

[English]

SHRIP. KOLANDAIVELU: You have to appoint an Inquiry Commission under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952. (*Interruptions*)

14.59 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),  
1989-90 - *CONTD*

[English]

### Ministry of Energy

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 20 to 22 relating to the Ministry of Energy for which six hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips

to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table without delay.

*Motion moved:*

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1990, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 20 to 22 relating the Ministry of Energy."

Mr. Madhav Reddi may speak now.

## STATEMENT

*Demands for grants for 1989-90 in respect of the Ministry of Energy Submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grant on Account voted by the House on 17.3.1989.	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House.	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
20.	Department of Coal	24,75,00,000	250,83,00,000	123,75,00,000	1254,17,00,000				
21.	Department of Power	60,31,00,000	332,87,00,000	301,53,00,000	1580,32,000				
22.	Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	18,74,00,000	55,00,000	93,69,00,000	2,76,00,000				

15.00 hrs.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at last, after wasting so many hours, we have come to the Demands for Grants. We do not know when we will be in a position to complete the discussion on various Demands which we have selected for discussion on the floor of the House.

Demands No. 20 to 22 relate to the Ministry of Energy. First, I would like to make a few comments on Demand No. 20 relating to the Department of Coal. It is a very important subject. You know the importance of coal which is the major source of energy. This is an industry in which more than seven lakhs of people are directly engaged.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHEER *in the Chair*]

15.02 hrs.

On going through the allocations made in the Budget towards this, I found that Rs. 1653.5 crores including the Revenue and the Capital as also including Rs. 275.58 crores which have already been voted by this House, have been allocated for the Department of Coal for exploration, production and for distribution of Coal not only through the Coal India Ltd., which is a holding company and various subsidiary coal companies, but also the Singreni Collieries Ltd.

I found that the total allocation for the 7th Plan was of the order of about Rs. 6000 crores for Coal India Ltd. and about Rs. 550 crores for the Singreni Collieries Ltd. It is claimed that the entire financial allocation in the 7th Plan has been fully utilized, though there is a shortfall even in this if we take the estimated expenditure for the next financial year which is estimated at about Rs. 500 crores. Anyway, I find that the Seventh Plan has been executed, implemented to the extent of 115 per cent. It is the most important segment of planning, but the amount is less than allocated to it. This is in spite of the fact that the prices have escalated, there has

been a cost over-run, time-overrun in regard to several projects which had been taken up by the Coal India Ltd., Singreni Collieries Ltd. Several projects such as the LCP, Low Carbonisation Plant, at Narsapur and others near Calcutta, Dhankani are incomplete. We do not know when the Dhankani plant is going to be commissioned. Similarly, we don't know when the second phase of the Naraspur LTC LCP is going to be taken up because, as it is with the first phase it is running into huge losses. And Singreni Colliery Company is not in a position to finance further. They have asked the Government for additional funds. They have not been provided so far.

Similarly, there are Open Cast Mines Projects under the Coal India Limited as well as under the Singreni Colliery Company Limited, such as the Munguru Project and the Ramagundam II and III Open Cast Mine project. All these projects have remained incomplete though it was planned that they will be completed and commissioned before the end of the 7th Five Year Plan.

While we are only concerned with the financial targets but when we go into the physical targets, we find that there is a serious shortfall and the allocations made in this Budget towards Coal are very inadequate and with these meager allocations it is difficult for the Coal India Limited and many subsidiary companies under its control to complete the projects which they have taken on hand.

Sir, coming to the question of the exploration of coal which is very important, there is shortage of coal even in spite of the fact that there is a feeling in the country that today particularly in the North, there is a surplus production of coal. There are pithead stocks accumulated to the extent of about 36 million tonnes. There are no takers. And suddenly we find that there is a surplus coal, even though there is really shortage of coal at several places. Because of shortage of coal there is shortage of power. Several thermal power plants are suffering because of lack of coal, yet the feeling is being created in the

[Sh. C. Madhav Reddi]

country that today we are surplus in coal simply because there are pithead stocks accumulated for various other reasons and not because coal is not in demand. At the same time, there is an acute shortage of coal in the Southern India because the transportation of coal is so costly. Unless the Singareni Colliery Company Limited is able to increase the production to the extent that they could meet the requirement in the South India, it is very difficult to conclude that there is surplus coal in the country and everything is all right and there is nothing to be done; no additional allocations are required.

Regarding exploration, I find that only Rs. 20 crores have been provided in the Budget. While we have a number of exploratory projects which the companies wanted to undertake because of their expansion, it is estimated that the coal reserves are of the order of about 170 billion tonnes in this country, and Lignite is about 6 billion tonnes. Out of this, our exploitation is not even 1 per cent. It is only a fraction of a per cent. As far as the conservation of coal is concerned, it is never a problem in this country because of the huge deposits of coal which are available underground. Though coal is a non-renewable source of energy, we need not be bothered that once the coal stocks are exhausted what we are going to do after a thousand years. New technologies are coming up and after 50 or 100 years, there will not be any need for us to go underground to dig coal. While there is no need for such huge amounts to be spent on exploration, there is need for spending money on the working mines. Wherever the mines are being depleted, new mines have to be opened and new people have to be employed. Additional employment facilities have to be provided. Coming to the question of manpower problems in the coal industry, I find that in the Coal India Limited, the total manpower in 1987-88 was of the order of 6 lakhs and 75 thousands. In the year 1988-89, by the end of 1988, the number has come down to 6 lakhs and odd workers. There is a reduction of 5500 workers. This is in spite of the fact

they that have rationalised their working and recruited some more workers in places where new mines have come up. The coal companies feel that there is surplus manpower in the industry. They had introduced attractive retirement benefits with the help of which they thought they could reduce the number and see that the unwanted persons and old people whose productivity was very low could be removed. I have no objection to this type of dealing with the people whose productivity is low. They may be given good retirement benefits with which they may retire voluntarily and live a different life by giving up the profession in which they were all through eking out their living. But what is the employment generation in such a big sector like the coal industry? That is a very important point. If 5000 workers have been removed, I would have been satisfied if another 10000 workers are taken in. There is a growth of about 8 per cent in the coal industry because production is increasing every year by 8.5 per cent. When there is growth in production, when new mines are being opened, particularly the open cast mines, where is the need for reducing the manpower? Why do you want to reduce the overall number of workers? What is the service that you are rendering to the society and what employment generation are you giving to the country when you reduce the strength of the workers by not recruiting new and younger workers? When there is 8 per cent increase in production, there should be growth in the employment also at least to the extent of 6 per cent, giving allowance to your rationalisation because you are going on introducing new methods of labour saving. But you are not doing that and we see here exactly the opposite of what should have been done is happening. You are reducing the number of workers which is not at all justifiable and I am not prepared to support this step.

Coming to the question of industrial relations, I am very happy to note that industrial relations had, to some extent, been satisfactory in the coal industry during the last one year. There was a general strike in the coal industry in March last year. This was



because of the fact that the coal wage agreement was not finalised and the Steering Committee or the JBCCI was taking a lot of time to settle the issue. They call it as JBCCI. Because of this, there was a general strike last year in which a huge production loss, about 10 lakh tonnes, I believe, was there. But this year there is a threat of strike. Even today, many Unions have already given strike notices. Some might have withdraw their notices.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): Memorandum of Understanding has been signed.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Okay. Very good. We didn't know this. I will be happy if the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. I am not aware of that because that has not been made public so far. It is very good that it has already been done and they are going to withdraw their strike notices. But as things stand today, many Unions have yet to withdraw their strike notices.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY (Hazaribagh): It is for your information that no Union in this country has given any strike notice. All the Unions have signed the Memorandum of Understanding on that account.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: I accept this. This is the position today. I have been told that the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. Okay, I accept that position.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY: No strike notice is pending.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: The treat was there...

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: It was written in this spirit that such and such workers who are on strike are for a wrong cause. It would have been written in such in that report. The national wage revision was due for a long time. We are happy that

Memorandum of Understanding has been signed now (*Interruptions*) I believe, you would also agree with me through you may not be able to speak here....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY: You will perhaps agree with me that even the last year's strike was only a political strike.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Why was not this Memorandum of Understanding signed last year? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA' (Bankura): You were also with other Unions, year before last.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: For the last three years or so, the JBCCI was sitting over the matter. They had 21 or 22 sittings, I do not know. They have not come to any agreement. For three years we had been paying only the interim relief to the workers. Anyway I am happy that the workers have got something now. I do not know whether ultimately the most important problem, that is, the Underground Allowance has also been settled. Because the main dispute finally was that the workers wanted 20 per cent Underground Allowance and the Management was not prepared to give them. I do not know whether that aspect also has been settled. If it has been settled, then it is okay.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: Everything has been settled.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: But the point is that there was a delay. It was unnecessary.

I was speaking about the industrial relations. I am very happy that the industrial relations were rather good last year, but there were some strikes—whatever you may call them, the cat call strikes or local strikes. Their number has been reduced, no doubt. But there were strikes. There was a production loss in various collieries, as the colliery level strikes were there. They have been reduced to some extent. But the point is, while we are all interested in maintaining

[Sh. C. Madhav Reddi]

good industrial relations, particularly in this sensitive field. The Unions are giving a strike call and then the workers are going on strike. It is so easy. Because workers are so much irritated owing to several grievances. They do hardwork, they have to face a lot of hazards. Yet we try to blame the workers for this by not realising that there are many other local problems which irritate their minds. They had to go on strike. There is going to be a production loss. Now, Sir, there is no point in blaming the trade unions in this. Trade Unions are generally blamed by the government. Not a single trade union is recognised, it is argued. The verification of membership is not there. The all India trade unions and the central trade unions do not cooperate. The Government says: we wanted the workers to be taken into the management and on the Board of Directors. They are not cooperating and no workers' representative could be taken on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Sathe, who is not here, was dreaming of a workers' participation in the industry. But what has happened to that dream? It just remained as a dream, because it was not possible. Every time, he was blaming the workers that "They are not cooperating, there is a multiplicity of unions." Who is responsible for this? The unions will be there but have you amended the Act to the effect that there could be only one union in one industry or one colliery? You have not done that, and now you are blaming the workers that they are not cooperating. What is there for cooperation?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): The members of the Opposition are responsible for it. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Please listen to me. Please try to understand. I do not know whether it is your subject or not but you go on speaking and do not listen to anybody.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: Most of

you have organised trade unions at various places...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: I am not a trade union leader... (*Interruptions*)... First listen to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak first.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: You always go on speaking. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please carry on. Your time is about to finish.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: He is busy in his running commentary, you are not restraining him...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

What I was telling was that the concept of workers' participation in the management which was such a good concept, has not materialised. That has been almost shelved because of the fact that the Government had never had any will to implement it. And the Government had always tried to blame the trade union leaders saying that they were not cooperating. There was no need. The trade union leaders were only asking you to just specify the qualifications for contesting for a Directorship. If a trade union leader wants to contest, how could he contest, unless he knows who are the people that are qualified? You better define it, and see that the scheme is modified or amended. You never did it. Because the model scheme of the Bureau of Public Enterprises or some other organisation was there and you wanted that model scheme to be implemented. But have you got the real will to do it?

Both the Ministers, the Minister of State for Power and the Minister of State for Energy, are socialists and they had been my colleagues in the Socialist Party. I had been with them for many years. But I am sorry to say that they have forgotten their socialism.

Coming to the question of safety in the mines, while I am happy that the fatal acci-

dents are getting reduced and there are no roof collapses, people are no longer dying because of roof collapses, I am surprised to find that the number of accidents had increased. The number of fatal accidents had increased this year because of other factors—other than roof collapse. We are today having the open cast mining system and 60 per cent of our coal production comes out of the open cast mines. In those open cast mines we are having heavy earth moving machinery which is today responsible for many accidents. No efforts are being made by the coalfields in arrangement or the Coal India Limited, to see that these accidents are reduced. This has to be taken care of to see that the number of accidents which is increasing, is reduced.

Coming to the question of Energy, with which my friend Shri Kalpnath Rai, is directly concerned, I was told that we had high hopes of the gas-based energy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: I will take only two or three minutes more and then conclude.

Gas based energy is the hope of our future. There have been huge deposits. Gas was being flared up and wasted everywhere. We thought that the future energy would be based on gas. But what is the position today? Today we have two gas based plants in the north, which had already come into operation. We were told that there was no taker for the power because of the high cost that there is a higher capital cost of these projects. Why is it that we are trying to transfer this power at a cost of one rupee per unit while coal based power is being transferred to many of the State Electricity Boards at a cheaper rate ranging from 15 paise to 70 paise? If the Coal based thermal plants are older plants, then the power is cheaper. If the plants had been started in '70s, then the rate is 20 paise or so. If the plants had been started in '80s, then it ranges between 45 paise and 75 paise. Why should there be variance in rate? When you are transferring

power from NTPC to the State Electricity Boards, the power should be transferred at the same rate; whether it is produced by gas based plants or coal based thermal power or atomic power, whatever the source may be, the power has to be sold to the Electricity Board at the same rate at which that is sold to all the State Boards. The argument was that the gas-based plants are costly. The State Electricity Boards are not responsible if they are costly. already we have hydel power, which is the cheapest. We are not transferring the hydel power at the cheapest rates, cheaper than the thermal power. Why should you have such a rate of one rupee for power generated by gas-based plants. Who will take it? Suppose you cannot reduce it you make it compulsory on the part of the State Electricity Boards to take the power. They should not have any option to draw only the Coal-based thermal plants. Why should they have option? Take the States of U.P., Haryana and Punjab. They do not want to sign the agreement, they do not want to give Letter of Credit and they do not want to take the power from the gas-based units. I believe only Delhi and Rajasthan have signed the agreements and the rest of the States have refused to sign. They say that they only want power from the coal based plants. What is this? Why should you do that? If this is so, then future is dark for gas based power plants and we cannot think of gas based power at all in this country. So, this aspect has to be looked into.

Lastly I would like to mention about the arrears of Coal India and NTPC. NTPC is having arrears on account of the supply of power to the State Electricity Boards. Similarly, Coal India is having arrears because they have supplied coal to the thermal power stations run by the State Electricity Boards. Now in both the cases, arrears are mounting up and the liquidity of these Corporations is being affected. Why should they not run on commercial basis? When the Tele-communication Department stops the services if the bill is not paid, why should the Coal India not stop supplying coal to those which do not settle the arrears?..(Interruptions)

**PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur):** Centre-State Relations.

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:** Centre-State Relations are not involved in this. You have understand Centre-State Relations wrongly.

I do not subscribe to that. When electricity is supplied to the State Electricity Board, certainly they will have to pay the bill. Otherwise, how are you going to supply electricity? I feel that there should be some sort of statutory provision to see that the Electricity Board's arrears which are mounting up, are cleared. Most of the States run by the Congress (I) Party are in arrears and the Central Government is not in a position to force them to clear the same. If the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board runs into arrears, I am sure, immediately the power from Ramagundam Thermal Power Station will be cut to us. I am sure of it. I am in favour of tightening the screws and seeing that the State Electricity Boards' arrears are collected and the liquidity of these corporations which is being affected very badly, is improved.

**SHRI GADADHAR SAHA (Birbhum):** I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Department of Power be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to pass on foreign credit by the Centre to the West Bengal Government for the Bakreswar Thermal Power Project—which is an approved State Project.] (II)

**SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum):** I rise to support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Energy.

The following are the main thrusts of the energy policy of the Government:

To ensure adequate energy supply at minimum cost;

2. To achieve self-sufficiency in energy supplies;
3. To protect the environment from the adverse in impact of utilising energy resources in an injudicious manner.

A very careful study of the report of the Department of Power for the year 1988-89 would reveal that though the overall performance of the Department during the period under reference has been satisfactory and the targets laid down for the 7th Plan and for the year 1988-89 have, by and large, been achieved, the fact remains that we have not succeeded either to ensure energy supply at a minimum cost or to achieve self-sufficiency in energy supplies. In fact, most of the States are under the grip of acute shortage of power. It is also a fact that a number of viable hydel projects have either been totally abandoned or held up in the name of preservation of ecology or the problems of environment giving undue importance to the criticism that is going on in the country in the name of environment and the need for preserving ecological balance. Nobody disputes the importance of the environmental problem. But while giving undue importance to this aspect, it is a fact that the genuine needs of the people and of the States and the serious problems which people face because of the acute shortage of power, are being grossly overlooked. In view of the constraints of time I am not going to deal with the performance of the Department during the year highlighting its achievements by giving statistics. I rather confine myself to some of the large policy issues to be considered in the 8th Plan with particular reference to the problems of my State of Kerala.

The National Council of Power Utilities, a Society of State Electricity Boards, had organised a Seminar on the 22nd December, 1988 at New Delhi on the power development in the Eighth Plan—Strategies, Issues and Options. Some of the important suggestions made in the Seminar were:



1. Reversal of the present trend of according higher priority to thermal power development at the cost of hydel power.

2. Need for strong inter-regional transmission lines and effective load management measures for optimal utilisation of available generation.

3. Need for effective load management measures for optimum utilisation of available generation.

4. Provision of adequate funds for cost effective schemes like renovation and modernisation of thermal units, uprating of hydel units and transmission and distribution loss reduction.

I am glad that most of the major problems faced by the power sector have come to the notice of the Seminar. I hope, the Government will give the importance it deserves while formulating the 8th Plan. However, I am sorry, the Seminar did not give due consideration to the non-conventional energy sectors like solar, tidal, wind. All these areas have to be developed so that energy can be given at a cheaper cost to an average consumer. So also biogas from municipal waste is a very important sector. There are latest technologies in advanced countries for converting municipal waste into gas. Those technologies should be acquired in order to solve the twin problems of the bigger cities i.e. disposing of waste and shortage of gas. I have gone through the report and there is a proposal for allotting funds. But I feel that more funds can be allotted to that area.

Coming to Kerala, as you all know, Kerala is in the grip of power famine. The State is now fully dependent on hydel power. Ten years back, with the commissioning of the Idukki Hydro-Electric Project, Kerala had surplus power, but during the past ten years, the State has not been able to add anything substantial to power generation capacity. Though only about one-third of the hydro power potential of the State is harnessed, there was dismal failure in the bringing to

fruition the projects in hand and in taking up of new projects. There were administrative failures, labour problem, contract failure and inordinate delay in giving the contracts. These are several factors that stood in the way of implementation of all these projects.

As on today, even with a low consumption of fifteen to sixteen million units per day, heavy power cuts may have to be resorted to in our State. It is not because of the inability on the part of the planners and engineers but it is because of the lack of political will to take decisions that the environment problem was prevailing here. As you know, Sir, the most important proposal was about the Silent Valley Project. That was being indefinitely delayed, for years together. But unfortunately, recently, because of the wild fire, most of the unique plants have been destroyed. Now the result is that we do not have the projects and we do not have the unique species of plants. So, if that was considered at the proper time, I am sure Kerala would have got one of the best cost-efficient hydel power projects.

In Kerala, the Electricity Board is an autonomous body only in name. The party in power and the Minister in-charge are running its day-to-day administration. The politically affiliated and motivated trade unions play a destructive role in the management of the Board by interfering in the management at all levels. Even very small power generation projects take fifteen years or more for completion. For example, the Sabarigiri Augmentation Project was taken up for execution in the early seventies and was scheduled to be commissioned by 1980. But it may take another five or ten years for its completion. The same is the case with the Kakkad and other hydro-electric projects. The Central Monitoring Team of the Central Electricity Authority should be aware of the inordinate delays being caused in our State in the implementation of these projects.

As I have already said, there are long delays in taking decisions, contract failures, centralisation of the decision-making power, want to targets and want of accountability.

[Sh. A. Charles]

All these contribute to a large extent to the lack of implementation of our projects. Still in many cases, even targets are not fixed and nobody is bothered about it. While signing the contract, in most cases even the due date for the completion of the project is not mentioned and nobody is bothered about that.

As I have already stated, nobody will dispute the importance of the environment problem. In our State, even sixty per cent of the hydro electric projects have not been harnessed. So, the only possibility for meeting the needs of our State is to allow all the existing hydro-electric projects to continue.

The coal sector has been explained in great detail by my friend on the other side. The cost of coal has increased and there are number of other problems also.

The thermal power stations are creating another problem, that is, regarding environment. As you know, Sir, Kerala is the most densely populated State of the nation and it will be very dangerous to give more thermal power stations there because that is creating environment problem. Also, the coal will be very costly when it is taken there because we do not have any coal belts there.

So, Sir, it is always good for the State to take into account the cost consideration for hydro-electric projects. Not only in the generation sector, but in the distribution of power also, considerable problem are faced by the consumers in Kerala. Voltage fluctuations and power failures are common. The Electricity Board Organisation and its employees are mainly responsible. They do not seem to attach importance to giving reliable power to the public. It is not beyond their capacity. They were able to provide power for a million tube lights in and around Trivandrum for the 13th Party Congress of C.P.M. At the same time, to set right a snapping of a power line, they may take days. The politically controlled staff are having their own norms of service. Sir, I am not speaking politics, But

these are the problems that we are facing there. I come from Trivandrum, capital of Kerala State. Sir, the sincerity and courtesy of the employees of Kerala Electricity Board could be improved only if the party in power release their control over the day-to-day administration of the Board.

As on today, the management of the Board is directed from C.P.M. Party headquarters and so the Board officials do not bother about winning the confidence of the public or enlisting their support of make the utility service efficient. The Kerala Electricity Board does not seem to worry about the rising costs of the services. The cost of the transmission and distribution in Kerala is very high, in spite of comparatively short distances involved. There is apparently no effort to bring down the costs and reduce power tariff. On the other hand, power tariffs were recently increased under the guise of rationalisation. Even with the cheap hydel power, the generation cost of which is about 10 to 12 paise per unit, the consumers in Kerala have to pay at rates as high as those generating power from thermal stations. It is now more than 60 paise per unit in Kerala. They may have to pay more when power is generated in the proposed costly thermal stations. The people of Kerala have no other way but to go in for or agree to Thermal stations, when there are very good hydro-power schemes. So, the cost of power is going to be high when the thermal stations are completed in Kerala.

Sir, about the transmission loss, I may point out that all concerned are aware that there is scope for considerable improvement in Power Transmission and reduction of transmission losses. There is no second opinion that Transmission of power is cheaper than the transport of coal over long distances, to Thermal Stations located near load centres. Still, the States which do not have coal or oil find it necessary to transport coal by rail and generate power in their Thermal Stations. Why the economic alternative of Transmission of power from pit-head Super Thermal Stations to the States having no coal or oil is not given top priority?

In this matter, the Centre and the Central agencies should play a more important and positive role. Development of Regional and National grids for High Voltage Transmission should have priority. If the Central Agencies are in a position to say that they would supply power to States at rates cheaper than cost of generating thermal power in the States having no coal, it would be possible to limit the adverse unenvironmental impacts.

Sir, it is well-known that a large amount of power is being wasted not only in transmission and distribution but also in the inefficient use of power in the Agriculture and small scale industry sectors. Efforts to reduce the use of inefficient equipment by the subsidised sectors should be an important assignment to Electricity Boards.

Sir, as on today, it cannot be said that Electricity Boards are cost-conscious. Better accountability by Electricity Boards can be brought about by introducing and insisting detailed costing and cost control. At present our Electricity Board is not able to give details of real cost of power delivered to different consumers. This might be the case with most of the Electricity Boards. Better costing will make the Electricity Boards more cost conscious and more accountable resulting in better service to the common man. If the cost-conscious is made, there is a lot of scope for giving relief in the cost of power per unit to the common man. With these words, I once again support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Energy.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Demands for grants of the Ministry of Energy. We have always been asking the Department of Energy for the last 8-10 years that Rajasthan is such a State where more than half of the area is desert and one fourth is hilly area and the remaining one-fourth is plain. We can have maximum agricultural production, if adequate power is supplied to such an area where more than half of the

area is desert and where water is available at the depth of 500 feet. After every two-three years there is a famine in Rajasthan. There was a severe famine last year also. Hon. Prime Minister offered every possible assistance to Rajasthan and thus the lives of its people were saved. It will be a great relief if the Department of Energy starts working actively and supply power regularly. It is well known that underground water in desert area cannot be made available without using power. Therefore, we have been continuously demanding that maximum power supply should be ensured for this area, it may gas based, thermal based, hydro-based, atomic-based, lignite based or solar based so that maximum development could take place in our State. The Government may supply us any type of energy to enable us to develop our area. Four Thermal Plants had been allocated for Kota, they are complete in all respects and the fourth unit is now about to operate. One Atomic Plant has also been sanctioned by the Government. The Government should let us know the likely time by which these plants would be completed and by how many years the demand for adequate power supply to Rajasthan would be met. The Government should make all these arrangements as early as possible.

One gas-based project has been set up in Ananta and it has started functioning. You have done a great favour to us but if two-three more gas based projects are set up on this gas line which goes to U.P. via Kota and Bharatpur, then it can prove very beneficial for Rajasthan and maximum power can be supplied to Rajasthan. This work should be done in a systematic manner. One of our longstanding demand is for setting up of Thermal Project based on lignite. There is a very big deposit of lignite in plan. Similarly in Barmer and Jaisalmer also, there is a very big deposit of lignite. Last year our hon. Minister had stated that Lignite based 3-4 units are about to be set up on Rajasthan but these have not been sanctioned so far. If these are sanctioned, the people of Rajasthan can be benefited a lot.

Sir, Rajasthan is the most backward



[Sh. Girdhari Lal Vyas]

State. But it is a matter of great regret that Central investment in the State is only one per cent while the population of the State is five per cent of the country. Therefore, we seek justice from the Government. The Government should arrange for five per cent central investment in Rajasthan so that the pace of development could be accelerated in the State. The Government will have to ponder over the measures of uplifting the backward classes and of eliminating the poverty. Until and unless the arrangements are made to supply foodgrains in sufficient quantity and employment opportunities are provided and industry is established in rural areas, the poverty will not be removed and it will remain a mere slogan. The condition of the poor can be ameliorated only if some concrete steps are taken in his regard. I am of the firm opinion that our demands are justified and these should be met at the earliest so that industrial development can take place in Rajasthan. Our capitalists have earned a bad name everywhere. If we go to Calcutta, people talk about expelling Marwaris, if we go to Bombay, people talk of turning out Marwaris. Our capitalists go out of their State to serve people of other States while Rajasthan remains quite backward. Thousands of millionaires and billionaires are running their business in Bombay and Calcutta while our state is suffering for want of electricity and water. Our industrial sector is stagnant ....(Interruptions)... Electricity is very powerful. If the requirements of electricity are met, it will automatically attract investment and the capital will be diverted from Calcutta to Rajasthan. We have been constantly demanding that electricity may please be made available to us.

A question was raised that four more thermal power plants should be installed in our area, one at Suratgarh, another at Mandilgarh and two at other places. Our Energy Minister has closed the gas based project. It was said that he had no information and he will enquire into it and make arrangements accordingly. Some question was raised here also but the press misre-

ported that the Energy Minister has rejected the demand and four thermal plants cannot be established in Rajasthan to overcome the shortage of electricity in the State. Our Energy Minister had only stated that he had not rejected it. He had only referred to the problem of supply of coal required to run these projects. You know very well where coal is available and how it can be supplied. It may be made available from Bihar or Bengal or from some other place. Coal will have to be supplied to these projects. When you have installed thermal plants in every part of India and coal is being supplied to them from different places like Bihar or Bengal, then why this question is raised in case of Rajasthan. It is for you to see as to how coal will be supplied to the four thermal plants to be installed in Rajasthan and what will be its cost. Our Rajasthan Government has made a firm demand for installation of these four plants and stated that if this demand's met, development of Rajasthan will be assured. In this connection, it is said that if these projects are not sanctioned, Rajasthan will never be self-sufficient in the respect of energy and will not be able to stand on its own legs. Our requirement of electricity for the industrial and other sectors cannot be met until and unless these projects are set up. Therefore, we demand that these projects should be sanctioned at the earliest so that shortage of electricity in Rajasthan is met. Rajasthan is a State which will move forward matching the supply of electricity. People of Rajasthan are strong willed, courageous and hard working lot but they need your cooperation and help. Rajasthan will progress with the speed with which you help. Our area will advance only you make these arrangements.

I also want to say that even after sanctioning of many R.E.C. projects, large number of our villages are still without electricity. You do not provide sufficient electricity. Our schemes can be implemented only if you approve all the projects submitted by us and then only electricity can be supplied to every village.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): This

Ministry is unfair to both the States of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS:** Hon. Member, Shri Rawat is right in saying that injustice has been done to both the States of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Both these States are backward and should be supplied maximum electricity ....(Interruptions)...

**DR. G.S. RAJHANS** (Jhanjharpur): Maximum coal is supplied by Bihar and still Bihar is not supplied electricity in accordance with its requirement....(Interruptions).....

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS:** Therefore, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to his statement that Government will supply electricity to villages .....

You say that houses of every poor man will be lighted and efforts will be made to maximise production in the fields. Both these objects can be accomplished only after the schemes of R.E.C. are completed and maximum electricity is supplied to us. We go on pursuing our demand and you do concede our demand but the quantum sanctioned is too low. You should supply enough electricity to strengthen our set up and we become self-reliant. Then we will extend our cooperation to the whole of India but it is possible if you cooperate with us and give us enough strength. We can also help other backward areas of the country like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Now I want to say something about coal. It is not being made available to the people properly, particularly in the villages. Small Scale Industry Corporation is perhaps acting as commission agent for supply of coal and people of Rajasthan are being supplied coal through it. There are separate arrangement for supply of coal to the thermal power plants but the distribution of coal for other industries is made through this corporation and it is not supplied properly. With the result that our industries have not been able to make the desired progress. Therefore, there is a need to push forward small scale industries and for this you should extend cooperation to strengthen the ar-

rangements. You should also look into wherever the distribution is on lesser scale. Since it is a nationalised company under the control of Government of India, the distribution should be fair. You should look into the hegemony of certain elements who indulge in selling coal in the black market. A member from the opposition was just now complaining that the losses in coal operations are mounting. When there is a contract and there are no middlemen, how is it that you incur losses. This means that there is leakage somewhere. There are many unscrupulous elements who are illegally operating the mines and are utilising the coal. Alongwith this, they are smuggling coal and unauthorisedly despatching it to other places. It is because of these practices, that you are suffering losses. You should check these malpractices and make labourers shareholder in managements so that they may also keep a watch on the miscreants. It is due to this reason that the Government is suffering losses inspite of its complete monopoly in coal. Therefore, there is a need to streamline the arrangements. The distribution should be made at the state level. The distribution agencies should be strengthened to the maximum possible extent. You should check the malpractices, foul play and illegal operations. For this, you should take positive steps to strengthen the distribution system and take strict action against the nefarious designs of the people trying to bring a bad name to the Government so that people of India may feel that Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government is handling the situation firmly and taking the country forward on the road to progress. If you give us cooperation in this, Rajasthan will become self-sufficient in the field of electricity, march forward and extend its help in developing the entire country.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193  
REPORTED NEXUS BETWEEN AFGHAN  
REBELS AND TERRORISTS IN PUNJAB

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now, the House shall take up Item No. 16—Discussion under Rule 193.