

(viii) **NEED to INCREASE POWER SUPPLY TO WEST BENGAL FROM DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION.**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): West Bengal and Bihar are the two participating States in Damodar Valley Corporation. The Government of West Bengal has contributed Rs. 73.68 crores to D. V. C. exclusively for the power projects upto 31-3-1981 as compared to much lesser contribution of Rs. 49.09 crores and Rs. 49.26 crores by Government of India and Government of Bihar, respectively. In spite of its largest contribution, West Bengal have not got the proper benefit of power availability from D. V. C. In 1971-72, D.V.C.'s sale of energy in West Bengal was 45% of its total sale, but the same has come down persistently year by year. In 1980-81, the sale of energy in West Bengal came down to only 39% of the total sale. Presently 350 MW is installed in West Bengal, out of the total installed capacity of 1371.5 MW of D. V. C. system. In 1980-81, D.V.C.'s generation in West Bengal was only 698 MU, constituting 16% of its total generation. D. V. C.'s generation of energy has started dwindling from 1979-80 and it has come down year by year. While generation in 1978-79 was 5443 MU, the corresponding generation figure for 1980-81 was only 4485 MU in spite of installation of new sets. Such sizable reduction in generation has adversely affected the consumers of D.V.C. in general, as D.V.C. has continued to impose power restriction on its consumers. In 1977, D. V. C. introduced a schedule of power allocation, under which the consumers were grouped under four categories, e.g. (i) Railway Traction (ii) Collieries (iii) Steel Plants and (iv) Mixed and other Loads, according to priority. The first three groups enjoying priority come under the Central Sector while State Electricity Boards in West Bengal and Bihar and the Calcutta Electric

Supply Corporation Ltd. comprise the last group under "Mixed and other Load" with the lowest priority. Thus, due to low generation level of D.V.C., the State Electricity Boards and C.E.S.C. Ltd., have been suffering most due to power restriction according to the schedule. It is learnt that in October 1980 the Government of India has worked out a revised schedule for power allocation by D.V.C. fixing still lower priority to State Electricity Boards and Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation D.V.C. could not, however, implement the revised schedule and the same was further modified at a meeting held on 16-12-1981 at the instance of the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, wherein surprisingly the State Government of West Bengal and Bihar were not invited and their views were not sought. It is clear that the State Electricity Boards are put into difficulty and particular the people in the State of West Bengal. In the revised schedule, as approved in the said meeting held on 16-12-81, the quantum of total saleable power has been reduced by 5% to 15% at the generation level of 650 MW respectively. Power allocated to "Mixed and other load" group comprising State Electricity Boards and C.E.S.C. Ltd. stands reduced by 15% to 18% at the varying level of generation. Quantum of reduction in power allocation varied between 40 MVA to 122 MVA for the generation level of 650 MW and 800 MW respectively. Under the revised schedule, the quantum of power has been slashed down considerably in respect of the State Electricity Boards and the C.E.S.C. Ltd., to allow higher priority to collieries and steel plants. Such a move would aggravate power position in West Bengal which is already acute. It would be pertinent to note that against the contract load of 105 MVA, actual power supply to CESC by D.V.C. has varied between 47 to 53 MW on

an average during the past few months. Power is often restricted by D.V.C. to West Bengal State Electricity Board far below the allocated level, due to low generation.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal has already written to the Prime Minister in this connection, asking for the restoration of the position as was prevailing in October 1977. Recently, the Chairman of the D.V.C. has alleged that D.V.C. has no obligation to supply power to West Bengal State Electricity Board. It is clear that to embarrass the Government of West Bengal and create further difficulties such an unilateral and discriminatory attitude has been taken by the D.V.C. I call upon the Government to take immediate steps so that adequate power is made available from D.V.C. to West Bengal which has always been, and still is, the largest contributor in the investments of D.V.C.

(ix) CLOSURE OF SOME SMALL RAILWAY STATIONS ON WESTERN RAILWAY FOR BOOKING GOODS TRAFFIC.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH (Suren-dranagar): From the 10th April 1982, the Western Railway have closed down 122 small railway stations for booking goods traffic in wagons. This has paralyzed all trading and economic activities. It has caused congestion in large stations, and considerably raised the cost of production of small industries and agricultural produce. Immediate redress is sought.

13.34 hrs.

DEMANDS* FOR GRANTS,
1982-83—*Contd.*

(i) MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS—
Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now take up further discussion and

voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Communications.

The Minister of Communications will reply. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir: For the second year in succession, after a long period when this matter was never discussed, the affairs concerning the Ministry of Communications have come up for discussion before the House.

Last year when I replied I had with me my very valued colleague, the late Mr. Kartik Oraon. I cannot help placing on record the great dedication with which he worked in the Ministry, during the period he was working as Minister of State.

I am thankful to the many Members who participated in this discussion, for the suggestions they made, for the criticism they advanced, for the demands they put across, for the expectations they gave expression to, and also for the compliments they paid, in acknowledging that the Ministry is doing what best it can possibly do, under the circumstances. No Minister in charge of Communications can ever expect to be above criticism. I came across very recently a journal by name *Electronics and Power* published from Britain. The recent quotation which I thought I must place here is as follows: "It is a curious fact that telephone administrations are unpopular all the world over." (*Interruptions*) "Whether or not, we would now-a-days think the fact curious. It undoubtedly does seem to be the case that telephone administrations,

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.