If it is technically feasible, the electric connection should be provided to them within two months.

The amendment, which has been moved, provides punishment to those who pilfer electricity. I would like to say that only H.T. consumers commit such theft. The farmer does not pilfer electricity because electricity costs him hardly Rs. 150 which he is prepared to pay. The theft or pilferage of electricity which takes place is committed only by industrial houses. All personnel of the Electricity Board are after all employees. They get money two times more from the factory-owners than what they get as salary. You are responsible for all these things. How will you detect pilferage of electricity? It can be detected by checking the meter. But you cannot check it. You disconnect the electric connection in case the payment of bill is not made. The farmers are harassed at the time of disconnection. If someone manages to restore electricity after its having been disconnected. He is charged Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 per units more. I would suggest that there should be provision of 'Panchnama' at the time of disconnecting the electric supply. We cannot raise our voice sitting at home. I would, therefore, like that there should be provision for it in the Act.

Now I would like to draw your attention towards two to three points. I shall cite two to three examples to show how the officers commit irregularities. In our area when the Electricity Board undertook the work of laying a line, its cost

estimate was Rs. 80 lakhs which rose up to 9 crores. You can imagine the reasons. I do not want to refer to the name of the Engineer but I have information that he is**. Some bungling has taken place there and a committee was constituted in the State Assembly to look into the matter. That Engineer again joined NTPC. After joining the NTPC he sanctioned Cuddappa-Bangalore line project to**. The same** started working again who had helped in the loot of Rs. 9 crores in Andhra Pradesh. The same Assistant Engineer joined N.T.P.C. There is a loss of Rs. 30 crores. Cuddappa-Bangalore line was to be completed in 1984 but the same has not been completed. Because of this, Karnataka Government will have to suffer a loss of at least Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 crores. 75 per cent of the electricity to BHEL was cut. Electricity to Indian Aeronautics was cut. The same engineer who had looted the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board and against whom enquiry by a Commission is going on, was posted there. After that also, wherever that contractor used to go that engineer, like his shadow, used to be posted there. Similarly wherever that contractor went the Assistant Engineer got himself posted there. I would like to remind you that Rs. 1 crore are involved. They lifted 1,200 tonnes of steel in excess for Nagarjuna-Vijaywada Line.

[English]

This was kept in a godown in**. This was utilised for Cuddappa-Bangalore line. There is no ICMR...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : You should have enquired about this. They stole it from the Electricity Board. Assistant Engineer drew in excess. He did not give details as to wherefrom he brought it and in what way that was used. I want to know that when NTPC people used the pilfered material, do you not find out as to wherefrom that material has come?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I would like to remind you that before the installation of the line, four pillars had fallen. Why? The reason was that the work was not done properly. This collusion between the Government officer and the contractor should end.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. I have called the Minister.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : **

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. I am not allowing. Why are you wasting your time? Only the Minister. (Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am extremely grateful to all the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion. If some of these things which were taken up last time are given in writing, if they can be given in writing, specific instances of corruption or any such thing, where nothing has been done, we will certainly look into them. There is no question of hiding anything from any one. If Mr. Reddy or any other hon. Member has specific instances, he can write to us and we shall certainly look into them as early as possible and let them know the facts.

I am extremely happy that all the Members, irrespective of their party affiliations, have welcomed this Bill. Some Members have said that it is not stringent enough, that much stronger measures should have been taken, the fine should

have been more, the imprisonment should have been more. Some have said that there should have been only imprisonment. Some others find that it is too harsh for the farmers and that harsh action should not be taken against farmers. All I want to say is that it could be both ways. But there is a loss of energy through theft, and I think no one will disagree on this that theft has to be brought down, it has to be controlled, it has to be curbed. It that seek the full cooperation of all the hon. Members here. It is not the intention of the Government by any chance to see that our small farmers and those people who have very small holdings suffer or are brought to book. But it is our intention to catch those who are carrying on this knowingly and willingly and are doing it on a large scale. That is the only reason why this has been brought just now. But at a later stage, if it is found that a more comprehensive Bill is necessary taking into account the various other aspects of electricity and energy, we will look into it and see if we can satisfy the Members at a latter stage. We were committed last time, in the last Session, to see that this Bill on theft was brought, and in accordance with that, this Bill has been brought. This has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

Before going to any specific instances of theft, I would like to say this. Charges of corruption have been made and we are seriously concerned about it; I have been hearing the hon. Members and I share their concern; to some extent, there is a connivance or abetment of some people, they are a part of it. I will not accept that *in toto*, but there is bound to be some weakness somewhere. And it is precisely for that reason that I have called a meeting of the Chairmen of all State Electricity Boards on the 8th of this month for two or three days; they will be going in detail with each of the States and try to find out how and why. Since the hon. Members have expressed their views, we will be able to try and see which are some other States which are mentioned and see that the concerned people are taken to task, how they could be rectified. This exercise, we carry out from time to time. But they have also certain limitations.

First and foremost Electricity is a Concurrent Subject. If any of the hon. Members feels that this is not stringent enough, there is nothing to prevent the State Government from having their own legislation, they can have more stringent measures, they can increase the fine or imprisonment, whatever they want to do. We thought that in the Central legislation, as far as possible, some sort of uniformity should be there which is, by and large, acceptable to all. But that does not prevent the Karnataka Government or the Haryana Government or the Tamil Nadu Government or the U.P. Government or any other Government from taking any step which is necessary to bring down the rate of theft, to check it. I personally feel that we should be able to curb down, easily, from 5 to 7 per cent of the theft. In that, I totally agree with the hon. Members, we need greater awareness, greater cooperation, we need greater use of the media to make people realise that conservation of energy itself is no less than creation or generation of additional energy.

Creation and generation of energy is a very very capital intensive thing. We are trying to work out mathematics. We found that generation of 1 M.W. of electricity costs about Rs. 1 crore. To make the Plant Load Factor perform better by one percent means generation of 450 MW which will be tantamount to cost about 500 crores. Therefore, while we try expeditious commissioning of those which are on-going, we also try to save and conserve what we have. And while—we try to modernise—for which Rs. 500 crores has been kept in the 7th Plan itself—we have located 32 thermal power stations where the modernisation work can be taken up. At the same time, I think transmission and distribution losses can be made up to a very great extent.

I would appeal to all the Members of the House to see how the public can be involved in this. That can come largely through all of us to make every citizen realise and to save as much energy as possible.

I remember an instance of many many years ago when I was a young child. One of my parents asked me what is the difference between a lantern and a *bijli ki batti*. It was

to make me realise the vital factor that with regard to an electric lamp we just switch on and switch off whereas in the case of lantern it will take a little process.

If we save a little energy for the rural electrification by way of conserving such electricity as can be used and utilised by some people who are really in need of it, it will go a long way for rural people.

Coming to the basic factor, power is necessary. Electricity is necessary not alone as a lifeline, but as something which is necessary for socio-economic development. I am glad to say that while the economic growth rate is envisaged as 5% in the 7th Plan, the electricity, energy growth rate will be about 12% in the 7th Plan. We are trying to increase from 170 billion units last year to 190 billion units. Even then, demands are really much more than that.

We do not have enough money as Mr. Daga very correctly said. We have to have more and more money. Therefore, we are trying to see that we have more for this. Some of the small private captive plants do not require any clearance, they can be cleared at the State level and later on if there is greater capacity then only the CEA comes into the picture.

At the same time we also are going in for other non-conventional sources of energy. The mix of the thermal and hydel also has changed its complexion recently in proportion. We will see that hydel proportion also raises gradually, so that we can utilise full water potential that we have in the country.

We are trying to save fuel also. Today there was a question on ocean waves. We can utilise the heat generated by the ocean waves. Tidal waves, solar energy, bio-gas all these factors are taken into consideration so that the amount of energy that we can have in the country should serve its purpose in overall development and improvement of the condition of life. Because light is not only needed for the illumination, light is also something which gives hope to the mind and the heart of a person and brings new hope in the life of the people.

Regarding certain specific suggestions, about Electricity Boards, so long we are

[Shrimati Sushila Rohtagi]

finding that we could not really implement the law as it exists now.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendragarh) : I will ask one question. Madam, you have given assurance about improving efficiency and removing corruption from Electricity Boards in the States. Have you any say in the matter of selection and appointment of the Chairmen of State Electricity Boards ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : These are statutory bodies. I think, the Hon. Member who has been a Minister for a long time knows about it more. They are statutory bodies. But we ask also the State Governments to keep a better coordination with the State Electricity Boards...

AN. HON. MEMBER : You have no control.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I don't say there is no control...

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I had written a letter to the Chairman, National Thermal Power Commission on 24-5-86. So far no reply has come.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I want to make a small request to you that if you have some complaints to make kindly give in writing.

(Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, I cannot reply to it now. Let his complaint come to me. But, Sir, we are trying as much as possible to regulate the working within these regulations that we have now.

Sir, someone from Rajasthan had made a pointed suggestion that the rural electrification scheme is not going on very well there. I would like that the hon. Members who participated in the debate that they should get more schemes under the rural electrification sent and the same can be included.

We are trying to give more training the personnel. Without training the maintenance of the operation will be very difficult. We had set up a very high-powered committee to go into the details of producing better trained personnel and many of its recommendations are being implemented.

As regards Talcher it is awaiting the clearance of the environmental sector. It is in the Central sector. It has been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority. It is of 1000 MW but awaiting clearance from environmental sector. There seems to be no one from West Bengal otherwise I would have stated their position also.

Someone had mentioned about the Goa power position. We find that there are problems in locating the power plant in Goa because of coal linkage and pollution aspect. We do not want to spoil its scenic beauty but at the same time power has been allocated from the Central sector, namely, from Ramagundam and Korba to meet the demands of Goa so that while its beauty is retained the power shortage is also met at the same time.

Many members mentioned about the nuclear power generation. The additional nuclear capacity during the Plan period will be 705 MV. It will be our endeavour that by the end of the century 10,000 MV of nuclear energy should be generated. That will be able to set off some of the shortages that we are facing now.

Apart from that, I think, most of the points were rotating round bringing a new comprehensive Bill and also at the same time how corruption could be decreased. I share the concern of the hon. Members. As I have already said we shall look into all these problems and see how greater regulation and control can be brought about and also meeting and going from place to place to see how overall performance could be improved to come up to the expectations of the hon. Members. With these words I thank the hon. Members once again and I would request them that they accept this amending Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration. There are certain amendments to Clause 2. Dr. Chinta Mohan is not present. Shri Mool Chand Daga,

Clause 2—(Substitution of new Section for Section 39)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Sir, I beg to move :

" Page 1, line 8,—

after "whoever" insert—

"knowingly" (3)

Page 1, lines 8 and 9,—

after "any energy" insert—

"Or electricity so as to cause a loss to the electricity authority" (4)

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to my mind the reply given by the hon. Minister has no connection with this Bill...*(Interruptions)* You have said that you will bring a comprehensive Bill. That is a separate thing but the Bill which is brought may kindly be perused deeply. We do not want to submit Amendment for the sake of merely submitting an Amendment. You have in your speech stated that "if a man knowingly commits an offence". I have used the same word—"Whoever knowingly commission offence". If you do not use the word 'knowingly', these people are not going to do anything for the farmers and the poor. We are of the view that it is only the employees of the Electricity Depa... who pilfer electricity. These are the persons who mainly either pilfer power or help in its pilferage. If they put the blame of theft on us, we will call that "knowingly", the word which you have used in your speech. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is only one intention in submitting

my Amendment that if someone presumes this, he will be having guilty intention. If he says that he committed this mistake as he was not aware of it, then that will not be "knowingly". For example, if entry to some lane is prohibited but no 'No Entry' board has been put up there and I enter that lane, then that will not be a mistake done 'knowingly' because "knowingly" means 'guilty intention'. When there is no guilty intention, the act will not be categorised as offence. Through my Amendment I have said this thing that theft of power is committed by your own Electricity Department employees. If you look at the over-all situation, you will find that 70 per cent people of India are illiterate and these innocent people will be victimised under this law. Therefore, I have said this thing in my Amendment to make this a little clear.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How can you prove whether it is knowingly or unknowingly ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : If I take a house on rent and somehow I temper with the electricity unknowingly, that should be ignored.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : But, how to ascertain that.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : But if I do it knowingly, then, it is an offence.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : But you must define knowingly.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It requires *mens rea*.

'Knowingly' is when you have guilty intentions. That is why, I have suggested that 'knowingly' should be inserted.

Secondly, what is going to be stolen or pilfered ? You have put 'energy'; energy can mean anything. Energy does not mean electricity only. Here, it should be electricity specifically. Here, it is an amendment to the Indian Electricity Act. That is why I have said, that 'electricity' should be specifically mentioned. That is the reason I have moved my amendment.

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

[*Translation*]

So far you have not been able to tell us as to how much money the Government will be able to save with the enactment of this law. Had the hon. Minister, before bringing this law, made it clear that with the help of this law so many thefts will be detected or so much money will be saved, I would have thought that the Government has looked into this aspect of saving money.

What I wanted to convey was that after passing the law, lot of Government money will be spent on prosecution only; secondly, prosecution will be a time consuming process. A farmer will have to keep on running to the court for two or three years. Are the electricity thefts not taking place at the moment, though the law in this connection exists? What is done at present is that your Department realises the fine. Now you are making it offence under this law and you want to take the matter to the courts. Have you thought, before enacting the law, that what usually is the fate of the case by taking it to the court? Some cases are decided in two years whereas others are not decided even in four years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, -Sir, you have to get this Bill passed early but at the same time you should also think that because of a small case how many people will have to keep running to the courts? Will the hon. Minister tell us as to how much money the Government will be able to save due to this? Are you aware that as a result of prosecution, how much money you will have to spend on the inspector and the witnesses?

So far as the question of apprehending people is concerned, I have submitted certain figures in this regard which show that out of 44,000 cases, 200 persons were convicted. Then with what purpose are you bringing this provision? Presently, when a farmer or any one else is caught pilfering electricity, he pays the fine for that. Then what for are you bringing this Amendment Bill? Keeping this thing in view I request that whenever you want to bring comprehensive Bill, you may bring that but for the time being it will be better if you withdraw this Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I am happy that Shri Daga at least accepted one thing in the Bill as good that we are going to bring a comprehensive Bill soon. Secondly, it is not easy for any one to quantify the money which will be realised. But the purpose of bringing this Bill is to create a feeling of fear among the persons who resort to pilfering that if they pilfer power, strict action can be taken against them, they can be sent to jail, they can be fined and in this way their respect can be at stake. If Rajasthan or any other State wants to make the provisions more stringent and if Shri Daga is able to get in his State these provisions more deterrant, he can do so. But purpose behind bringing this Amending Bill is that a sense of fear may be created in the people who indulge in power theft, and they may get a bad name in the society. Therefore, the provisions made in the Bill are quite proper.

So far as your assertion that mostly employees of the Electricity Department pilfer or help in pilferage is concerned, I agree that some of them must be doing this. If you have any complaint against anyone you give us their names; these things must be exposed and strict action should be taken against the offenders. But in addition to the Government employees many other people are engaged in pilfering power. Therefore, I want that the hon. Member may withdraw his Amendment asking for incorporating the word "whosoever" because that applies to everyone.

[*English*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, under Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code, a public servant cannot be prosecuted till the permission is granted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you withdrawing your amendments?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member Shri Daga, leave of the House to withdraw his amendments?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3—(Amendment of Section 44)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I beg to move :

Page 2, line 10,—

after "any" insert "live"(5)

AN HON. MEMBER : What is the use? Anyway you are going to withdraw your amendment.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It must be on the record.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is the way how Shri Daga gets some opportunity to speak.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, in this amendment I propose that the word 'live' should be inserted. I say this because, if there is a line through which electricity is not passing, that line will not be functioning. That is why I say that this word 'live' should be there.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, I have nothing more to add and I think that he has already agreed to withdraw.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Has the hon. member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

Amendment No. 5 was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 to 6 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

13.10. hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1986-87*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now take up item No. 9—Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 1986-87.

Motion moved :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1987 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof.

Demands No. 2, 3, 19, 21, 22, 25, 29, 30, 33, 34, 36, 40, 42, 53, 61, 64, 80, 85, 86, 91, 93, 95 and 97."

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.