

[Shri Bhisma Narain Singh]

Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123(2)(a) of the Constitution:—

(1) The Essential Services Maintenance (Assam) Ordinance, 1980 (No. 2 of 1980) promulgated by the President on the 6th April, 1980.

(2) The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1980 (No. 3 of 1980) promulgated by the President on the 15th April, 1980.

(3) The National Company Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1980 (No. 4 of 1980) promulgated by the President on the 27th April, 1980.

(4) The Police (Incitement to Disaffection) (Gujarat Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1980 (No. 5 of 1980) promulgated by the President on the 1st May, 1980.

(5) The Essential Services Maintenance (Maharashtra) Ordinance, 1980 (No. 6 of 1980) promulgated by the President on the 12th May, 1980.

(6) The Gujarat Essential Services Maintenance (Amendment) Ordinance, 1980 (No. 7 of 1980) promulgated by the President on the 12th May, 1980.

(7) The Essential Services Maintenance (Orissa) Ordinance, 1980 (No. 8 of 1980) promulgated by the President on the 24th May, 1980.

(8) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Assam) Amendment Ordinance, 1980 (No. 9 of 1980) promulgated by the President on the 5th June, 1980.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-799/80].

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT AND BALANCE-SHEET OF TELECOMMUNICATION BRANCH OF INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPT. FOR 1977-78 AND INDIAN TELEGRAPH (1ST AMDT.) RULES, 1980

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):  
I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (On accrual basis) (Hindi and English versions) of the Telecommunication Branch of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, for the year 1977-78.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-800/80].

(2) A copy of the Indian Telegraph (First Amendment) Rules, 1980 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 132 in Gazette of India date, the 26th January, 1980, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-801/80].

12.39 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ACUTE POWER SHORTAGE IN THE COUNTRY

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Energy to the following matter of urgent public importance and would request him to make a statement thereon:

“the acute power shortage in the various parts of the country leading to huge production losses.”

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully share the anxiety and concern expressed by the honourable Members through this Calling Attention Notice on the acute shortage of power in various parts of the country and its adverse impact on production. On the 30th of January, 1980, in reply to a similar Calling

Attention Notice, I had made a statement in this august House and informed the honourable Members that while we are fully seized of the difficult power situation in the country, and are taking all necessary steps to improve the position, because of the lower availability of power from hydel reservoirs particularly during the months of April and May, it is expected that power position till June, 1980 would continue to be difficult. That there is power shortage, today, in the country, there is no doubt about that. There are various factors responsible for this. There has been an unprecedented drought last year resulting in the reduction of the hydro generation to the extent of 30 per cent. States depending mostly on hydro have suffered the most. Then there is 10-15 annual increase in the demand. In addition the demand for power from agriculture sector increased due to drought. Again, most of the units are managed by the State Electricity Boards, autonomous bodies, who are responsible to their respective State Governments. In a federal polity like ours the Centre can only render expert advice and help the States in the allocations from Plan funds.

Our immediate and prime concern on taking over has been to provide the necessary direction, support and supervision for better management of the existing wherewithal of power. The basic fact is that capacity utilisation has to be stepped up.

Before we took over in January, 1980, the capacity utilisation was only around 45 per cent. Today the capacity utilisation is around 48 per cent. We intend to improve it further and take it to 50 per cent or higher. Capacity utilisation in some of the States e.g. Bihar, West Bengal, including D.V.C., is extremely low. There are various factors such as lawlessness, inter union rivalries and lack of suitable working conditions and facilities etc. which are responsible for this State of affairs particularly in the Eastern Region.

There are other difficulties like inadequate supply of quality coal, but it is not the scarcity of the coal. The main bottleneck is transportation of coal because transportation has not matched the increased requirement of coal.

I do not personally think that there are any insurmountable difficulties. Various inputs have to be planned in time and the coordination has to improve.

According to our policy, the Government is keen to have super thermal power stations at pitheads to meet the power needs of the country. In addition it is proposed to establish as early as possible a centrally owned and operated National Grid. This will mainly consist of 400 KV transmission lines, step down sub-stations and load despatch centres etc. At the same time we are determined to see that thermal power stations run efficiently. There are other bottlenecks, for example there is lack of quality control in manufacturing, erection and commissioning of main equipment and timely ordering as well as supply of spare parts. Training of personnel for operation and maintenance of more sophisticated larger thermal power generating units has to be more intensive. We are taking measures to plug all these gaps so that capacity utilisation improves.

We are also keen for the expansion of hydro generation. Unfortunately, the expansion of hydro has been neglected. For this power planning will have to be done on a long term basis. It is also, perhaps, due to lack of expertise in completing the civil works like tunnels etc., in a shorter time. For this foreign technology may have to be imported if found cost effective.

One of the most important long term measures for meeting the increasing demand is to cut down delays in implementing of new power projects. We have made significant

[Shri A.B.H. Ghani Khan Chaudhuri] progress in central projects in introducing modern project management concepts appropriate to Indian conditions. We propose to give necessary assistance and guidance to State agencies also in this regard.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:**

From the statement it is clear that during the Janata rule, due to mismanagement and lack of co-ordination among various Ministers, large number of power plants have not been working properly at full capacity. In Karnataka due to power shortage more than 1300 large industrial units and a large number of ancillary units have been hit affecting the economy of the State, Karnataka has been a deficit State in power and the Government of Karnataka has been pleading with the Centre to come to its rescue for solving this problem. As has been stated according to the estimates prepared by the Central Electricity Authority, the country will need an additional 29,000 megawatts of thermal power. That means, in order to reach the target, we have to have some additional thermal plants in the country. Further, it has been stated that because of power shortage the country is facing lot of problems leading to inflation etc.

May I take this opportunity to add that most of the State Electricity Boards are not interested in increasing the power generation in their respective States. I am further told that some of the Electricity Boards during Janata rule were politically oriented. Under these circumstances, may I ask the hon. Minister whether in order to solve the problem, the Centre would perform the duty of monitoring the surplus power and divert the same to the deficit States as and when the need arises. Further, will the Centre set up a port-based thermal plant near Mangalore port in order to solve the power shortage in Karnataka using coal exclusively transported by sea as in the case of Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu?

What is the reaction of the Government to the proposal of the private sector to generate power and to sell the same to the Electricity Boards or to the Government, who in turn, would sell it to the consumers? What is the reaction of the Government to a proposal of the large industrial houses to start or set up captive power plants in different industrial areas with assistance of the World Bank? Is the Government considering the question of transferring 'power' from the Concurrent List to the Union List to facilitate streamlining of this matter?

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** Sir, the hon Member has asked a number of questions and, as you know, it is very difficult to answer all these questions. I do agree with him, of course, that the power situation in the country is very serious. When we came to power, we thought that we should solve this problem in two ways: One, short term solution and the other long term solution. As far as short term solution is concerned, we noticed that most of the power stations did not have coal. We put emphasis on proper transportation of coal. To start with, only 2800 wagons used to carry the coal. We insisted and insisted; and the Railway Minister helped us to a great extent. Today, slightly more than 3200 wagons supply coal to power-stations. But I am sorry to tell the House that it is not sufficient. A minimum of 3700 wagons per day is required to carry coal to different power stations, if you want to build up any buffer stock or any stock at all.

To-day, because we are facing an unprecedented drought, we have no other option but to put emphasis on thermal generation. So, naturally, 36 billion tonnes of coal is required.

There is another problem which has cropped up. Not only about adequate supply of coal, but about the quality of coal also, there is a pro-

blem. We are looking into the matter seriously. Whenever there is a dispute, we are asking the power stations to put their men, to supervise the quality of coal at the loading point. In cases where that is not sufficient we have already passed an order for washeries, and for making treatment, so that a proper quality of coal can be sent to power stations; and generation does not suffer. This is one thing we have taken very seriously.

You know, Sir, that most of the States have their own generation. That is looked after by the State Government. We don't have any effective control on them. We can only help, advise and try to persuade them. You will be surprised to hear, Sir, that in some regions, the utilization percentage is more than 50. In some others, it is very poor—to the extent of 25 per cent. At the present moment, we are trying to prevail upon them. We are trying to tell the chairmen of the State Electricity Boards, the Chief Ministers and Ministers of Power to do what is humanly possible for maximization of generation.

Apart from this, we have arranged that the State Electricity Boards can get the spare parts as quickly as possible. Whenever the State Electricity Boards had approached us for spare parts or other assistance, we had sent that assistance. We are not satisfied with these short-term measures. We have also started super thermal Power stations. We are taking this super thermal power to the pit-heads because from our experience we have noticed that coal transport is a bottleneck.

So, if we can take these power stations to coalfields, we will be able to solve this bottleneck. You are probably aware that we have started 2000 MW Singrauli Power Station near the coalfield. You may be aware of Korba. You are also aware

of Ramagundam and the Farakka projects. Probably some of them will start their first unit in 1982; some of them in 1983, some of them in 1984 and some of them in 1985 and so on and so forth. I can assure the House that any suggestion given to us for starting a power station near the coalfield will certainly be considered because it is our experience that carrying coal everyday is becoming very very difficult. Apart from that, in the next five years, I think 19,000 MW will be added to the installed capacity. About his request in his State for having thermal power, I am not aware of the coal deposit; and if I can have that information, I will certainly look into it; and it is justified, we will certainly consider it. But in Karnataka, there is no potential for thermal power.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:**  
My questions were not answered.

**SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur):**  
Sir, I would like to say that it is having its own effect on the overall economy of the State. It is estimated that we are incurring loss of Rs. 7300 crores worth of production every year because of the power shortage and the consequent impact on the factories is that they are facing lay-off, closure and all those things. I have been following the Minister very scrupulously. What is the real remedy for this situation which you are facing? If I am correct, in 1979, the Plannig Commission appointed a study group to go into the whole electricity structure of the power industry and they have made some recommendations on those aspect. You know that we are generating only 40 per cent hydel power out of the total requirement. If I am correct, we are having only 2.5 per cent nuclear power. We are depending more and more on thermal power stations. The malady of the whole question is thermal power stations.

[Shri K. A. Rajan]

The difficulty is that our thermal power stations are situated long away from the pit sheds. That creates a problem. The quality of the coal also creates a problem. The lack of maintenance also creates a problem. Apart from all this, the transmission loss in our country is greater than any international standard, if you take any international standard if you estimated assessment is that if we are able to reduce one per cent transmission loss we will be able to save Rs. 20 crores a year. There is a report in which this has been stated. Apart from all these things, our Minister has been making so many statements. I am sorry to say that he has been groping in the dark in running the whole thing, because after he came into power he made a statement regarding power generation. He is thinking in terms of allocating it to the private sector. It has not been the practice in this country in the larger interest of the nation and also the policy of the government, the industrial policy of the government. So, I would like to know from the Minister what is the position now because he has been shifting his position very often.

The second pronouncement that he made was that every authority, electricity authority, whether it is a state electricity authority or some other, will come under one central authority. I could not understand what is the fascination for a central authority for everything. What is happening in DVC; it has been working under the central authority. What is happening in Delhi, under the very nose of the Centre? A central authority cannot solve the problem. It was reported in the Press also that in the Consultative Committee the Minister was saying: I am thinking in terms of a central authority. Will it solve the problem? Central authority is not the problem. The overall strategy regarding power generation is drifting and the country is going to shambles. That is

not only my view. On going through the report of the study group I find that our country has to depend on hydel power. We are having only forty per cent. A survey of various all India projects shows that 253 schemes are lying untapped.

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is one O'clock now. The House will have recess till 2 O'clock for lunch.

13.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at five minute past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—  
Contd.

PROCLAMATION REVOKING THE PRESIDENTS RULE IN CERTAIN STATES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Proclamations (Hindi and English versions) under article 356(3) of the Constitution:—

(1) Proclamation dated the 6th June, 1980 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the Proclamation issued by him on the 17th February, 1980 in relation to the State of Rajasthan, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 291(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1980. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-802/80]

(2) Proclamation dated the 7th June, 1980 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the Proclamation issued by him on the 17th February, 1980 in relation to the State of Gujarat published in