

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the time now to conclude.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: I will try.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute more. You please finish it.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Take the question of slanted versions that are given by the police themselves. In this House I raised the question that the PTI gave out the news of 15,000 bombs recovered from a Lucknow mosque. The Minister for information told the House....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: I may continue tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You please conclude now.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALA: Mr. Chairman, when I pointed this out, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting said that the PTI news is based on police briefing. And here is a letter from the hon. Home Minister saying that the police never said so. This is how the different wings of the Government work at cross purposes.

I will conclude by referring to the unfortunate closure of the Aligarh Muslim University. I urge upon the Prime Minister to intervene in the matter and use her good offices so that the University is opened as early as possible.

There is also a need for a high level. Central probe in the spirit scandal which has rocked Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Finally, I must say that in view of the persistent defiance of world opinion by the Zionist State of Israel, the Government must come forward with greater sanctions against this Zionist State of Israel. The Israeli Consulate in Bombay must be closed immediately.

With these words, I thank you.

18 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the Members that the debate on the Motion of Thanks is over to-day and the Prime Minister will reply to the debate tomorrow after Question Hour. Calling Attention will be put down tomorrow after the disposal of the Motion of Thanks.

18.01 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TWELFTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): I beg to present Twelfth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHAK (Anantnag): I had given notice. I belong to the party that is ruling in Jammu and Kashmir. Since certain questions have been raised on the floor of this House, I may be given some time to reply to those questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up half-an-hour discussion.

18.02 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

SUPPLY OF POWER FROM DVC TO CALCUTTA

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही (बेगूसराय) : सभापति महोदय, डी वी सी योजना का इतिहास बहुत पुराना है। हमारे महान नेता, दूरदर्शी नेता, स्वर्गीय जवाहरलाल नेहरू, श्रीकृष्ण सिंह और विद्यानन्द राय ने

बंगाल और बिहार की समृद्धि और खुशहाली की एक कल्पना की थी। उसी कल्पना को साकार करने के लिए, उसको मूर्त रूप देने के लिए आजादी के तुरन्त बाद 1948 में डी वी सी की स्थापना की गई थी।

हमें दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जिस उद्देश्य से डी वी सी की स्थापना की गई थी, उस उद्देश्य को पूर्ति नहीं हो रही है और डी वी सी की व्यवस्था में कुछ क्षमियां आ गई हैं। हमारी सरकार इस स्थिति से अवगत है और हमारे मंत्री महोदय को इन सारी बातों की जानकारी है। गत अक्तूबर में उनका जो वक्तव्य अखबारों में देखने को मिला था, संसद में प्रश्नों के उत्तर में और अपने मंत्रालय की सलाहकार समिति में सदस्यों को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने जो कुछ कहा, उसमें उन्होंने इस बात का संकेत दिया कि डी वी सी में टेकनिकल, लेबर और इंडस्ट्रियल मैनेजमेंट का परफार्मेंस अनसैटिसफैक्टरी रहा है। गत अक्तूबर में दिये गये अपने वक्तव्य में उन्होंने बार-बार वहां के लोगों को चेतावनी दी कि जो भी इंडस्ट्रियल अनरेस्ट है, जिस के कारणों को सरकार ने आइडेंटिफाई किया है, उसको दूर किया जाये। सब को इस बात की जानकारी है कि वहां पर विद्युत-उत्पादन के लिए सदभावना के वातावरण का अभाव है।

लेकिन यह आश्चर्य की बात है कि यद्यपि हमारे देश में दुनिया के किसी भी देश के मुकाबले में अच्छे से अच्छे अभियंता और प्रशासक हैं, लेकिन फिर भी हम डी वी सी के कल—युजों को ठीक नहीं कर पाते हैं, उनकी मरम्मत नहीं होती है, उनका रख-रखाव नहीं होता है और हम उनका सुधार करने में असमर्थ हैं। यह कैसा विरोधाभास है, इस पर हम सब को सोचना है। इस स्थिति में बिहार की

आर्थिक प्रगति में अवरोध पैदा हो रहा है और उससे रिजनल इम्बैलेंस हो रहा है। क्या मंत्री महोदय यह आश्वासन दे सकते हैं कि उनके टाइम-बाउंड एक्शन प्रोग्राम के अनुसार डी वी सी की दशा कब तक सुधरेगी। मैं यह भी जानना चाहती हूं कि वहां पर कब तक इनस्टाल्ड कैपैसिटी के अनुसार बिजली का उत्पादन होगा।

सैंट्रल इलेक्ट्रिसिटी एथारिटी द्वारा बिहार की स्थिति का सरवे किया गया है। सैंट्रल लोड एनक्वायरी कमेटी वहां गई थी और उसने प्रतिवेदन दिया है कि बिहार को 1400 मेगावाट बिजली की जरूरत है, जब कि उसे मुश्किल से 200 से 300 मेगावाट बिजली मिलती है। वहां की इनस्टाल्ड कैपैसिटी 835 मेगावाट है। जो बिजली हमें मिलती है, उससे हमारी क्या प्रगति हो सकती है? बिहार की आर्थिक स्थिति बंद से बंदतर होती जा रही है। कृषि, उद्योग, कोयला खानें, स्टील उद्योग सब बिजली न मिलने के कारण बुरी तरह से प्रभावित हो रहे हैं।

मैं ने बिहार के सम्बन्ध में जो पूरक प्रश्न किया था, उसके दो पहलू हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से एक स्पष्टीकरण चाहती हूं। दामोदर वैली कापॉरेशन की बिजली उत्पादन की क्षमता 1361.5 मेगावाट की है। जो हमारा वर्तमान ऐंग्रीमेंट है या पहले भी जो ऐंग्रीमेंट हुआ है। उस के मुताबिक डी० वी सी० के आश्वासनों के आधार पर बिहार को 433 मेगावाट बिजली मिलनी चाहिए, किन्तु बिहार को अधिक से अधिक 270 मेगावाट बिजली मिलती है और जब बिजली में कटौती होती है तो बिहार अन्धेरे में डूब जाता है, वहां के कृषकों का दम घुटा जाता है और हमारी खेतीबाड़ी सब ठप्प पड़ जाती है।

[श्रीमति कृष्णा साही]

मैं मंत्री महोदय से दो प्रश्न करना चाहती हूँ। क्या वह कृपा कर के यह बताएंगे कि बिहार को 433 मेगावाट बिजली निकट भविष्य में डी वी सी से दी जाएगी या नहीं और दी जायगी तो कब तक दी जायगी? दूसरी बात यह है कि डी वी सी की स्थापना बिहार के लोगों की आर्थिक प्रगति के लिए हुई थी, उसी उद्देश्य से इस की स्थापना की गई थी। लेकिन अगर बिहार को बिजली नहीं दी जायगी जैसा कि अभी तक डी वी सी का इतिहास रहा है तो उस से बिहार का पिछड़ापन और भी बढ़ता जायगा, गरीबी में हम और भी नीचे पहुँच जाएंगे। हमारे विकास के रास्ते बन्द हो जाएंगे। सब से महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है वह बाढ़ और सिंचाई का है। डी वी सी का जो एग्रीमेंट हुआ था उस में यह बात तय पाई थी कि बिहार को बाढ़ से प्रोटेक्शन मिलेगा? उसी के लिए ये सारे एग्रीमेंट उस समय किये गए थे लेकिन आप भी जानते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो भी बाढ़ आती है उससे जो क्षति होती है उस की 40 प्रतिशत क्षति बिहार में होती है। इसी पृष्ठभूमि में मंत्री महोदय बताने की चेष्टा करेंगे कि क्या डी वी सी के ऐक्ट में कुछ परिवर्तन ऐसा हो सकता है कि जिस से बिहार जो अब तक जितनी बिजली उस को मिलनी चाहिए उससे वंचित रहा है, उस की पूर्ति हो सकेगी और वहाँ के किसानों तथा गरीब लोगों को रोज़ी रोटी मिल सकेगी? क्या उस ऐक्ट में ऐसा कुछ परिवर्तन होगा जिस से वहाँ के लोगों को राहत मिल सके?

बिहार के छः जिले डी वी सी के अन्तर्गत आते हैं—पलामू, हजारीबाग, धनबाद, गिरिडीह, राँची और संथाल परगना। चन्द्रपुरा जो सब से बड़ी इन की बिजली की परियोजना है वह बिहार में ही है। वहाँ के लोगों की जमीन इस के लिए अर्जित

की गई, वे लोग बेरोजगार हुए। इसी आशा और उद्देश्य से वहाँ के लोगों ने वह जमीन दी थी कि भविष्य में उन की बेरोजगारी इस से दूर होगी। बिहार के 75 प्रतिशत लोग देहातों में रहते हैं, कृषि पर आधारित उन का जीवन है। डी वी सी का प्रोजेक्ट बिहार में है, उसकी जमीन पर है लेकिन उस के बाद भी जो हमें डी वी सी से लाभ पहुँचना चाहिए था वह नहीं पहुँच पा रहा है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूँगी कि इन बिन्दुओं पर वह बिलकुल गंभीरता से देखें। बिहार के पिछड़ेपन को दूर करने के लिए तथा ग्रीजनल इम्बैलेसेज को दूर करने की बात की जाती है उसके लिए यह जरूरी है कि डी वी सी में सब तरफ से सुधार हो और बिजली की आपूर्ति बिहार में हो सके।

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY
SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir at the very outset, I would like to say that the hon. Member is very much under some confusion. The D.V.C. has a primary responsibility for D.V.C. area. The D.V.C. must fulfil those obligations first. It is not a question of Bengal; it is not a question of Bihar; it is not a question of other States.

In dealing with that, I would like to say that the DVC's first primary objective is railways, then comes steel and then comes coal mines. In that, there are certain fixed demands both in Bengal and also in Bihar. The railway traction demand is 125 MW. Somebody asked me, how much is for Bihar and how much is for West Bengal? Very frankly and very candidly, I can tell you that I will not be able to answer that. It is impossible to answer. (Interruptions).

The next point is regarding steel, for example, Rourkela, Bhilai, Bokaro, Durgapur and TISCO etc. etc. Bokaro and TISCO are in Bihar. Of

the remaining, one is in Uttar Pradesh. The other is in West Bengal. If you ask as to how much we are giving to Bihar, I can tell you only so far as steel is concerned. But, so far as coal is concerned, it is again a mixed thing.

Actually, in practice, what is done is this: whatever coal is required, we give to the Bihar State Electricity Board. Bihar State Electricity Board with its feeder, they supply for the coal mines. Similarly, West Bengal State Electricity Board with their feeder, they supply to the coal mines. DVC is a bulk supplier. DVC does not supply to any agriculturist. DVC does not supply to any specific town and all that. They make bulk supply to Calcutta. So far as Calcutta is concerned, there is a graded obligation of DVC. If generation is 800 MW, DVC must give Calcutta 95 MW. There is a stipulation. There is an understanding. But, there is something like that so far as Bihar is concerned. Now, the lady member is asking for more and more power for Bihar. I have two things to suggest to her. Why they don't try to improve the generation in Bihar is one thing. Bihar today generates only 350 MW. DVC's position was bad. On this floor of the House we have told it more than once. In 1979, DVC's position was average (*Interruptions*) 406 million units. In 1978 DVC's average per month was 357.25 million KW. You can see the difference. But, fortunately for the last couple of months, I must tell the House that DVC has picked up. Today I am told that DVC generation is 827 MWs. This is the first time in 1981 that we have achieved this record generation. But I have my doubts. I do not know whether it is stable one and whether it is going to last for months. Only coming months can prove, only future can prove. I hope it will last. I have been told by my experts that at least 800 MW will last. If it lasts, well, there will be no difficulty to fulfil all the obligations.

We will be able to fulfil the obligations and after fulfilling those commitments, if we have more power, what prevents us from giving power to Bihar? There is nothing that prevents the DVC from giving more power to Bihar. As a matter of fact, I have been told, in the last few days, Bihar is getting on an average 50 MW of power from the DVC for which they have to pay. If the DVC's power generation becomes 1,000 MWs, then certainly Bihar will get more. What prevents Bihar from getting more power? But we have a discipline, we have a system. Simply because Chandrapur is in Bihar, that does not mean that all the power should flow to Bihar. We are thinking of super thermal power at Kahalgaoon; we are thinking of making it 2,000 MWs. Does it mean that all power will go to Bihar only and not to other States? It cannot mean that. So, there is a formula. We are guided by this formula. Similarly, DVC was made with a certain formula....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Excuse me. The only point to be answered is whether power is being distributed between Bihar and West Bengal—and if you can, to other States also, according to the terms of the Agreement.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: That question will not arise; that question cannot arise. It is not like that. Kindly try to understand this. The DVC's first obligation is to meet the demand of the DVC area. This first thing must come first. The first thing is that the demand of the DVC area has to be met; that obligation has to be met. Now, what are these obligations? Number one is railway traction, number two is steel, number three is coalmines. There are some mixed loads both in West Bengal and in Bihar. There is nothing to be laughed at. You have to understand the obligations of the DVC. This is the age-long practice. What the present Government has done till today is that we have been trying to improve the generation of power from DVC. The generation

[SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN
CHAUDHURI]

has been improved. For example, I was very happy to hear that, in Calcutta, there was no load-shedding yesterday. In the last few days, even the Chief Minister of West Bengal has agreed, the DVC has given them relief. Certainly, the DVC will give them relief.... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Bihar?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I am coming to that. With regard to Bihar also, we have certain obligations, and I say with all sense of responsibility that we are fulfilling all those responsibilities: we are not budging an inch from that; over and above that—I say this with all sense of responsibility—if Bihar wants more power from the DVC,—as West Bengal is at liberty to ask DVC for power for which they have to pay, similarly if Bihar asks for more power from the DVC/after meeting the demand obligation of the DVC area, obviously Bihar will be given. But there cannot be any claim that you cannot give for railway traction, but you have to feed Bihar. This cannot be done. They cannot say....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the people of Bihar are reasonable.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: They cannot say: 'You cannot give to Rourkela, you cannot give to Bhilai, you cannot give to Bokaro'. These are the obligations we have to meet. And the difficulty is that the DVC's generation was not good. You know, I have said it on the floor of the House more than once. Fortunately for a week—seven days—or so, the generation has become very much satisfactory. The House would be pleased to hear that to-day the generation is 820 M.W.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already said that.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: This is the position.

If it becomes better, I can assure you, the lady Member, that she will get all the power she requires from the DVC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are assuring all concerned through the lady Member. Now, Shri Bosu. Not present Shri Chatterjee. Only one question.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): I have to cover Mr. Bosu also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not permissible.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am sure the hon. Minister will not object. He is so cooperative. The only thing is that he cannot function.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That has been the tradition.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There will be some break-ups in the question. I am not here to ask anything or put anything to him...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything inconvenient.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: ...In a spirit of confrontation. We feel that for the good of the country and for the proper discharge of the very important obligations of the DVC there should be cooperation between all sections. What is troubling us and the people are about the way we find that the DVC functions as one of the major electricity generating undertakings in this country. It has also other objects. Now, it has become a most important power generating public sector centrally-controlled undertakings in this country. Now, it has certain obligations. One obligation is very important. So far as what is known in the Statute is concerned, there is a DVC Act and there is an area called DVC area. So, far as DVC area is concerned, without the express permission of the Central Government and the DVC nobody can

generate an ounce of power. Nobody can generate it without the specific sanction of the D.V.C. and the Central Government. So far as that area is concerned, it is the primary responsibility of the D.V.C. For the whole Raniganj area which has a huge coal field and other ancillary industries, power has to be supplied by the D.V.C. Durgapur Project is there. It is functioning with the permission of the D.V.C. and the Central Government. Over and above that, so far as Calcutta is concerned, you will appreciate that whatever problems may be there, the importance of supply of power to Calcutta cannot be over emphasised. The Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation wanted to expand its capacity. The hon. Minister will bear me out that we want a proper dialogue. We want certain things to be clarified. So far as Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation is concerned, they wanted to expand its capacity. Dr. B. C. Roy felt that the D.V.C. was being set up with the government money. It will be in the Central sector and it would be in the eastern region. We have surplus power to supply. Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation also being a multi-national corporation should not be allowed to expand further. That was the reason which was being put forward. So, the C.E.S.C. was not allowed to expand. It could not be denied that the demand of Calcutta is increasing day by day. Every month the demand is increasing. An agreement was entered into between the D.V.C. and the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation that 95 M. W. of electricity will be supplied.

Sir, I would like to have a clarification from the hon'ble Minister because many a time he has said on the Floor of the House and in the Consultative Committee also. It may be that he has been wrongly briefed. Obviously, he is such a busy person and not a person like me with so much of time that I can go through a thirty page agreement line by line. He has to rely on expert advice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Some people say that you are a much busier man.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the hon. Minister always refers to a clause in the agreement which says that DVC is not obliged to supply.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I have not exactly said that. I have said graded supply (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the latest agreement entered into by DVC dated 6th June 1978 has Clause No. 20 which provides:

"that if because of certain reasons there is lesser supply the question of computation of the demand charge and energy charge has been provided."

Nowhere the DVC has been given the authority under this agreement to select the quantity they will choose to supply. I want to get the clearest enunciation from the hon. Minister as to which part of the agreement between the DVC and the CESC gives DVC the sole discretion to fix quantity of supply to be made under the agreement? I would be very much obliged if the hon. Minister gives it.

There is a clause which says:

"Strikes, riots, insurrection, fire, explosion, acts of God or any other acts which in the opinion of the Corporation are reasonably beyond the control of the company."

There is another clause which provides:

"Shall be available continuously except in cases of lock out, strike, breakdown of plant and machinery, acts of God, etc. etc."

These are well known *force majeure* clauses. Now, Sir, which clause gives that authority to the

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DVC to decide on its own that although this obligation is to supply 95 MW yet they will only give us 20, 30 or 40 MW.

Sir, the hon. Minister said that there is graded priority. Who fixes the graded priority? They say it is the DVC which fixes the graded priority areas. Now, which are the participating States in the DVC. They are the Central Government, Government of West Bengal and Government of Bihar. These governments are not consulted at all. Their views are not taken into consideration. That is why Mrs. Sahi is also shouting for Bihar and I am here asking a clarification about Calcutta and West Bengal. Let us forget about the composition of the government. At no point of time the views of these participating governments are taken into consideration.

There is no consultation between them. What is the DVC's schedule of supply? The DVC itself fixes it when there is lesser generation. But what will be the cut? At what point of time the DVC could decide on its own? In this situation, what can the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation do? It has fixed up its own programme of generation. It has to conduct its operations according to the agreement under which 95 M.W. is to be supplied to them by the DVC. But this quantity is not supplied to them. But the hon. Minister will say, as Central Government, we have decided and we have issued the directive. But what is the solemn agreement which you have entered into? The solemn agreement which you have entered into, is to supply 95 M.W. every day. But the hon. Minister says, I have to give power to Railway Traction first; then I have to give it for coal; that comes second; then I have to give for steel; that comes third; and fourth, I give to Calcutta. Is it being denied? No, it is not being denied. From 2 days to

7 days he has kept the margin. I know it. Fortunately there is no power cut. If suddenly one gets only 25 M.W. instead of 95 M.W. how can one make up the required quantity of 75 M.W.? Can it be done by magic, Sir? No, it cannot be done. Now, if the DVC is unable to supply according to the quantity as per the contract entered into, what will be the quantum that will be supplied if there is lesser generation of power; who will decide; what is the procedure for such determination? May I know this? Recently there are certain difficulties which have cropped up. The Minister first of all, said this in answer to a question out of which this discussion has been raised by Mrs. Krishna Sahi. He said that the DVC's generation is now 600 M.W. out of which only 36 M.W. is to be given to CESC. Now, that is not the contract which has been entered into. There are grave doubts whether you can at all generate 827 MW out of your installed generation capacity of 1300 or 1350 MW. There are grave doubts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please explain the implications of your question adequately.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I know, Sir, the constraint of time. But the importance is this: Your State is also vitally affected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am interested in the entire country.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, until Farrakka comes up with Headquarters at Malda, we will have to go along with whatever is available. Therefore, Sir, I am asking for two things. One is, what is the criterion on which you fix your graded priorities? Second, who fixes it. May I know whether there are any consultations held with the participating State Governments? Next, Sir, there is question of difference in the figure relating to generation. It is a variable figure. From day to day there is difference in generation.

There is no fixed generation on any date. Have you got any DVC Supply schedule in the DVC area? Have you got any DVC supply schedule apart from the graded priority? Thirdly, I am specifically asking you about this. May I know whether the DVC would not fix up its graded priority on the basis of Government's directive, taking into consideration its own commitment to CESC to supply 95 MW, subject only to *force majeure* clause, which does not apply here. You cannot say that that applies here. You cannot leave it to acts of God, not to supply it. That just cannot happen.

Next, Sir, the hon. Minister said this very clearly. I have listened very attentively to what the hon. Minister said. He said that he hoped that the performance will last; but he had his own doubts. That is what he said.

I believe, he himself has said that he is not very happy...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Experts have convinced him that it will last.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Hopefully, it will last.

If you go by the newspaper reports he has expressed his unhappiness about what is prevailing in the DVC administration.

With regard to the appointments in the DVC, Section 6 of the Act says that appointments to certain posts can be made only by the Central Government, but the Chairman is merrily going on making appointments without even consulting the DVC Board, which consists of the Chairman, appointed by the Centre, and Directors nominated by the Bihar State and the West Bengal States Governments. Nobody is consulted in this matter. I have got the form of orders which says: "Chairman, DVC desires that there should be a Chief Personnel Manager, who would be the General Manager also" and so

on and so forth. I believe, the hon. Minister is fully aware of this. Appointments are being made in DVC in this fashion.

Then, there are serious charges of how a requisitioned building for the use of the Chairman was renovated at nearly Rs. ninety thousand. Plastic emulsion etc. were used. The Chairman must have a pleasing wall to look at at his residence.

Then, the recognised DVC staff association was withdrawn. The hon. Minister would kindly tell the House whether that question was placed before the Board, and whether the Board was consulted before the 32 years old recognition was withdrawn from the biggest trade union which has been operating there for the last 32 years.

I would also like to know whether the Government of India which is in administrative control of the DVC would allow the Chairman to run amuck. He has said, and I am told by very responsible persons, "I am the Central Government, I am the DVC, I do not care for the Board. What I desire, I will do." Therefore, the orders of appointment are issued starting "Chairman desires." This is the fashion in which they are working.

Apart from what I have asked, I would like to know what you are going to do to bring about a real change in the DVC by putting your own Chairman in control. You have also said that openly.

So far as availability factor and the plant load factor of West Bengal State Electricity Board are concerned, the Central Electricity Authority reports have very clearly established that in the sphere of performance of the West Bengal State Electricity Board—it is not the West Bengal Government report, it is the Central Government's most expert agency, namely the Central Electricity Authority—the plant load factor, and the availability factor of West Bengal under the West Bengal

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State Electricity Board is the highest in India.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: No.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You have also started not reading the papers. You have not yet become a Cabinet Minister; that privilege of not reading the papers is of the Cabinet Ministers only.

Now, realising the increase in the demand, will the hon. Minister see that this schedule is properly decided upon, and the graded priority is properly decided upon and what is happening on the basis of the peculiar functioning of the Chairman is also controlled so that a proper atmosphere is created and there is cooperation between DVC, Bihar and West Bengal Governments so that both the States benefit and the DVC supply area is benefited.

If anybody wants to set up an industry at Raniganj, he cannot do so unless DVC gives power. DVC says that they have no power, they cannot give to Calcutta, how they can give to Raniganj. Therefore, there is no increase in industries there, no setting up of new industries is there. They say that as there is no industry, why should they increase the power generation there. I am requesting the hon. Minister. (*Interruptions*) If I am wrongly informed, I would not mind to be corrected, because I am not infallible. I want the Minister to treat this matter from a non-partisan point of view, as he should do. I would request him to see that these problems are solved.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Shrimati Krishna Sahi and Shri Somnath Chatterjee have elaborately mentioned their viewpoints. I do not want to take much time.

The DVC area, viz. West Bengal and Bihar, is a very important area of our country. The Minister and other Mem-

bers have also pointed out that coal and steel industries are located there. The Minister has said that his first preference is to give it to the Railways. He has mentioned that 105 MW should be given to the Railways. What is the amount of electricity supplied to the coal industry, to steel industry, and to the States of West Bengal and Bihar?

From the speeches of Mr. Chatterjee and Mrs. Krishna Sahi, it is proved that the DVC is not running in a proper way. Recently, its Chairman Mr. Luther is acting very arbitrarily and in an autocratic manner. So the DVC administration has become paralyzed.

Mr. Chatterjee has asked whether the recognized union was de-recognized by the Chairman of the DVC arbitrarily; and whether the recognition will be restored. You know that the DVC Sharmik Union people recently met the hon. Minister of Energy Mr. Ghani Khan Chaudhuri in Delhi (*Interruptions*), and asked the latter to institute a responsible and high-power enquiry to go into the details of DVC administration, and to restore discipline and proper functioning. Will the Minister institute that high-power enquiry? It may be an all-India parliamentary committee to go into the affairs of the DVC, so that DVC can supply power to the extent committed to the Railways, coal and steel industries, Calcutta and the States of West Bengal and Bihar? I want to have a categorical answer whether he would appoint an enquiry committee.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): Mr. Chairman, the hon. member wanted to know how much power we supply to steel plants. We are supplying them 180 MW against their actual demand of 250 MW. Most of them have their own generation units. What we are giving to them is enough for them. They have their captive plants. At present, we are giving to the coal industry 200 MW; and this includes 50 MW mixed load. Then we are giving 120

MW to the railways. As far as Calcutta is concerned, we used to give them 40 MW before the improvement took place. I am afraid, I do not agree with the hon. member that we have reduced the supply to Calcutta arbitrarily. There is a Clause regarding break down of machinery and plants. Why is there no improvement today; because Chanderpura is sick. There are 6 units and only two or three units have been working. This is due to the fact that we have been able to bring back those units into generation.

SHRI SOMNATH CATTERJEE: Is DVC generating more than 95 MW or not? Under the agreement with DVC and CESC, whether there is any provision that supply should be given to others first and then to CESC. Kindly answer it. I know he cannot answer it.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: The hon. member is a reputed lawyer. If he is not satisfied with my reply, I can get legal opinion on this and will send a copy of that to him. Only this much I can do. There was a break down of plants and machinery in Chanderpura, Bokaro and Durgapur. All these have been repaired one by one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of them have been repaired simultaneously.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): Different machines broke down at different times.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: They have been repaired one by one during this period. Except one at Durgapur and one at Chanderpura, all the plants have been restored. So, the generation has been good. Why I said that there is a big 'if' because spare parts had to be brought from abroad and have been put there now. Now, they have just started working. That is why I had expressed my doubt, nothing else. I think we have got spare parts worth Rs. 2

crores.. All this has taken a little bit of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was enquiring whether you had to import them from other countries.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Yes. Even a team had come.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: It depends upon the machinery.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: The team has suggested us remedial measures. Again I am inviting the same team to come and tell us whether we have followed the proper lines or not. Then there is a question with regard to derecognising the recognised union. We cannot derecognise the union, well, Mr. Chairman, I am very emphatic in this that we do not follow anti-labour policy. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Have they consulted the Board?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: He was assaulted.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I see. (Interruptions)

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: And I have spoken to the West Bengal Chief Minister for hours together. (Interruptions) You may reject this. I do not mind. But you see I had spoken to the Chief Minister twice. And the Chief Minister himself has told me categorically that he did not know who had assaulted him, but the basic fact remains that he has been assaulted. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did he get the whole thing inquired into?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Yes. The matter is *sub judice* (Interruptions) I do not want to say anything further. But it is not correct to say that we have not talked to the West Bengal Government. (Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did he say that he talked to the Board Chairman, the DVC Chairman, with his Bihar representative and the West Bengal representative, who are all I.A.S. officers? There is no politician on the Board. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: It was not taken up by the Board. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this explanation was given that several times intimation has been sent by the West Bengal Government to the Bihar Government but they could not have a common date. (*Interruptions*) Naturally, we would be putting pressure on Mr. Luther to see that discipline prevails in a power house. Otherwise power house would be a mad house. There must be discipline in the power house. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Very good.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Naturally, I am quite concerned and I am happy because the power generation has become better. I am very happy with this. But at the same time, I can assure the hon. Members that I will leave no stone unturned to see that a congenial atmosphere prevails in D.V.C. I will personally see to it. But you have got to give me some time. I have talked even the other day when I was having the Power Ministers' Conference, when the Chief Minister himself was present, the Chief Minister and we decided now to cow down but to find a solution. (*Interruptions*). so far as Bihar is (*Interruptions*) concerned, we have no disagreement. But for some reason or other we have some disagreement with the West Bengal Government and I am determined (*Interruptions*) to do away with this disagree-

ment. We want cooperation. Not that we do not need cooperation. But Mr. Chairman, at the same time, how can we keep quiet if in the name of trade unionism, somebody is assaulted, if there is no discipline, if no admonition goes from that trade union? Well naturally, do ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Minister cannot pass a Judgment. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he says that the Chairman was assaulted....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Because you raised this issue. I do not want to raise this issue. (*Interruptions*) The point is, I have seen a report submitted by the Energy Secretary, and I have deliberately avoided this. It is just today that a very respectable member—I do not want to mention the name—of this House saw me in this connection, I did tell him that I am very much anxious to settle the matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I did not know that you were having discussions in your chamber.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think this mood will continue to discuss with reasonable people and to arrive at a settlement.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

18.57 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 26, 1981/ Phalguna 7, 1902 (Saka))