

[Sh. M.V. Chandrashekhar Murthy]

[Translation]

Vote on Account

While as required, the Annual Financial Statement for year 1993-94 has been laid before the House and the connected Demands for Grants are also being circulated to the Hon'ble Members along with other Budget papers. I am, at this stage, seeking a "Vote on Account" for the first six months of the Financial year 1993-94.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 14.05 hrs.

13.05 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at nine minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE DISAPPROVAL OF NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION LIMITED, THE NATIONAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED AND THE NORTH EASTERN ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF POWER TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS) ORDINANCE CONTD.

AND

NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION LIMITED, THE NATIONAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED AND THE NORTH-EASTERN ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF POWER TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS) BILL CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order: this question is regarding introduction of this Bill in the House. I have received many documents that prove that the decision under which the Bill is being introduced now has not been taken by the Government of India rather it has been brought at the direction of the World Bank. The sovereignty of India is directly.....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I make a request to you? You yourself are the next immediate speaker. At that time you can make your submission.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am on a point of order. I want a ruling in this regard—a ruling in the sense that this House can admit such legislation. Can this House admit a law that challenges the sovereignty of our country? When there is question of legislative competence.

[English]

Parliament is not competent to legislate against the sovereignty of the nation.

[Translation]

I would like to produce here the proof of the fact that the hon. Minister of Law has not brought this Bill nor the Cabinet. The process of bringing this Bill began in the World Bank and I am in possession of documents to this effect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may have a look to the background of this Bill. Copies of this Bill were circulated by them during the previous session of Parliament, they had promised to the World Bank that they would get the said Bill passed before December, 1992. This was a written commitment made to the world Bank that they would have the

Bill passed by December 1992. The Government, however, could not get the Bill passed because some other business came up before the House.. (Interruptions) Yes, sir, it is a fact that this commitment was made in writing and I am in possession of the proof thereof.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): The Parliament is taken for granted.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is the country that is being taken for granted. It is the country's sovereignty that is being taken for granted.

[Translation]

I fail to understand as to how the Government allowed this Bill to be introduced in this House.

I heard the speech of Hon. Prime Minister yesterday. We also hear the comments the hon. Minister of Finance makes inside and outside the House on the new policy of the Government. We do also fight on certain points. I know that there may be a debate and difference of opinion on certain principles and certain policies of the Government. But here there is no question of any policy, here there is a question of the sovereignty of the country. Since the World Bank directed the Government to get this Bill passed, the Government made an assurance in this regard in writing. But the Executive does not enjoy this right and this issue need be discussed in the House.

Will you tell any country of the world that we will come to you after getting a Bill passed in our Parliament. Tomorrow Britain or Russia or Japan or America may ask our country to pass certain Bills of their choice and only then, they may say, they would have talks with us. Is not even that much prestige left with us that our country should be guided by some other country of the world. Moreover, here we are not being guided by some other country of the world but by the World Bank itself.

Mr. Power Minister, what is self respect of this House is not unknown from you. It need not be explained to you as to what is dignity and what is honour of the Government. I don't know, who is your Power Secretary these days but I have got a letter which has been written by the Power Secretary Mr. Vasudevan to the World Bank on the 8th December, 1992. There is one Mr. Vergin in the World Bank. I know the spelling of his name. V.E.R.G.I.N. but I do not know how to pronounce it. Mr. Vergin is the Director of India Department and he may have his office here in Delhi itself of which I do not have any knowledge, but this letter has come from America, Washington. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the last paragraph of this letter reads.

[English]

"We have taken the liberty to send a copy of this letter to Mr. N.K. Singh, Joint Secretary (FB), Department of Economic Affairs, Mr. Rajendra Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, National Thermal Power Corporation and Mr. R.K. Narayan, Chairman and Managing Director, Power Grid Corporation."

[Translation]

I would like to submit that when the Secretary of the Government of India writes or speaks something, he does so on behalf of the Government and the letter sent to the Government.

[English]

Secretary to the Government of India, who is authorised, who is the empowered authority.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: I would like to know, Sir, from which paper he is quoting.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am quoting from a letter from the World Bank.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Can it be placed on the Table of the House?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Yes, it will be authenticated and placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot imagine that the Secretary to the Government of India, That is to say the Government of India itself can endorse the letter sent to him and would send the same to a Joint Secretary. He would not send it to the Joint Secretary alone. The Government has set up this Grid Corporation. I would speak on this issue later. I am opposing the Bill. No discussion can be held on it here. No discussion can be held unless the Minister of Law or the Attorney-General unless the Minister of Law or the Attorney-General comes here to participate in discussion on it. This is a question of the supremacy of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it may be Mr. N.K. Singh, Mr. Rajendra Singh and Mr. R.K. Narayan or it may be any other junior officer of the World Bank or may be the head of India Department. We Know how big an institution is the World Bank. Our country also has a representative in the World bank. We do have our equity in the World Bank. Our share may be one and a half or two per cent or it may be low or high but the fact remains that we are also a share holder of the World Bank. India had contributed to the formation of the World Bank. But its head, the Director of India Department, a junior officer of it writes a letter with some conditions to the Secretary of the Government of India and also sends a copy of it to Mr. N.K. Singh.

[English]

"I am also taking the liberty of sending it to Mr. N.K. Singh" to these gentlemen who are heading this Corporation.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, who is the

master of this country? What sort of relation does the authorities of the World Bank want to have with the authorities of our Government? This is not the question of a particular paragraph. I am not referring to one particular paragraph. I would like to further draw the attention of the hon. Minister who, I know, is worried about the dignity of the country in his own way. I would also like to produce before you one more letter written on 14th January, 1993 which I can authenticate and lay on the Table of the House. I am informing my colleague Charles Sabha. This is the World Bank India Energy Operations Division and here is the FAX message-

[English]

but he is the one who has authorised the transmission of this message.

[Translation]

Now who is this unknown fellow. His designation is not given. It is Mr. N.K. Singh who receives the message. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please read it. Our country has its own sovereignty which when undergoes degeneration and when the Government of the country is least bothered about it, the attitude of the junior officers of the World Bank and the other authorities working in other places may be known through this letter which is a clear proof of the fact itself. Please see, what does it be speak.

[English]

"" Sub: Proposed Power Grid System Development Project.

Ref: Your telephone conversation with Mr. Vergin on Wednesday.""

[Translation]

So, the issue involving N.K. Singh is appearing to be quite serious in view of the contents of this letter. First of all, this letter was sent to the Secretary, then a copy of it was endorsed and sent to a junior officer stating "I am taking the liberty". Later on a relationship with that junior officer is estab-

lished. And so far as the nature of such relationship is concerned, we have seen them amply in the Scam case. We have thoroughly assessed the kind of relations that are formed with the persons of different places. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is highly regrettable that a person in India may create any sort of violence and yet all his guilts are forgiven. I would not, however, like to deviate from that at present. Nevertheless, there is anger in me and that is why this has come out of my mouth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they say-

[English]

"We know have most of the information required to complete the yellow cover Staff Appraisal Report in about one week's time. The remaining conditions of loan negotiations that still remain to be fulfilled, are listed in the attachment. The level of FOI financial equity support to Power Grid in general and specifically for the Northern Region Transmission Project is a critical issue. While Plan allocations appear to be sufficient for the new project, allocations for the Northern Region Transmission for the Nathpa Jakhri Hydro Project, amounted to about Rs. one crores of the requirements of that project."

I continue to quote:

"We are also concerned about the development of power grids' commercial arrangement and the transfer of RLDC from CEA'S to the power grid. I trust this clarifies the situation".

And now,

"I am copying this fax to Shri R. Vasudevan, Secretary, Ministry of Power".

[Translation]

A message is sent to the Joint Secretary. An official of the World Bank writes that he is sending a copy to the Secretary. Is it

not a blow to the dignity of the Government of India? Who is governing the Government of India at present? When we raised a hue and cry inside and outside the House that the independence and sovereignty of the country was being mortgaged, we were labelled as irresponsible. In what sense the country is independent now?

Now, please go through this Act:

[English]

"The provision of this Act, except section so and so, shall be deemed to have come into force on the first day of April, 1992".

'shall be deemed to have'. How? The World Bank has said and they have decided.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: How did it become part of the law. My question concerns the sovereignty...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Shri Fernanddes, with your permission I want to tell that there are other most startling revelations. This is from a letter of 7th October, 1992.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That is with me, also. I am going to read it.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Then it is all right.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, I am on a point of order. this Bill has already been introduced in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Fernandes, anyhow you have made some of your points very clear, about the passing of this Bill and the sovereignty of the country. Shall I give a ruling on it?

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not speaking on the Bill. I am speaking on the competence of the House to legislate on this.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Emakulam): Sir, I am on a point of order. The Bill is already introduced here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Fernandes, you are questioning the competence of this House in passing a Bill. Is it not? You say that the Bill, which has come up before the House *suo motu* has not come from the Government and it is being initiated by somebody else and thereby the sovereignty of the country is hit. That is your point. Is it not?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That is not the point. That is the preamble. The point is that when this Bill comes before the House in the form in which it has come, it is actually handing over the sovereignty. It is not merely a question of the sovereignty of the House being questioned or the sovereignty of the country being questioned. (Interruptions) We are surrendering our sovereignty with the enactment of this legislation. That is my point.

SHRI A. CHARLES: What is this interpretation? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shall I give a ruling?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES: This is routine correspondence with the Government. It is a mischievous representation. If every correspondence is being questioned like this, how can the Government function?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Fernandes, do you want a ruling on this?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Please listen carefully to what I say because I am going to present before you a clinching evidence of it.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your question is whether the Bill which has come up for discussion on the floor of the House has got the competency to be discussed here or not. Is it the point?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No, Sir. That is not the point. The point is, as far as the competence of this House is concerned, that is an issue by itself. The House does not have competence to enact a legislation which is tantamount to surrendering the sovereignty of the Union. That is the point. (Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES: This cannot be raised at this point of time.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Why not? I have received documents today. I have received these documents just now.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANJGRAHI (Deogarh): All these arguments should have been made at the time of introduction. What is the point in making them now? (Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, the House is supreme. This question cannot be raised now. The House has allowed the Bill to be introduced. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Fernandes, do you want a ruling?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Shri Fernandes has reached the platform after the train has left. The stage is over now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On that point I want to give a ruling.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Had I received these documents earlier I would have stalled the introduction of this Bill when it was presented in the House... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had not received the document till I moved the statutory Resolution. I received it only in the evening. Had I received it then I would have raised the questions yesterday which Shri George Fernandes is raising today.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we received these documents at night. Therefore, an important decision should be taken with regard to this matter. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): No, Sir, A very important question has arisen—the legislative competence of the House to legislate on such a type of law where you cannot surrender the sovereignty of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You Please try to follow me. I would like to quote a few lines from what Shri Vasudevan the Secretary to the Government of India wrote to Shri Vergin on 7th October. It begins:

[English]

" Dear Mr. Vergin, We have carefully considered the conditions... (Interruptions).

You are a great patriot. Why are you defending?

SHRI A CHARLES: I am not defending.

but (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Even your Minister is understanding the significance of what I am saying. Why is a great patriot like you now standing up?

SHRI A CHARLES: You should have raised the objections at the time of the introduction of the Bill. (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I am sorry for this kind of interruption. But through you, Sir, I would like to convey to the Minister that I got this document this morning. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us hear him.

SHRI A. CHARLES: He has taken more than half-an-hour.

SHRI ANIL BASU: This is a very important point he has raised. He should be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is a point of order.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: More than half- an-hour? We are discussing the sovereignty of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For a point of order time limit is not there. It is up to him to substantiate the point of order, whether the point of order the hon. Member is raising...

(Interruptions)

SHRI A CHARLES: Every day some of the leaders are taking the entire time of the House. (Interruptions). The House is not their monopoly or the monopoly of a few leaders of this House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am on a point of order concerning the Constitution of India. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, Kindly give a ruling whether at this stage this question can be raised.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: A point of order can be raised.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I have to present to you this document. I have to present this document to the House. So, the House has to hear my point of order.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I know, I need not be enlightened by you that point of order can be raised at any point of time after the question Hour, in the Zero Hour. But the point is whether at this point of time this point can be raised in the form of a point of order, i.e., when the House is already discussing this. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: There is a constitutional disorder.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, this House is already considering this. Any such point which he is now raising could have been very well raised at the time of introduction. (Interruptions). Please give Ruling.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He can rule on my point of order. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

I have received this document only today, that it I am raising the water today itself.

(Interruptions)

Sir, Mr. Vausdevan writes to Mr. Vergin as follows:

* We have carefully considered the conditions to be fulfilled before appraisal as contained in the Aide Memoire furnished by the Bank's follow up mission on India. NTPC POWER GENERATION PROJECT. Our position on these conditions is detailed as follows;

We confirm that the conditions relating to commercial and investment policies would be met... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: This is the objection. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When you get your chance, you can elaborate it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This is the crucial point, Sir, that the Government of India has decided, and has written to the World Bank that American multinational that have named the multinational who are going to be partners of the Power sector in India— M/s Spectrum Technologies of United States will be the partner in NTPC's Godavari gas based project, M/S ABB is going to bid for the Bawana project of DESU with M/s GVK Industries for the Jagurupadu gas based project. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Anyhow, Mr. George, you have made your point very clear.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, it is not a question of making my point, it is a question of the sovereignty of India. How can I be a member of this House and accept this kind of sell-out of the country? How can I accept it? I cannot accept it, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give a Ruling on this. You have raised the point of order.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, my earnest request to you is— let me make my requests, one to you and one to the Government. My request to you, Sir, is, you hold this Bill as totally beyond the legislative competence of the House because the House cannot write off its sovereignty.

We cannot give away our sovereignty through this piece of legislation. So, this is my request to you, Sir. And I would request the Government and particularly Mr. Salve knowing him as I do, to withdraw this Bill,

ponder over the implications of it, discuss the implications of this bill with the leaders of this House and then decide how exactly you want to proceed with whatever liberalisation that you want to do. I may not be in agreement with it. I will oppose your liberalisation in the manner in which you are going, that is a different matter. But when it comes to the sovereignty of the House and surrendering the sovereignty of the House to any outside body,

[Translation]

We cannot accept the thing at any cost. Therefore I would urge you and the government for this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri George Fernandes has raised a point of order and he has substantiated his point of order. It calls for the ruling from the Chair. So, now I am giving my ruling. It is the accepted practice in Lok Sabha that the Speaker does not give any ruling on a point of order raised whether a bill is constitutionally within the legislative competence of the House or not. The House also does not take a decision on the specific question of *vires* of a Bill. It is open to Members to express their views in the matter and to address arguments for and against the *vires* for the consideration of the House. The Members take this aspect in to account in voting on the motion for leave to introduce the Bill or on the subsequent motions on the Bill. Now, I request Mr. Pandey to continue his speech.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I submitted yesterday, under the pressure of the World Bank....(Interruptions)

They are working under the pressure of the World bank and their assertion that they are taking these measures with a view to introduce sophisticated technique. to improve the efficiency and the energy utilisation is not correct. I would like to refer to the

same thing today as I did yesterday. Referring to the Financial Express and the Economic Times yesterday I had pointed out that the letter written by Shri Vasudevan contains some remarks which go against the dignity and sovereignty of the country. I would like to quote para 8 of his letter. It states- (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): I seek your permission to submit one thing. Yesterday, Shri Nitish Kumar had raised this issue. He did not have the documents. Shri George Fernandes raised the same issue, and now you are repeating it again. I would clarify every point when I give the reply. I would like to assure them that I am also as much sensitive with regard to the dignity of the country as they are, I will give the entire background when I give the reply and then only they will come to know about the facts. They may agree or not, that is a different point. But one thing is there, the concerned Ministry and the Government are responsible with regard to this Bill. It is not good to demoralise any of the bureaucrats.

[English]

It is the Ministry which is responsible; it is the Government which is responsible and none of the bureaucrats is responsible.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: No attempt has been made to demoralise any of the bureaucrats.. Only a certain document written by the Power Secretary has been quoted. why are you charging us of demoralising the bureaucrats? We are just referring to the document.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, I was quoting from the letter; it further states:

[English:]

"Therefore, it has suggested that

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

if the bank insists on transfer of ownership to NPTC, the agreement of transfer must include suitable provisions for retaining the operation of the associated switchyard with the concerned power station authorities on contract basis. Even this, however, would not be possible to do in the case of Nuclear Power Stations (for obvious reasons) and in specific cases like those of underground power stations with GI switchgears. In view of this, you are requested to consider this condition. "

[Translation]

While quoting it I would like to submit that I do have the contents of the reply of this letter. The letter was written on 8th December. The letter dated the 7th October was written by the Secretary, Ministry of Power and this letter dated the 8th December was received from the World Bank. I would like to quote the third para of this letter.

[English]

"We would also like to take this opportunity to mention that a number of actions required for the processing of the NTPC Power Generation Project are equally relevant for the fulfillment of conditions for negotiations of the POWERGRID System Development Project.

We would like to mention in particular the completion of the legal procedures for the transfer of transmission assets from NTPC and NHPC, the transfer of the existing regional load despatch centres to Powergrid to be completed before December, 1993."

[Translation]

Which has been referred here just now. I would like to request the hon. Minister that we have taken those steps under some pressure and influence. It is a very simple thing. Other wise, there was no need of doing it. In this regard, I would like to submit

that no proper clarification has been given regarding the loans and assets of three companies before introducing this Bill. Nothing has been mentioned about the nature of the foreign technique for the No-menpower station and its likely effects on the industries of our country. I charge the Government for misleading the House. I would also like to submit that the Government have not put its precise policy before the House. What was the reason behind taking over only these three companies. It has not been categorically stated whether all other companies or State Electricity Boards would continue to function as such.

It has also not been made clear whether taking over of these three companies and transferring their assets are in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution or not. In this regard I would like to submit that transferring the assets and services is unconstitutional. It should be made clear. I would like to request that the Government should make its policy clear in this regard. There was no need of introducing such a legislation when the Electricity Power Supply Act, 1910 and Electricity Act, 1948 and Central Electricity Authority are in existence. Can't you get this work done through this Authority? Whether Central Electricity authority has been proved unsuccessful and ineffective in the field of power? In this regard, the letter received from the National Confederation of Officers Association of the Central Public Sector Undertakings has also pointed out-

[English]

"We confirm that the conditions relating to commercial and investment policies would be met. As regards the MOU, between NTPC and NHPC on the transfer of assets, an Ordinance is to be issued in order to effect the transfer in such a way as not to attract stamp duty. The ordinance has been drafted and would be issued shortly."

[Translation];

A mention has been made with regard stamp duty. It involves stamp duty worth

crores of rupees. I would like to ask what would happen to it and how much loss we would have to suffer? A Financial Memorandum has been attached to the Bill. No reference has been made therein about this loss etc.

[English]

“On such a vital matter, Parliament cannot be used as a mere rubber stamp just to approve fait accompli based on party whips. We demand that the entire issue of electrical power industry should be seriously deliberated upon. Therefore, we demand that the Bill should be referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee/ Select Committee for further consideration.”

[Translation]

At the outset disapproving the Ordinance Shri Nitish Kumar as well as other hon. Members have expressed their view that it is a matter of misleading the country and a betrayal with the country. This step will lower the dignity of the nation. There was no need to set up such a power grid station. The present set up was doing well. As I told yesterday that the Government of Tamil Nadu has totally refused to cooperate with the Central Government in this matter. Have you obtained consent from all the Electricity Board? The set up which you are going to create, should be made clear.

I would like to request that the Government should bring forward a comprehensive Bill and withdraw the present Bill. I request the Government to clarify all the aspects otherwise refer this Bill to the Joint Select Committee for consideration.

With these words I conclude expressing my dissent on Bill and support the motion seeking disapproval of the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I call Prof. K.V. Thomas to speak. The time at our disposal is very limited. The time which was

allotted was two hours. We have already taken an hour and thirty minutes. Hardly 30 minutes are there at our disposal.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Eranakulam): Much time has been taken for raising points of order. (Interruptions)

Sir, at the outset, I support this Bill. At the time of introduction of this Bill as well as during the course of the short time of discussion, one of the objections raised by our hon. Friends on the other side is that Government is bringing this legislation as per the direction of the World bank or the IMF. Almost all the major power corporations whether they are hydro-electric power/generation centres or thermal power producing stations, they are financed either by the World Bank or by the former Soviet union or by the former Soviet Union or by the financial consortia in Japan. Therefore, the World Bank, the former USSR and the financial consortia in Japan have put their conditions when this financial assistance has been given. I still remember the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to the Power Ministry to get financial assistance is not possible from the former USSR. So, it is quite natural that as we cannot raise funds from within the country, we have to go abroad to get financial assistance.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACARAYA (Jadavpur): This is not natural. This is a constraint put on the State.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: I am telling you what is the actual position. For almost all the major power producing centres, we are getting financial assistance from the World Bank or the USSR or the financial consortia in Japan. West Bengal is also doing the same. You are also approaching the Government of India to get the finance from Japan. It is quite natural that when they are giving finance, they will put some conditions. The only question is whether these conditions can be acceptable by us or not. If they can be acceptable, we get it. I am sure this is not applicable only to India. China is after the World Bank to get the financial assistance.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Their economy and our economy are quite different.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: For you the China's economy is different but not for us. It is quite natural in our country that we are giving the first priority to power. In today's discussion also, the priority is given to power. So, to start new power generation centres and for the efficient distribution of power that has been produced, we want the financial assistance. India is one of the countries where power loss during transmission is to the tune of 18-22 per cent. But in many of the developed countries it is just 5-6 per cent. The aim of this National Power Grid is to have a power distribution system which is more effective.

I am coming from a State Kerala where we are in a power crisis. We are just getting about 200 megawatt of electricity from the Central Power Grid even though the allotment is 300 megawatt. The reason is, there is no effective distribution system. It is with this aim in mind, the Government of India has brought this Bill. This Bill is just a Bill to replace the ordinance which was promulgated on 8.1.93. There was an ordinance and we should not pass this Bill in the last session. So, this is brought in this session and the only aim is to rejuvenate and strengthen our transmission system.

There is a long story about how our energy system has been strengthened. Power is not in the Central List, it is in the Concurrent List. So, the State electricity boards as well as the central generating companies are producing and distributing power. India being a very big country, the scientific, economic and efficient generation and distribution of power to all the parts of the country is a herculean task. We want huge investment. We cannot raise that money in the country. That is why, we are going either to Japan or we had gone earlier to USSR and we have gone to the World Bank to get the money.

In my State Kerala, there is one prestigious project, the Kayamkulam Thermal Power Plant. We are eagerly after it. It was

first the USSR which agreed that it would give the necessary financial assistance. But that USSR is no more. Now Japanese consortiums have suggested that they will give the necessary finance through consortiums. But day before yesterday when we read some news item in the newspaper, we wanted to get some clarification. I had raised this point. We want to know whether we are going to get financial assistance from the Japanese consortium. Why has the Kerala given such an importance to this project? Kerala's consumption of electricity during the current peak hour is 1,500 megawatt. The installed power generation capacity of Kerala is 1,476 megawatt. The actual production is 1,100 megawatts. Even though our central allotment is 300 megawatt, we are getting only 200 megawatts because of the poor transmission system. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): We are getting from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. But recently one month back we got a good transmission system through the Malabar side in Karnataka. This is one of the reasons that we are producing the electricity in bulk. That cannot be properly transmitted to the different parts of the country. That is one reason for this transmission losses. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: It is not the high tension lines. Distribution system is done through the low tension lines.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: If there is a proper high tension line, then only you can distribute it. That is one of the reasons why we could not distribute it. My request to the Government is whatever may be the way out, if the conditions of the World Bank are not going to hamper the dignity of the country, we can get the amount from the World Bank. We can get it from Japan. USSR was an old friend. Had we got it from them, we would have been much more happier. If we could get it from the USSR the financial assistance, we would have been much more happier. But you know what is the position of USSR. The Government must go ahead

with all the projects. Even if China can give us assistance, we will be happy to get it. But we have to get finance so that all our major power generating centres well as power distribution system can be revived.

Coming to Kerala, I have got just two points to mention. The Pooyamkutti Hydro-electric Power Project proposal is already before you. This was submitted to the Government in the year 1981 and the Central Electricity board approved it in the year 1986. And till date, it has not been moved. What is the reason? I request the Government to take a speedy action on this.

Sir, all the southern States- Goa, Karnataka, TamilNadu and Kerala- have requested for a Southern Gas Grid. If a Southern Gas Grid is there, whatever gas that is burnt away in Bombay, can be taken to the Southern States and it will be useful to us.

So, my request to the Government is that these points should be considered and you should find the resources either from inside or abroad, so that our power generating centres can work very well.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anil Basu to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no member from my party has been given an opportunity to express his views on this issue so far. We have brought forward this statutory Resolution as a Private Member's Bill.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): I think Shri Nitish Kumar has raised a correct point. We discussed it with the Speaker also that initially, in the first round, the speaker should be called from the first big opposition, then the second big opposition and then the third big opposition and so, on. After that, in the second round, it can be one from the opposition and the

other can be from the treasury benches. Again, in the final round, when once again major speakers are fielded, the first one should be from the major opposition party, then second major opposition party and then, third major opposition party and so on.

Now, from any point of view, it behoves that Janata Dal Member should be called to speak. What I mean is that there is validity in the point that has been raised.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been under the impression that he has initiated the debate. Let Shri Anil basu complete.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, from our very childhood, we are taught to be patriots. Now, sitting in this House, the seat of Supreme democracy of our country, I find that the word patriotism has no meaning in the power corridors of the power Ministry. Love and lust for dollar is prevailing upon patriotism.

Sir, this Bill transferring the affairs of NTPC, NHPC and NEEPC to the newly created Power Grid Corporation has far-reaching consequences on the future of the Power industry of our country. Where from this concept came?

Sir, nowhere in the world, except in New Zealand, this type of Corporation exists. Nowhere in the world, there is a National Power Grid Corporation except in New Zealand, where there is a National Power Grid Corporation. It is not in the U.K., even not in America, not in the European countries, not in Japan or South Asian countries. The only country which has a national Power Grid is New Zealand. And we are the second country, who are going to have it through this proposed legislation. The information which we received from various corners reveals that there is a New Zealander in the World Bank at Washington, who is a key man in the power department of the World Bank in Wasington. And this Bill is a brainchild of that man.

In the Indian Parliament we are discussing the Bill; but the contents come from

[Sh. Anil Basu]

Washington, from the Power Department of the World Bank headed by the New Zealander.

It is crystal clear from the letter of the Power Secretary to World Bank to which Shri George Fernandes referred that we are going to surrender the sovereignty of our country in the power sector to the World Bank. We have accepted all the conditionalities of the World Bank. From the letter of the Power Secretary, D.O. No. 10/1/4/91 PLA dated October 7, 1992 which he wrote to Mr. Virgin, he said that we confirm that the condition relating to commercial and investment policies would be met. As regards Memorandum of Understanding between NPTC- it is now named as National Power Grid Corporation- on the transfer of assets an ordinance is to be issued in order to effect the transfer in such a manner as not to attract stamp duty. The ordinance has been drafted and would be issued very shortly. That ordinance was promulgated and this Bill is before the House now to give a rubber stamp on the proposed legislation by the World Bank.

I think the Finance Minister is competent enough in this regard.

SHRI N.K.P. Salve: Am I incompetent?

SHRI ANIL BASU: I am not questioning your competence.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You are the Minister for Power; but he is a powerful Minister!

SHRI ANIL BASU: These three letters- the letter of Mr. Vasudeva on October 7, 1992, the letter of Mr. Heinz Virgin of December 8 1992 and the letter of Mr. Vasudeva of January 12, 1993- and the FAX message from Mr. Jean Francois Bawar from India- Energy Operation Division of the world Bank to the Joint Secretary, Fi-

nance, Mr. N.K. Singh, reveal that we are going to surrender our whole power sector in the interest of the foreign multinational companies.

14.58 hrs

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the Chair]

The other day during the supplementary to a question I asked categorically that in today's world the scenario in the power sector is very bleak and the manufacturers in the world power industry are facing recession. They want to sell their equipment; they want to export the technology. There is a recession going on. The world Bank as an agency of the international, multi-national and transactional companies is also interested to help the international companies. India being a potential customer, we need to improve our generation capacity. We do not have funds and we are not opposed to that. We can take loan from the World Bank, I do not object to that. But surrendering the interests of the country, surrendering the sovereignty of the country in order that the loan is taken, and if any action is taken detrimental to the interests of the country, then we rise to oppose it with all the force at our command.

15.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anil Basu, Now, the time is 3 o'clock. We have to take up the Private Members' Business. So, you may continue next time.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Yes. Thank you.

15.00 hours

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up the Private Member's Business. There is a motion in the name of Shri Shyam Bihari Misra. Shri Shyam Bihari Misra