

in Notification No. G.S.R. 1371 in **Gazette of India** dated the 17th November, 1979.

(xxx) The IAS (Pay) Twelfth Amendment Rules, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1372 in **Gazette of India** dated the 17th November, 1979.

(xxxii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Tenth Amendment Regulations 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 640(E) in **Gazette of India** dated the 27th November, 1979.

(xxxiii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fourteenth Amendment Rules, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 650(E) in **Gazette of India** dated the 27th November, 1979.

(xxxiiii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 654(E) in **Gazette of India** dated the 30th November, 1979.

(xxxv) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Seventh Amendment Rules, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 655(E) in **Gazette of India** dated the 30th November, 1979.

(xxxvi) The All India Services (Provident Fund) Third Amendment Rules, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1529 in **Gazette of India** dated the 29th December, 1979.

(xxxvii) The Indian Forest Service (Appointment by Competitive Examination) Amendment Regulations 1980 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 15(E) in **Gazette of India** dated the 24th January, 1980.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—164/80]

12.10 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED POWER SHORTAGE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

श्री राम स्वरूप राम (गया) अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अखिल भारतीय लोक महत्त्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर ऊर्जा और सिंचाई मंत्री का ध्यान आकर्षित करता हूँ और उनसे प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इसके ऊपर एक वक्तव्य दें :

“देश के विभिन्न भागों में बिजली की कमी के समाचार तथा इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही”।

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): Mr. Speaker. Sir I fully share the anxiety and concern expressed by the Hon'ble Members through the Calling Attention Notices about the power shortages in different parts of the country. Hon'ble Members are aware that as a result of the failure of South West monsoons in some of the States such as Punjab, Haryana and Western U.P. in Northern Region, Madhya Pradesh in the Western Region Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in the Southern Region and Orissa and parts of Bihar in Eastern Region, the availability of power from hydel power stations was adversely affected. This is particularly so in the case of Bhakra system in Punjab, Rihand in U. P. Balimela in Orissa and Sharavathy in Karnataka. On the other hand due to wide-spread drought conditions, the requirements for power, particularly in the agricultural sector, had increased considerably. Agriculture has been given the highest priority and available power has been diverted for this purpose wherever required. The Agricultural sector has a connected load of 14,000 MW distributed over 3.5 million pumpsets.

Thermal power generation is about 7 per cent higher than last year but the performance could have been

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better. The performance of thermal power stations was adversely affected due to higher forced outage rate of the thermal generating units, prolonged periods for non-stabilisation of newly commissioned thermal units and inadequacy of coal at many of the power stations in the Northern and Western Regions. Due to these constraints, it is anticipated that there would be a power shortage of about 17 per cent in the country for the year as a whole and some 20 per cent for the current month. The shortage of power, however, would not be uniform in all the States. For the year as a whole, the shortage for the different regions are as follows.

While Northern Region would have shortage of power of about 14 per cent, Southern Region would be short by 13 per cent and Western Region by 18 per cent but the Eastern Region would have shortage of power of about 22 per cent. The shortage for the current month are higher due to declining hydel generation and increasing agricultural Loads.

The 210 MW unit at the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant, Kota, which was supplying about 4 million units per day to Rajasthan had to be shut down due to some internal station fault on 27th January 1980. The outage of this unit has further aggravated the power position in Rajasthan as a result of which 100 per cent power cut has been imposed on large industries and 50 per cent cut on medium industries. There is, however, no power cut on small industries and power supply to agricultural consumers would be restricted to about 8 to 12 hours a day.

Power position in the Eastern Region is also very unsatisfactory affecting power supply to vital sectors of coal mining and steel industries. Recently, there has been some improvement in generation of power by Damodar Valley Corporation as a

result of which it has been possible to supply more power to these sectors in the region. Increased coal supplies are being arranged to thermal power stations and it is expected that the monthly receipts of coal at thermal power stations will go up from a little less than 3.0 million tonnes/month to 3.3 million tonnes for the next month. If this materialises, power position would improve to that extent.

However, with the anticipated lower availability of power from hydel reservoirs particularly during the months of April and May, it is expected that the power position till June 1980 would continue to be difficult.

The present Government has recently taken over and I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that we are fully seized, of the difficult power position in the country and all necessary steps would be taken up to improve the power position in the country.

श्री राम स्वरूप राम : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का बहुत शुक्रगुजार हूँ कि देश में जो बिजली की कमी है, उस तरफ़ सरकार काफ़ी गंभीरता से ध्यान दे रही है लेकिन मैं दो सवाल मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ। इस नथय को देखते हुए कि बिहार में कुल सेवाओं के करीब सवा लाख कनेक्शन्स के लक्ष्य के विरुद्ध केवल एक चौथाई उपलब्ध है, सरकार अगले महीनों में इसे बढ़ाने के लिए क्या-क्या उपाय करना चाहती है अगले तीन महीनों में इसका क्या नतीजा निकलने वाला है और उपलब्ध बिजली का कितना हिस्सा किसानों के लिए निश्चित करने का निणय है ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY: Not only in the Eastern region, but in the whole of the country, the basic problem which is hindering the progress of generation of power is the availability and movement of coal. In Bihar, obviously, the generation of hydro-electricity is not much. So far as the generation of hydro-electricity is concerned, due to failure of monsoon, the prospect is very bleak. As

regards the availability and movement of coal, we are trying to improve the situation. We have already had consultations with the Railway Minister. We used to get about 2,900 wagons per day for the transportation of coal. Recently we have been told that about 3,100 wagons would be made available daily for the purpose. This will obviously improve the position.

Secondly, we are trying to prevail upon the various Boards to increase their efficiency so that the power generation goes up. Almost all the Boards in every region, except probably those in the Southern region, are working at a level which is below their installed capacity. This is more so in the case of Eastern region. I think they will also try to increase their efficiency so that they can increase their power generation. As I have stated in my reply, we have always given priority to agricultural sector and we shall continue to do so.

श्री रामस्वरूप राम : एक दूसरा सवाल है, बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप बैठ जाइए ।

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur): As the hon. Minister has already admitted, there is a serious power crisis in the country. A few days back, the Central Government had written letters to Chief Ministers of various States that they should review the power position in the States and, at the same time, they should reduce the power cut which had been imposed on aluminium industry. During this year, the aluminium production is likely to be only 100,000 tonnes which is 25,000 tonnes less than that of last year. If this position is not improved, certainly, many industries will be affected because aluminium is a basic material for many industries. Even the State Electricity Boards will also be affected because they have to

implement the process of transmission and distribution of power.

That is why I would like to ask the hon. Minister if the State Governments are not going to take proper steps, what are the steps which are proposed to be taken by the Central Government and, at the same time, if some state Governments do not cooperate with the Central Government what is the Central Government going to do in this matter. Out of prejudices, there are some State Governments which may try to defame the Central Government and, in order to do that, they may not cooperate with the Central Government. This is a very serious point which must be taken into consideration. So, I would like the hon. Minister to try to explain the political situation which has arisen out of this crisis also.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): I am not understanding the impact of less power generation than what is required in the country. I do not have any figures with me that I can give to the hon. Member as to what will be the impact of less power generation on industries, particularly, the aluminium industry.

As I have said, the main bottleneck is coal. I have been discussing this matter with the officers this morning. Immediately 7 per cent power generation will go up. This is the main bottleneck which we have to resolve. I can assure the hon. Member that we are going to not only remove this bottleneck but we are also trying to build up the stock in every power station for a reasonable time. Not only the supply will be regularly maintained but a suitable stock is also going to be built up.

Secondly, as the hon. Member knows, most of the power generation is done by the State Electricity Boards. We have to persuade them; we have to prevail upon them and we will try to help them in that. At

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the present moment, that is the way we are thinking.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): The power shortages in the country have assumed a proportion which is not only alarming but also menacing. I have got certain figures to show that the gap between the requirement for power and the generation capacity as a whole is considerably wide. According to some estimates, the requirement is 140 million KW. while the total generation is 115 million KW. This results in a shortfall of 25 million KW.

My first question to the hon. Minister is, having regard to the fact that there has been a considerable gap between the requirement and the generation, what particular and specific long-term or short-term proposals have so far been accepted by the Government to cover up this wide gap between the requirement of power and the generation of power.

My second point that the thermal power stations which have been installed are not in a position to produce much more than 45-50 per cent of the total installed capacity. If this is a fact—which I think the Hon. Minister may controvert if necessary—what specific and particular steps have so far been taken to make use of the total installed capacity in our country which is remaining idle today to a large extent? What are the specific proposals for utilising the unutilised capacity in our country?

My third point is that there have been glaring regional disparities in the distribution and creation of generating capacity in our country. I can give an example. Only 17 per cent of the total generating capacity is installed in the eastern and north-eastern region while this region accounts for about 33 per cent of the total population.

MR. SPEAKER: What is it that you want to ask?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am coming to the question.

Much of this disparity has of course been created during Mrs. Gandhi's regime and it has not been changed during the Janata regime also. Even in the Sixth Five Year Plan, we find that the Plan envisages the installation of an additional 18000 MW. Out of this, the share of the eastern region and north-eastern region is only 3400 MW while the western region's share is 5400 MW, northern region's share is 4800 MW and the southern region's share is 4200 MW. My question is, what specific steps the Government proposes to correct the imbalances and to really create a climate for equitable distribution of the installed capacity for the generation of power.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: The Sixth Five Year Plan was prepared by the Janata Government. Imbalance is there, and it is their creation. We are now working on it

Before the Sixth Five Year Plan our total generation was 26000 MW. In the Sixth Five Year Plan we want to add another 18500 MW, making a total of 44,450 MW. In 1978 we added 3022 MW and in 1979 till today we have added only 480 MW. That is the picture before us. I am entirely in agreement which the Hon. Member that we are generating much less than the installed capacity. This is an old disease and it is pursuing us. It is unnecessary to blame the BHEL generation sets. They are working excellently. But what has happened is this: normally it takes about five to six years for a unit to be commissioned while we are

forcing engineers to do it in three to four years. Naturally, teething trouble is there. Stabilisation of the sets is taking time. This is why we are not getting the full benefits. We are getting impatient and we are asking the engineers to expedite the whole thing. So, I would like to tell the hon. Members that we have requested all the State Boards to maximise the generation as far as practicable. We have also requested them to inform us about their difficulties. We are also trying to help them with BHEL experts so that they can remove their operational difficulties. This is all that I can say. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Statements by Ministers. Mr. Narasimha Rao...

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Ropar): This is a very vital question, Sir. No question has been asked on behalf of the northern region.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the rule; nobody from outside the list can ask any question; it cannot be allowed.

Mr. Narasimha Rao.

12.36 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. INCIDENT OF REFUSAL OF ENTRY TO SHRI ROMESH CHANDRA BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT AT LONDON AIRPORT

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): On 25 January a report was received that Shri Romesh Chandra, President of the World Peace Council had been held in detention by the British Government on his arrival at London airport the previous day. Our High Commission in London was informed of this on the morning of 25 January by the Secretary of the World Peace Council in London. Our Acting High Commissioner immediately moved the Foreign Office and the Home Office

for Shri Romesh Chandra's release. He was informed that the Secretary of State of the British Home Office had exercised his powers under the Immigration Act 1971 to refuse entry to Shri Romesh Chandra on the ground that his "exclusion was conducive to the public good". The Acting Indian High Commissioner was also informed that Shri Romesh Chandra had already been put on a plane to Warsaw.

In this connection, however, we understand that Shri Romesh Chandra had visited Britain twice in 1979. This incident is the first we know of where an Indian citizen has been denied entry into Britain on the ground that he is an official of a political organisation.

While the British Government has the sovereign right like any other State to exclude the entry of any foreigner, we cannot but express our dismay and concern over the indignity and discourtesy to which an Indian citizen has been subjected. This has been conveyed to the British High Commissioner.

The British Government will, I trust, take notice of the Parliamentary and public reactions in India and adopt early measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the interests of the cordial Indo-British relations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, may I seek a clarification?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): On a point of clarification....

MR. SPEAKER: This is not ordinarily done...

AN HON. MEMBER: This is a very important matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi): We knew this. That is why we wanted a call-attention to be admitted. (Interruptions)