

Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, May I remind you that whatever you have in your mind to discuss on the floor of the House, you are always welcome to come and give notices properly. About Calling Attention and all such things which you want to raise on the floor of the House, I cannot and I am not expected to reply to all of them on the floor of the House, here. But I can assure you

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara)—*rose*

MR. SPEAKER : No ; don't discuss with me like this. You are welcome, and I will not bar any discussion which is worthwhile. There is no question at all. But why do you want to do it like this ? Why can't you come and tell me ?

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. I will ask you to withdraw from the House. Don't misuse your authority. Don't misuse your position. Read the rules and then come to me. It is very bad on your part. Now Calling Attention. Mr. Zainul Basher.

12.10 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Acute power shortage in various parts
of the country**

[English]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghajipur) : I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Energy to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Acute power shortage in various parts of the country and the action taken by the Government in that regard."

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : It has not rained in Rajasthan and it is in the grip of famine.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are entitled to have the discussion.....

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Severe famine conditions exist there.

MR. SPEAKER : If this is so, then you should come and meet me in my Chamber. Why don't you come ?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : We are submitting it to you.....

MR. SPEAKER : Go ahead, who is stopping you from doing so ? This is not the way, you are creating pandemonium in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may be right but this is not the way. You come and meet me and I shall carefully listen to all that you have to say and allow that which is important.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : We shall not come to you in this regard. Whatever we have to say, we shall say it here.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall not listen to you here.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : This is the floor of the House. We must make our submission here.

MR. SPEAKER : Then I shall not pay any attention here. These are the rules. You have yourself framed the rules.

[English]

I have not made them. You have made them.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : We shall meet you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may break the rules, and if you say, I would also break them. But this is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You come and talk to me in my Chamber. If there is some important issue, I shall certainly allow that to be raised in the House.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : There is the question of the dignity of the House. There is the dignity of the Prime Minister's office. You get so much angry with us that it is not possible to argue with you.....

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of getting angry. Whatever is worth, I do. But when I have studied this matter, I cannot allow it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : But you don't allow us even to convince you in your Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER : Always.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We are not very keen to come to your Chamber, but you don't.....

MR. SPEAKER : It is not my Chamber. Who says it is my Chamber ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Naturally. That is your Chamber. This is our Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER : That is your Chamber. I am your servant. I carry out your orders.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We will invite you to this Chamber to explain.....

MR. SPEAKER : I carry out your orders ; I carry out your directions ; I carry out your rules.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is extremely difficult to raise any procedural issues. You shout so much at us that we feel guilty as if we are committing some sin or crime.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Now you see what they are doing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Prof. Dandavateji, you will have a sore throat.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will never have a sore throat. My throat will remain like this throughout life.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All that you say will be done.

(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I share the concern of the Hon'ble Members about the power shortage in the country. The present power shortage is mainly on account of the demand for power outstripping the generation, and reduced hydel generation due to low reservoir levels. At the same time, the delayed and weak monsoon conditions in several parts of the country have led to an increase in the demand for power in the agricultural sector.

Sir, I would like to assure the House that all possible measures are being taken to augment the availability of power. The Seventh Plan envisages commissioning of an additional power generation capacity of 22,245 MW. In 1985-86, a capacity of 4,223 MW was added which is the highest ever in any year. The generation in 1985-86 was 170 billion units, which was 8.6% more than the generation in 1984-85 and the target of generation was also achieved.

The thermal component in our total installed capacity is about 64%. The power availability, therefore, depends very substantially on the performance of thermal power stations. The plant load factor of thermal stations during 1985-86 reached 52.4% as compared with 50.1% in 1984-85. Measures are being taken to further improve the P.L.F. A Centrally sponsored Renovation & Modernisation programme with a Central component of Rs. 500

[Shri Vasant Sathe]

crores is being implemented to achieve this objective.

The generation during April to June in the current year was 10.4% more than the generation in the corresponding period of last year. However, States such as Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Orissa have experienced power shortages of more than 10% during April to June in the current year. Most of these States depend to a substantial extent or even entirely on hydel generation. Kerala, which has only hydel generation, had a satisfactory power supply position till the middle of June but the State had to impose power cuts and restrictions due to the unsatisfactory monsoon conditions to which I have already referred. To the extent possible, assistance is being arranged for deficit areas from neighbouring systems. Simultaneously, demand management measures are also being implemented following a system of graded priorities. While doing so, a higher priority is being accorded to the agricultural sector and its minimum requirements are being met.

The Central sector stations have continued to perform at high levels of efficiency, and have achieved a Plant Load Factor of 66.5% during the first quarter of 1986-87. This has assisted in mitigating the power shortages and in managing the demand in the States. With the increasing share of Central generation, the stability of power supply is expected to improve further.

Hon'ble Members would appreciate that there has been a considerable improvement in the over-all availability of power. However, some States are still facing a power shortage mainly on account of their own thermal stations not performing well, as also due to low hydel generation. I may assure the Hon'ble Members that no efforts will be spared to assist the States in all possible ways to meet their power requirements to the maximum extent possible. I apologise for the delay in coming to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister on this point and I am also very happy about it that the Central sector

power stations are functioning very efficiently. If these power stations had not functioned properly, then the serious problems which the States are already facing in regard to power would have been aggravated. So far as the efficiency of the Central sector power stations is concerned, I am all praise for that, but the State Electricity Boards are more responsible for the grim situation of power supply at present. With the exception of one or two States, all the other State Electricity Boards are not functioning efficiently and complaints regarding their negligence, inefficiency, corruption and political activities have been raised in this House and outside several times during the past few years.

MR. SPEAKER : You have only ten minutes to speak.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : I shall not take more time than that. After so many days, I have come to the conclusion that it would be very difficult to improve the functioning of the State Electricity Boards. The Rajya-dhyaksha Committee had kept this point in view while recommending that the subject of power generation and distribution should be brought on the Union List. That would facilitate the generation and distribution of power. If it is not possible to bring power distribution on the Union List, at least the subject of power generation must be brought thereon. There is no way except this. The various Energy Ministers had assured this House several times that talks were being held with the State Governments in regard to this matter and that some solution would be found out after the talks. I want to know whether there has been some slackness in the efforts initiated by the Central Government between 1981 and 1982 in this connection, and whether the Centre itself is evading the issue? I would also like to know about the reaction of the State Governments in this regard and what steps the Centre is going to take in this regard?

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that the share of hydro-power has been declining and we have been paying greater attention to the thermal power generation, whereas it is easier and less expensive to generate hydro-power. Small hydel power stations

can be installed near our several water-falls. Many of our big hydro-power projects have been held up due to the inter-State disputes. In so many cases, the projects have been held up because of the disputes regarding the canals flowing from one State into the other and as a result of them, big hydel-power stations are not being installed. In such cases, small hydro-power stations can be installed which involve lesser cost. At least, the power requirements of a particular area can be met by such small power stations. I want to know what the Government is doing for the extensive exploitation of our hydro-power resources?

Thirdly, at certain places in our States, the distribution and transmission losses are more than 40 per cent. Our Government itself admits that the average transmission loss comes to 20 to 30 per cent. These transmission losses occur due to various reasons. Sometimes, they are caused due to some technical faults and sometimes due to malfunctioning of transformers. A huge loss is caused due to power thefts also. But no effective steps have been taken to check the theft of power. Although legal provisions are there to treat power theft as any other kind of theft, yet only the small farmers and consumers, who resort to this practice to a very little extent, are apprehended and the large scale power thefts by the big industries go unnoticed because the officials of the Electricity Boards remain in collusion with them. I would like to know what steps are being taken to apprehend and punish such criminals and to reduce the transmission losses?

I would also like to say that the new industries which are being set up are very much in need of power, whether they are in the private, public or in the joint sector. Now-a-days, neither any small nor big industry can function without power. Are the Government taking any steps to ensure that every new industry may install a captive power plant so that it could draw upon its own source of power? Is any scheme under the Government's consideration whereby captive power plants may be installed in the joint and the private sectors also and will the Government give incentives and assistance to those who set up such plants?

12.25 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole nation is in the grip of power shortage. Hundreds of factories are locked out, lakhs and workers are laid off, millions of mandays are lost and the Gross National Product worth billions of rupees is lost. I will just invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the various news items which have appeared in the Press with these titles—

“Blackout in N. India”—this has appeared in a recent edition of *The Hindustan Times*.

“Industrial Growth slowed by power, mining sectors”

“Breakdowns in Delhi power network”

“Faridabad industries hit by power crisis”

“Ghaziabad hit by power-cuts”

“Many States in the grip of power crisis”

“Massive power failure in the North”

“Power crisis hits most States”

“Power problem acute in Rajasthan”
...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no, you need not read out all that.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : These are the important things which have come in the Press and where the Minister and the State Governments are sleeping.....

(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can ask the question.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I am trying to show the gravity of this problem, Sir—

“People have power-cuts in Delhi.”

“City suffers from major power-cuts”

“Karnataka, Orissa, eastern region—Acute power shortage ahead”

“Worst-ever power crisis hits Kerala industry”

“Severe power cuts in Calcutta & Suburbs”

“Power supply in Punjab erratic”

“Power position in Kerala precarious”

...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no point in going on saying all these things. Whatever you want to know from the Minister, you put the question. This is what everybody knows and that is why we are now discussing this. Calling Attention. Don't waste the time by going on reading out.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I would like to point out that the lethargic attitude shown by the Energy Minister of various States and the Centre has retarded the production of this country. One tenth of the world per capita consumption is the average consumption of an Indian citizen in the matter of energy. We are much more behind the average international standard in the matter of energy consumption. In spite of that, the factories, the mills and the other areas are closed down on account of lack of energy. Recently, two days back, the hon. Prime Minister was mentioning about the trade Union leaders taking the society to ransom. I would like to ask whether these Ministers are not taking the society to ransom by losing the production of this country and whether the Government is aware of all these things.

My State, Kerala, is facing an acute crisis. Hundred per cent power-cut is there. All the workers are laid off due to

the closing down of the factories. Nothing is functioning there. And what is the production loss? The production loss per day is Rs. two crores and my State is going to face a severe financial crisis in the future to come. What are the reasons for this? It is because of the short-sightedness of those who planned to produce electricity from the hydro-electric projects in such areas where they could not get water. Because of the deforestation and all that, the water level is not increasing and there is acute shortage of power. What is declared now is that there will be power-cut throughout Kerala. Kerala is a State which was giving power to the neighbouring States. So, I would like to urge upon the Central Government that it is their duty to provide electricity to Kerala. Energy and energy sources are the national wealth and they should not be allowed to be given for ransom by the State Ministers and the State Ministries. Therefore, I would suggest that no factory should be permitted to close down for want of energy. If any factory is closed down for want of energy, then the Central Government should interfere and provide the same.

As regards Kerala, according to the power pact we are entitled for 45 million units of electricity from Kalpakkam and Ramagudam but we are not given that quantity. So, I would suggest that in order to save Kerala from this critical situation, the Central Government should undertake the responsibility to supply electricity to Kerala from the Kalpakkam and the Ramagudam projects. All the expenses should be met by the Central Government and electricity should be supplied to Kerala to run the factories.

We can produce 3,000 MW in our hydel projects. What we have exploited so far is only 1,000 MW and odd and the rest of the water is allowed to flow into the Arabian sea. If the Central Government interferes, that can also be exploited. In the last ten years, there has not been even a single hydel power project commissioned in Kerala. The last hydel project was commissioned about ten years ago. Till date no other project has come up. I urge the Minister to come forward and to wake from the sleep and help the workers

and put the workers and the factories in order at the earliest opportunity.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): I know my time is limited. I will, therefore, specifically deal with the problem of my State—Kerala.

Kerala depends purely on Hydel system. Because of delay in setting of South-West monsoon, the storage position in Hydel reservoirs of Kerala has become precarious. Though meteorological prediction was that the monsoon will set in the last week of May, there has not been any significant rain in the catchment areas of Hydel reservoir so far. This situation makes the power position worst. The State faces acute power shortages. The power cut was imposed on 13-6-1986.

The extent of power cut is almost 100% to high tens on and extra-tens on consumers. No industries have been exempted from power cut. The loss to the industry by power cut has been estimated to be Rs. 146 crores. This is upto 15-7-86. Nine state public sector undertakings and one central Government undertaking have been closed.

Kerala has not been drawing any power from her share from the Central Sector Units of Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh and Kalpakkam in Tamilnadu.

Now in view of the extremely difficult situation the State Government requested the Central Electricity Authority and the Department of Power to make immediate arrangements to pass Kerala's share from the Central Sector. The problem is that there is no direct transmission system to Kerala from the Central Unit. So, to sort this problem this can be done through Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil-Nadu electricity boards. So, I urge upon the Government that they may take immediate steps to supply electricity from the Central Sector Units. I would like to know what steps Government have taken and when will it be given effect to?

In his last statement the hon. Minister stated that the situation in Kerala in this regard was not bad. That is not true. For the last few years Kerala has been suffering from acute shortage of energy. In the

year 1982 there was 100% cut. Even in 1983, 1984 and 1985 the situation remained the same. So, it is high time to have a plan for this in so far as Kerala is concerned.

Kerala is having hydel system. There should be some other source too. There is a request by the Kerala Government that some other system must be established. I think Kerala Government suggested nuclear Plant for the State. I would like to know what steps have the Central Government taken in this regard and what is the decision which the Central Government is going to take?

There are a number of hydro-electric projects and schemes pending clearance from the Centre. I would like to know from the Central Government what steps they are going to take to clear these projects.

My senior colleague Shri Zainul Basher has said that there is abundant scope for the setting up of mini-hydro projects in Kerala. We have many rivers and there is ample scope for the setting up of mini-hydro projects. Government must take steps to exploit all these capabilities. The Central Government should give financial assistance for such schemes. Lastly, I understand that the transmission and distribution loss in Kerala is very high. This is because the equipments, transmission lines etc. are very old. Only renovation and modernisation programmes can save the situation. So I request the Government that they should give the necessary financial assistance. I urge upon the Government that Govt. must give special consideration to Kerala in this respect. With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

SH. HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our wise Minister has given a very short reply to the question of such a big problem. It would have been better had he devised an equally small formula to solve the problem.

In the beginning of the sixth plan we had laid great emphasis on the power sector but now it seems that slowly its

[Shri Harish Rawat]

importance is losing ground in the minds of the planners as well as the people in the Central ministry. What is the reason for all this? By the end of the Seventh Plan, we should generate atleast 32000 MW of additional power so as to meet our needs. The hon. Minister in his reply has told that 22000 MW of additional power would be generated. I want to know whether he propose to approach the Planning Commission and the Cabinet to increase the outlay of the plan to bridge the gap between the production and the actual need so as to remove the present shortage of power by the end of this Plan?

The second thing is that in one part of the country or the other, shortage of power is often experienced. To solve this problem, the idea of forming a national grid has been put forward many a time. But what to talk of national grid, we have not been able to develop even the regional grids so far. You have held consultations with the State Governments separately, but the maximum work in this direction is to done by you, i.e. by the Central Government. I would like to request and know from the hon. Minister as to what steps his Ministry is going to take to form the national grid and to strengthen the regional grids?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Sir, if you permit me and grant me four minutes more, then I would submit to the hon. Minister that, as our friend Shri Zainul Basher has said, a balance ought to be maintained between thermal power and atomic and hydel power generation. This provision is there that out of the total power, the share of thermal power would be 64 per cent and that of hydel power 11 per cent, whereas the potential of hydel power is so much that we can increase its share up to 50 per cent.

The sanctioned projects of 1972 and before, which could add 2000 MW of power are progressing at a very slow pace. The Tehri Project in Uttar Pradesh involves hundreds of crores of rupees but you are not sanctioning even crores of rupees and you expect that the State Government would complete it. When you and the

Planning Commission would not help them how would the State Government be able to complete it? The Planning Minister is present here. He should come forward to offer help. I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are such projects, State-wise, as were cleared by the Planning Commission in 1972 or before that, and had they been completed in time what amount of power would have been made available from them? What steps your Ministry is taking to help the States to get those projects completed to least during this Plan period?

I would like to point out that the transmission loss in Delhi is above 20 per cent. Now-a-days transmission loss is a dignified name of theft. This has been termed as transmission loss because they are afraid calling it theft. I would like to say that if the transmission loss of Delhi is reduced by one per cent, then it will result in a profit of more than Rs. 2 crores. What action are you going to take to reduce this transmission loss by setting an example in Delhi?

The Rajyadhyaksha Committee, an expert committee of the Planning Commission, has also suggested how funds should be allocated for power generation, transmission, distribution and R.E.C. But we find that attention is paid to power generation but its distribution and R.E.C are not given any attention. The situation at present is such that there are a number of States where the percentage of rural electrification is below the national average.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps his Ministry is taking about the States where distribution system is very weak and the work of R.E.C. is quite unsatisfactory?

The reason for non-achievement of the target of power production in the Sixth Five Year Plan was under-utilization of the capacity of thermal power plants. In 1984-85, when Shri Arun Nehru was the Minister for Power, he had increased the capacity utilization of the thermal plants by paying personal attention. But now again it has started declining, which is 6 to 7 per cent in the Central Sector and in the State Sector, it is more than 11 or 12

per cent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the plant load factor in the other countries at present and what is the plant load factor of the thermal power plants in our country? Today, we have got our own machines and coal is also being supplied in time. So, now the improvements can be brought about. What action the hon. Minister proposes to take in this direction?

A number of projects of Uttar Pradesh, which include Dohri-Ghat project also, are under the consideration of your Ministry. In the same way, some more power projects of Uttar Pradesh are pending with you. You are acting with great frugality in this matter. I would like to know when will you clear the Dohri-Ghat Project, about which our Rai Sahib is very much worried, and the other projects?

[English]

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasaragod): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been looking at the headlines of the papers from almost all the corners of the country to find out where we have the problem of acute electricity shortage. In this connection, I want just to point out one thing. Our Minister of State for Power has narrated something recently, and I quote from the *Hindustan Times* dated 21st July 1986 as follows:

Hydel capacity below target

"Against the targeted addition of 4,760 MW hydel capacity during the sixth Five Year Plan, the achievement was only 2,873 MW. Minister of State for Power, Sushilla Rohatgi told Mr. K.K. Birla (Ind) in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

"The Minister gave various reasons for the delays in different projects. She said the total hydro-electric potential of the country had been assessed at 85,544 MW at 60% load factor out of which 12.40% had been developed and 5.77 per cent was under development.

"The total hydro-electric installed capacity of the country at the end of

the Sixth Plan was 14,466 MW. A capacity of 5,541 MW was expected to be added during the Seventh Plan."

Any way, since the Minister has agreed that with regard to hydel projects we have not reached the target, I need not go to the problems of other parts of the country.

Regarding the problems of Kerala, two of my friends have dealt with them in detail. The power cut in 1983-84, the year of very a bad drought for Kerala, was only 60%. But this year, we had a cent per cent power cut for the major factories, specially of high tension and extra high tension. The Electricity Board were quite reserved. They were not aware of the magnitude of the problem. At the last minute only they took up the matter, and we have to thank the Governments of Andhra, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra because during the time of difficulties they have come with a supply of 7,00,000 units from Maharashtra and 5,00,000 units from Tamil Nadu a day. Hard reality is that Kerala has not added a single unit to the grid, since the present capacity was achieved in 1976. Power projects now under construction will add only 725 MW but we do not know when they will be completed. Though Kerala has vast potential to develop hydel projects, only 30 per cent is tapped so far. It is said that this small State has a power potential of 3,000 MW at 60% load factor. The present installed capacity is only 1,011 MW. The main reasons for stagnation of power generation in Kerala is delay in getting clearance from the Union Government under Forest Prevention Act and also from ecological angle, stay orders from courts by contractors, militant trade unionism and reduced allocation of plan funds. Almost all the reservoirs are silted reducing the capacity which is due to soil erosion which in turn, is due to deforestation. No useful purpose will be served unless we point out some remedial measures. They are:

It is not practical to have thermal stations in States like Kerala since the entire coal has to travel long distance. Large space is required to dump the ash, and therefore the cost would be exor-

[Shri I. Rama Rai]

bitant. Nearly 10 to 15 tonnes of coal is required for one M.W.

My Chief Minister has already approached the Government of India with regard to setting up an atomic power plant, since by the past experience we feel that dependence on hydel power had proved unwise because of frequent monsoon failures. There is also a section of people who opposed this move in view of the possible radiation leak in a thickly populated State like Kerala.

Thirdly I want to point out that electricity can be produced from the non-conventional energy sources like sunlight and tidal waves. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a write-up in *Sunday March*, 1985 with a heading "Power from the Sun". We are ready to import foreign technology but this technology is not new for our scientists also. I have seen a young girl from one of our high schools demonstrating how energy can be produced from sunlight. In this article, it is described how a team called Mc Donnell Douglas team met officials of the newly set up Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources at Madras and other departments. While explaining the procedure, they mentioned that the cost factor to set up the complete facility to generate power equivalent to 12 1/2 m.w. will be Rs. 23 crores, which is almost equivalent to the cost from the thermal plants. The overriding advantage is that the expenses for the steering type of power plant is that there are no recurrent cost except for maintenance. There is no time left to explain the whole matter in the mentioned article but there is a saying in Malayalam that the cat may be of wood or mud but it must catch the rat. The need of the hour is that concerted efforts are necessary on the part of the Government to urgently attend to long-term and short-term problems on the power front to prevent crippling of our industry and agriculture.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Sir, I am thankful and obliged to the hon. Members who have raised some very valid points through this calling-attention.

As far as shortage of power in Southern region is concerned, particularly mention

was made by nearly three Members about Kerala. The situation is that this year particularly as the monsoon got delayed, the reservoirs in Kerala do not have adequate water and that created a sudden situation of shortage which has resulted in large scale power cut-in certain sectors even 100%. We took immediate measures, in the sense, I met the Chief Minister and the Energy Minister of Kerala very recently. I told him that immediately what can be done is, we can give some power from the neighbouring States. There are short-term and immediate measures as well as long-term measures that we can think of. But long-term measures are not of much help immediately. So, we are already giving Kerala one million units per day being supplied from neighbouring system, such as Neyveli and Kalpakkam.

Now, as far as Rama-Gundam is concerned, the hon. Members are right that uptill now, Kerala did not feel the need of drawing their share from Rama-Gundam. Then again, because they did not feel the need, a direct transmission line was not there, because in that case, the Government of Kerala has also to share the cost of laying the transmission. The present power goes only through Karnataka—first from Andhra Pradesh and then from Karnataka, it can go to Kerala. Uptill now, they were giving power to Karnataka and also Tamil Nadu. I asked the Chairman of the State Electricity Boards. I called them, Maharashtra, Andhra and Karnataka and requested that we can give surplus power. I can request the Government of Maharashtra and the State Electricity Board of Maharashtra to give their surplus power in the peak period which can go to Kerala. But it has to go through Karnataka. Now we are trying to see how Karnataka Electricity Board and Maharashtra Electricity Board mutually can come to an arrangement so that the surplus power given can be indirectly transferred to Kerala.

These are some immediate measures. Something about Ramagundam. Now fortunately there is a high voltage density tension line which we have laid up to Bangalore from Andhra. That will facilitate transmission of power via Bangalore to Kerala. All these steps we are taking,

Permanent solution, of course, is a long-term solution.

As far as projects in Kerala are concerned, in the Seventh Five Year Plan, four hydel projects of 530 MW are under implementation to be completed in this Plan, out of which 300 MW of capacity is already commissioned. Now remaining 250 MW we will complete in this. But as the potential is much large, the need also with growing industries, continues to grow. Thermal power station, as hon. Members also said, transporting coal all the way, from the coal-bearing areas to Kerala will be more or less prohibitive cost. So as far as atomic station is concerned, there is a Committee of experts which is examining the locations and places where atomic plant can be installed and as this matter comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology, they have to take into consideration various aspects and once they take a view about location, only then something can be said about the atomic plant. I cannot give any commitment or any more information on this. But we shall definitely try to ensure that maximum measures are being taken both immediate and long term as I have already said, I am personally taking interest in helping to meet the shortage in Kerala. But generally, the points that were made about the whole country's situation of shortage, is on account of the gap. The gap even in the Seventh Five Year Plan is going to be of the magnitude of about 8 to 10,000 MW of installed capacity. Obviously, this cannot be met unless we have the resources. Although the Planning Commission and at the instance of the Prime Minister himself additional Rs. 500 crores were provided for power sector. But, although Rs. 35,000 crores approximately have been provided, at today's cost, we can instal only 22,000 MW of power in the Seventh Five Year Plan. With 22,000 MW, the need being of approximately of 36,000 MW, if we have to keep up with the demand which also is suppressed in fact, because power is the need, more power you need, more growth takes place, more industries come about and it is never ending. I agree with the hon. Member who mentioned that our per capita consumption of power is one of the lowest in the world. If we take 170 kwh per capita that we are making available in the

country and compare it with 7000 kwh in some countries like Sweden and 10,000 kwh in some other countries, you know what is the gap and what is the difference. So sky is the limit virtually and therefore, if we were to consider our resources, how are we to bridge this gap? That is why some hon Members have suggested and we have decided within the framework of our industrial policy resolution that in the national interests we will allow not only captive power plants for industries but individually if they can afford or collectively if they want to do so, we will allow them captive power generation units to be set up.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : For God's sake, do not permit them to an extent that the private sector may slowly push ahead and capture our sector completely.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It will not happen like that. They do not have so much resources.

[English]

One thing mentally I would like to request through you to our hon colleagues. We are producing to-day nearly 47,000 megawatts of installed capacity and 170 billion units. How much is the share of the private sector? Approximately 2000 megawatts of installed capacity.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : We are talking of our apprehensions.

[Translation]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I want to meet that very apprehension.

[English]

After all what can a person do with power? Generation and distribution. There must be a distinction in that. Distribution in this country cannot be done by any private person because it has to be through the grid. So distribution, will always be through the State grid or the national grid or the regional grid which will be under the State Electricity Boards and the Government.....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him finish. He has not finished his reply. Don't agitate now. Please wait. Let him finish and he will explain the whole situation.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I shall not rest till I have given the total picture.

[English]

This 10,000 gap—what we are suggesting or thinking is that we have committed all our resources which is public money is not going to be used by private or individual sector. But if the additionality of resources can be brought—by the private sector and if they can raise all this unaccounted money that we are talking about of 40,000 to 50,000 crores that is there, if something can be brought for generating power, we will say, 'All right, come, invest and generate'...

SHRI MANIK SANYAL (Jalpaiguri) : Can we allow them to convert black money into white money in this way ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We have to consider, if we want to generate power, whether we should allow. We have two choices...

(Interruptions)

They are generating other power.

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY (Asansol) : On a point of clarification. What is your installed capacity ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Have you come just now ? I have already told that our installed capacity in the country is about 47,000 megawatts.

Now it is for the House to consider whether we shall allow the extra money that is going about and which will go and which is, as it is, there and which is being used for real estate investment, for jewellery and for other things and for many other corrupting influences, etc. etc. Shall we, as a nation, allow it to be used for productive purpose in the Core Sector or shall we say 'no', we do not want this

money ? We do not want you to put it in power sector. We do not want you to generate power.
13.00 hrs.

SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Are you doing un-earthing ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Honoured thing is already being done. Whatever un-earthing is being done by the finance, you know how much it is coming.

(Interruptions)

We have not decided anything. All I am saying is that we have a choice before us. The House can tell me—our resources being what they are—as to how this 10,000 megawatt gap can be filled. I would be benefited if the House can advise me the ways and means of finding resources to meet this gap. Today, one megawatt of power requires an investment of Rs. one crore. For transmission, additionally another Rs. 50 lakhs are required. This is the present cost. I would be highly obliged in this House if they can tell me some method of finding this resource by which it can be done. For 10,000 mw installed capacity, to make this gap good, I will need Rs. 15000 crores. If this House can tell me from where I should get this Rs. 15000 crores, I will be only too happy to hear.

(Interruptions)

To nationalise the whole nation !

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, Rs. 120 crores is the loan of the State Electricity Boards. My specific suggestion is : will the Central Government intervene in supplying electricity to the factories directly wherever it is possible ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Somebody must supply power. State Electricity Boards can do it. You want the Centre to do it and you will not allow the Centre to have more money to generate more power. From where should I get the power ? That is the question.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Recently, the DVC is seriously failing to supply power in the Raniganj industrial areas. The whole industry is collapsed. This is in the Central Sector.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Uptil now, the percentage of the Central Sector generation is about 60 per cent of the total generation in this country. Major power was being generated in the State Sector. The State Sectors' limitation is that unless you have national grid, power generated in one State—even if there is surplus—cannot be transmitted to another state.

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY (Asansol) : That is the point...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whether it is senior member or junior member, all are equal.

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY : We are not fools sitting here.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Please allow Shri Ananda Gopal Mukhopadhyay because he mentioned that we are not fools.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not allow him. I cannot allow any one except the names figured in the list.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : What I was saying was that progressively, we must generate more and more power in the Central Sector. Then we are in a position to transmit it.

For example, I have already said about Ramagundam. We can send it from Neyveli, from Kalpakkam, from Singrauli or from DVC. DVC is also not entirely Central. It is three states put together. Now, as a percentage, in the Seventh Five-Year Plan it will become 24 per cent from the Central sector, and the Central sector projects are also running well.

Now, we come to the question of PLF. What has happened is, uptil now, in the State sector, as the plants were older, over-employed, the loss of State Electricity Boards is about Rs. 1,000 crores per annum.

Let me try to explain. There are three seasons for it. One, the agricultural sector, which is given 20 per cent of the power, is subsidised. The average cost of power in the country is about 67 paise per unit. The agricultural sector gets it at 20 paise meaning that more than 40 paise are borne by the State. From where is this loss of State Electricity Boards to be made up? The State Government tries to subsidise and rightly as far as the agricultural sector is concerned; we cannot change them more....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : How about the industrial sector?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : This is tried to be recovered from the industrial sector. In the industrial sector also there is a saturation point. It is only high industries or big industries which can afford to pay more. So, you increase the cost to over one rupee for certain industries. But there is the capacity, the maximum capacity, to which you can go. Another reason why the State Electricity Boards, particularly in the northern region, are making loss, as some Members rightly pointed out, is because of the low plant load factor. One per cent increase in the country in PLF is equivalent to about 500 megawatt of power, that is, about Rs. 500 crores worth of power. We have tried to impress on the northern States. My predecessor and myself have been holding regular meetings with these people going there and helping them for modernisation, with the result that, I must say this to their credit, to some of them, from 43 PLF which was there just eight years back, the average has come to about 53—national. So, there is an improvement. The PLF of some of the States like Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board, goes to nearly 60 or more. The NTPC, as far as the Centre is concerned, is the highest—67. If only a few northern States like West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Bihar, U.P., Haryana, were to improve their plant load factor and bring it to 50, even that much, it will immediately transform the entire scene of power generation in the country. For doing that, what have we done? We have identified 32 plants in

[Shri Vasant Sathe]

this and other areas where we will give assistance from our Central source : we have provided Rs. 500 crores for modernisation, improvement, equipment, so that their plant load factor improves. The first thing that I saw was supply of coal for thermal. The plant load factor is relevant only in thermal. In coal supply also, it is a fact that, as far as ash-content in our coal is concerned—it is inherent ; you cannot do anything about it-day by day the ash-content is higher. It is bound to be. Our plants can use if you re-design your boilers. You can use high-ash content coal and get some energy. There was the problem of extraneous factors like stones, shale and other things. Our electricity boards were complaining. We have now coordinated between Coal and Power stations and much of this problem of extraneous factors and supply of coal has been resolved with the result right upto Bhatinda and Panipat the position has improved substantially.

We are doing our best but as I said these are temporary or superficial measures. The real solution is an integrated approach to power generation. As some of the hon. Members said even non-conventional source is also an important thing and we will have to give adequate attention. I must confess that upto now somehow we have not given adequate attention or resource to the non-conventional sources like solar, wind, bio-gas and bio-mass. It is not your fault or my fault. It is the system. If we provide Rs. 100 crores only for the entire non-conventional source generation it cannot perform great miracles. Although we know that bio-gas, smokeless chullahs and various other things are getting encouraging response yet I think a break-through will come that day when our young scientists who are capable of doing it find a method of using solar energy which we have in plenty. Today per unit it may not be commercially viable but as a delivery cost locally at some places you will find that non-conventional sources of energy are at par if not cheaper than the conventional sources. Therefore, we are trying to encourage this.

We have set-up wind mills all along the coastal line. Now we have set-up pilot

wind mill plants in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Orissa and they are showing encouraging results because of the recurring cost not being there in solar or wind. So, we want to encourage it. Ultimately if we have an integrated approach and I will beg of our friend to consider this without ideological prejudices and if we allow power generation in this country for captive, collective and dedicated power plants and even an additionality of resource given power generation is the key. Nobody can take away power. Nobody can export it. So, if we allow that and adopt this attitude and the House supports this, I think, that will be the only answer to make up the gap we are having otherwise we may debate but progressively by the turn of the century at the present plant projection the gap will be more than 20,000 MW and it will be the ruin of our industrial growth. So we have to give a very considered thought to this and I will be always obliged and benefitted by the advice that this House gives.

13.15 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on Official Language

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the members of the Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, two members from amongst themselves to be members of the Committee on Official Language *vice* Shri PV Narasimha Rao resigned from the Committee and Shri B. V. Desai died.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Official