

18.02 hrs.

Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1980

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1980-81.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1980-81”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I introduce the Bill.

18.03½ hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION**PER CAPITA INSTALLED CAPACITY, AVAILABILITY AND CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY**

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up half-an-hour discussion Shri Bhogendra Jha.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Sir, today's half-an-hour discussion pertains to a question which I had raised concerning the problem of availability, total generation and consumption of power throughout India including Bihar.

In the first place, I would like to point out that the reply did not cover all the points and was totally evasive. The questioner wanted also to know *per-capita* generation, availability and consumption of power in North

Bihar and the rest of Bihar. This has been evaded. I would request the Minister to give these figures during his reply. The problem of power has become a national problem. Power crisis has assumed proportions of national crisis.

18.05 hrs.

[**MR. SPEAKER** in the Chair]

In such a situation, we are searching for various sources of energy. One traditional source is thermal. There the difficulty is, how long, to what extent, in what quantity, coal will be available in the country. Secondly, attached to this subject, is the problem of the transportation and supply of coal. Many a time we find, Sir, that many trains have to be abandoned because of the non-availability of coal. The country for long cannot be dependent upon thermal power for its onward march to modernisation. For nuclear power we are striving. Regarding solar power, we are waiting for it some time in the future. So, the only source is hydel and that is the cheapest source of energy, it is the most dependable source of energy. I would like the House to give its due attention to this matter. In our country up till now, we have neglected the most beneficial and cheapest source of energy, the one project which would supply energy in abundance for our country. This project has been surveyed for four long years. There was site survey for four long years. After that survey a project report was finalised. I am reading out from that official document. It says:

‘After extensive surveys and investigations at site over a period of about four years a comprehensive project report was prepared by the Central Water and Power Commission in 1950.’

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, dated 23-7-80.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.