

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Satish, Agarwal, it is already 6 O'clock, You may continue tomorrow. The House will now take up Half-an-Hour discussion.

18.04 hrs.

**HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION**

**CREATION OF EXCESS POWER GENERATION CAPACITY**

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH (Dum Dum):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the power position the Government is saying that they will generate excess power...

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Excess political power.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** I think Prof. Dandavate is right when he says political power. I agree.

Now, let me first deal with the situation as it exists today.

First of all I will take the hon. Minister, Shri A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chaudhuri. Where is he? He is not here. I want him. He was the Minister in charge. In 1947 the eastern region had more of installed capacity than any other region of the country. Now it is just at the bottom of the rung. Please remember that during 1972 to 1977 he was the Power Minister in the biggest State of the eastern region next to Bihar. And the second thing which I would say is this. In 1960-61, the per capita consumption in West Bengal was 84 Kwh. In Maharashtra it was 73 Kw.h. From 1973 to 1978-79, it has increased to 210 Kw.h. in Maharashtra. In the eastern region the figure shows 4755 m.w. This is the latest position. In the Western region, which was far down below, the present figure is 7389 m.w. In the North, which had no electricity proper, it is now 7700 m.w. In the South it is 6497 m.w. Regarding growth rate, you find this: Eastern region 5 per cent; West 19.5

per cent; North 16.8 per cent; South 6.5 per cent. So, in order to provide the infra-structure in the country, throughout India, the Government ought to have seen to it that there is even rate of growth of electric power in all the regions of the country. Since there is acute power shortage, it also testifies to the bankruptcy of their policy.

18.50 hrs...

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

This hon. Minister, during the five years, when he was Power Minister in the State, inducted 10,000 to 12,000 persons into the State Electricity Board with no jobs at all. And it is they who are now sabotaging power production there. When he talks of Excess Generation Committee, I would say, I have not seen a more incompetent Minister than him in my life. He should resign. (Interruption)

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** He is talking about West Bengal.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur):** If West Bengal Government is incompetent we cannot help it, but he cannot say, the Minister is incompetent and so on.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):** This particular word has to be withdrawn.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH):** Sir, we have to see whether the word 'incompetent' is parliamentary or unparliamentary. If it is unparliamentary it has to be expunged...

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** It should be expunged ...

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I would not say that it is unparliamentary. But all the same I would say that Mr. Niren Ghosh does not use such

words against anybody, not exactly a Minister ...

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** I am not bringing in the items for which his name has been sent to the Prime Minister. Now I would point out to you how the Central Government has sabotaged power generation. There is one AVB boiler which has been installed in Santaldih. This is not made to Indian specifications, but to European specifications. When the Chief Inspector of Boilers refused to certify it, then, under pressure from the Centre he was removed. Mr. Chaudhuri was then the Power Minister in West Bengal. He was removed and that unsuitable boiler ... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Please address the Chair. Please listen. The hon. member should address the Chair and not the Minister direct. That is where the trouble starts. Please address the Chair.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** The Chief Inspector of Boiler, who refused to give the certificate was removed. Another was made to certify and those boilers were installed, killing Santhaldih project. It was admitted on the floor of Parliament several years back. DVC is under Central management. It is supposed to give us at least 1500 mw. Now the latest figures that have been doled out speak of 300 or 350 mw. Now the Government is talking of building some super thermal power plants. I demand, why not these plants be installed in the eastern region. The maximum attention should be paid to that region. If not, why not? That region was the top-most, but has now come to the bottom in the list. All industries are suffering. You have killed that region. I do not say that you should not instal power plants any more in any other region. But the maximum attention is to be paid to this area. If the thermal power plant in Bihar could be of the capacity of 2000 mw, why not Farakka thermal power plant also be of the scale of 2000 mw? I demand

an answer from the Minister. The power deficit ...

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Please come to the question.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** The power deficit in 1979-80 was 16 per cent as a whole throughout the country. In January—March 1980, it was 21.6 per cent. The figure for the corresponding period of 1978-79 was 11.7 per cent. During this regime, it has jumped up by 10 per cent and there is an acute power shortage. That is their contribution.

At the end of February 1980, in the northern region, the power cut was 50 per cent and above, in Maharashtra—35 to 45 per cent, in Karnataka—40 to 60 per cent and in the eastern region—28.5 per cent. The power cut is less there. In a country like ours with big rivers overflowing, the maximum power generation should come from hydel power. This, they have not done. The hydel power contributes only 45 per cent of our total power output. That is the position. My question is, why not the position be reversed so that hydel power contributes 70 per cent and the atomic and thermal power contribute only 30 per cent. What is the explanation for it?

There is a process called Magneto Hydro Dynamic generation process, by which a greater amount of coal is transformed into power. This is the newest process that is being adopted by the USSR and the Western countries.

The technology is already known. Why are they not adopting this technology is my question when the entire country is suffering from acute power shortage. It is disturbing to hear the Finance Minister saying that they have crossed the hump as regards power generation. God save our Finance Minister.

The basic point is that there is inadequate expansion of power. As regards coal, that is also under this Ministry. There are Tubes, etc. produced by BHEL. I do not know whether the Transformers are quite okay. They are installing boilers from AVB. That is a multi-national company. They have greased the palms of high-ups to the tune of lakhs of rupees. Wherever they have installed their boilers, they have killed the power projects. That has been the position.

They have no idea as to how to expand the power generation. There is inadequate expansion of power generation. They do not know the requirement; there is no perspective planning. They have no idea as to how much power would be required. As far as this Ministry is concerned, I know, they are talking of two things at present. They are saying that in respect of those units where the plant-load factor is less, the power generation is less. According to them, whatever the condition of machinery, the coal supplied is of inferior quality containing big chunks of stones, and such a short supply of coal causes frequent break-downs and frequent leakages. The short supply of coal has been a fundamental factor contributing to the acute shortage of power.

Another thing that I would like to refer to is the atomic power. Though it is not under this Ministry, I am within my rights as we are on the question of power. In the modern world, particularly in Western Europe, France and other countries, and to some extent in USA and to a significant extent in USSR, atomic power contributes greatly to the generation of power that is required in all spheres of life. In our country, atomic power contributes only to 1 per cent or so. That is the contribution from atomic power. 12 projects are behind schedule by 5 to 7 years. We have not been given a proper idea about it. Our country needs it. Why should not the Government go in for atomic

power on a big scale and develop atomic power plants? We have got uranium; we have thorium available. A proper geographical survey has not been done. If we do that, we will find more of uranium and thorium. That will solve the power shortage to a great extent if we go in a big way towards atomic power projects.

Now, they say that wherever the plant-load factor is a little bit less, they will send their experts. "Power" is under the State List. If, after that, the States cannot immediately step up power production with the present machinery, when no proper maintenance has been done, when proper supply of coal has not been given and the ash content is too high contributing to frequent break-downs, contributing to frequent leakages, if they cannot do it, they say, they will take over. I warn the Government not to overstep their bounds. Not only that they want to give it to the private sector. Power has been reserved for the public sector. Tatas have already been given one hundred megawatts. It has been installed. They have applied for a licence for another 500 megawatt capacity. Government must not clear such a licence to the Tatas or allow any private sector to come into the power sector.

Whenever the State Governments want help, Government should give them all possible help, and give them spare parts and allow quick and swift imports. We don't as yet produce them indigenously.

About the Government which cannot generate power in DVC, who will believe that if they take over, they will generate power? Whatever power they have, will go out.

About the 10-year expansion programme which they have taken up, it will be good if they expand in a proper way, and provide for super thermal power plants. Dharia, Rani-ganj and Kothagudem are the places ideal for big super thermal power.

[Shri Niren Ghosh]

plants. They should be at the pitheads. Having them at these and other places together, we can march towards solving the power crisis. Because this Ministry has deplorably failed, it should be re-shuffled. And this Minister should resign.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): The hon. Member is used to hurling abuses at me. So, let him do it. It is neither here nor there. The most important thing today is to improve the power position in the country.

I am glad to inform the House that the hon. Member is not uptodate. He should be uptodate. In no State nor in West Bengal—is there a heavy power cut. If it is there, it is the very negligible minimum—except, I think, 25 per cent or approximately that much in U.P. A hopeless situation is there in Bihar, West Bengal and to some extent in DVC.

The hon. Member does not know that DVC has improved a lot. And I think he has no occasion to rejoice, because if DVC is not improving he will rejoice. But because DVC has improved, he has nothing to rejoice over. DVC is now generating 600 megawatts or sometimes 700 megawatts. I have no doubt that if they can do away with technical deficiencies, further improvements will be noticeable.

There is nothing to be happy, whether it is private sector or Central sector, if power generation is not good. Normally, there should be 55 per cent capacity utilization. But if it is not there, it is not a very happy thing. We are trying to persuade the State electricity boards; we are trying to prevail upon them to improve their efficiency.

So far as West Bengal is concerned, I have met its Chief Minister; and whatever help he has asked for from

me, has been given. He has borrowed the present Chairman from me. I have given him. Whatever help he has asked for from time to time, we have offered that help, and will continue to offer such help.

The hon. Member should talk to the Chief Minister about this; and he should know this. We are sending task forces. If they want a task force, we can send it; but it is for them to decide.

With regard to the imbalances the hon. Member has pointed out, you know, Sir, that the imbalances were there and you cannot do away with them in one day. But in order to avoid these imbalances, we have introduced the national power grid system—where power flows from one corner to the other. This is the quickest way to do away with imbalances. Construction is going on. In the Conference of the Ministers of Power, most of the Chief Ministers and Power Ministers, including his Chief Minister have accepted the national grid system. With regard to super thermal power plants, the present policy is that wherever there is coal and water and technical provision is there, we will construct a super thermal power plant. The hon. member probably does not know about it. For the information of the hon. member, I am telling that already 1000 MW plant in Farakka has been sanctioned. We are trying to make it to 2000 MW; and very soon, I will be able to inform him that in Farakka 2000 MW plant has been sanctioned. In Bihar in Khalgaon we have already sanctioned another plant of 1000 MW. In DVC area, we are also thinking to have another 600 MW extension of power; and still we are searching other areas where we can have a super thermal power plant either in West Bengal or in Bihar; where we can have water, we are also thinking of another super thermal power plant.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Orissa.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not interrupt him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Talcher.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There also we have selected a place for a super thermal power plant. As we have said, it is not only that we are thinking in the five year plan terms, we are thinking in terms of . . . already, we have sanctioned cleared a project. I can inform the House that in the Department of Energy, in the Sixth Five Year Plan, you will see that we have cleared all the projects and they are under construction; and we are determined to do the job in time. We have taken this as a challenge. We will do it in schedule time. We want to avoid slippages; there will be no slippage. We want to turn the table and I do say with all seriousness at my command that even in the 7th Five Year Plan, we are thinking and we have also cleared a lot of schemes that have been sent by the State Boards. So, this is the position. I can assure this House that probably till March, there will be no shortage of power; shortage will be unknown; it will be unknown in power sector except one or two States for which I am sorry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Niren Ghosh will change his opinion. He is a competent Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Take it in a lighter way. Shri Lakkappa.

SHRI K LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): Mr Deputy Speaker, after hearing the hon. Minister of Energy and the discussion arising out of the statement made by our Prime Minister for increasing 10 per cent generation of power in the country, it is very necessary that a plan has to be envisaged by this Government.

Mr. Ghosh was very much agitated. Even his State has not submitted any proposal to the Centre. After hearing the statement of the Prime Minister of the country and after hearing the hon. Minister we should be happy

that this country will shortly augment generation of power and make this country prosper. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this Ministry has received any specific proposals from the States in regard to the implementation of certain projects I would like to know in particular about the Karnataka State. Karnataka State has envisaged thermal projects. That is the only State which has submitted the proposals earlier than other States. The projects are pending for want of financial assistance. There are a lot of programmes and projects which are on Hydel projects in Karnataka and other States. I would also like to know about the financial allocations for speedy implementation of Hydel projects so as to supplement power. In this connection I would like to pose a question—is there any task force envisaged by the Ministry to co-ordinate and also to have speedy implementation of these projects in order to meet the situation in this country? Is there any expert opinion?

In his reply the hon. Minister stated on 22nd that Britain and German experts have also given some recommendations regarding implementation and augmentation of certain projects and there are other expert opinions or some such thing. I would like the hon. Minister to elaborate on this. He may kindly see that there is no shortage of power in the country and a little dynamism will be shown by the hon. Minister. I am very happy. I shall congratulate the hon. Minister if everything is translated into action as has been stated by him in his speech.

Will the hon. Minister reply to all my questions?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan. Discussion itself is Half-an-Hour. Please be brief.

श्री राज बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा था कि बिहार की कंडिशन होपलैस है । उसका कोई इलाज नहीं । वह लाइलाज है । मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे मंत्री महोदय की जवाब देही और भी बढ़ जाती है । परिवार में कोई आदमी है

[श्री रामबिलास पासवान]

जो बीमार रहता है तो परिवार के लोग भुखे रह कर भी उस बीमार के लिए फल दूध बगैरह की व्यवस्था करते हैं। बीमार को मरने के लिए छोड़ नहीं दिया जाता है और यह नहीं सोचा जाता है कि चार आदमी रहेंगे तो खूब मज में खावेंगे। बीमार को क्यों करने की यह बात है —

MR. DEUTY-SPEAKER: The body should accept that medicine!

श्री राम बिलास पासवान अब आप देखें कि 11 जुलाई को मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया है मुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेशन के सम्बन्ध में कहलगाव में वह क्या था और 15 जुलाई को क्या था और 22 जुलाई को क्या था? एक बार कहते हैं, हा, एक बार कहते हैं। पहली बार कह दिया हम कामटेड हैं एक हजार मेगावाट का वहा मुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेशन खोलने के लिए। दूसरी बार कह दिया भवजैकट टू अवेलेबिलिटी आफ कोल। उसके बाद कहते हैं 22 तारीख को कि वहा नहीं खोलेंगे।

मैं आपके सामने तथ्य रखना चाहता हूँ। 1972 में एक शम्भू कमेटी योजना आयोग ने बनाई थी जिमने रिपोर्ट किया था कि पावर शॉर्टेज को मीट करने लिए कोई दूसरा विकल्प नहीं है सिवाय कोल पिट हैड पर पावर स्टेशन बनाए जाने के। यह 1972 की शम्भू कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है। इस प्रधान मंत्री ने स्वीकार भी किया था। उमि के आधार पर बिहार सरकार ने 1977 के जून महीने में एक रिपोर्ट केन्द्रीय सरकार को भेजी थी जिम में कहा गया था कि कहलगाव में तीन हजार मेगावाट का थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बनाया जाना चाहिए और ऐसा करना तकनीकी दृष्टि से फीजिबल है। फीजिबिलिटी रिपोर्ट भी उसने दी। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि फीजिबिलिटी रिपोर्ट नहीं मिला है। यह रिपोर्ट भेरी बनाई हुई नहीं है। यह हिन्दी अंग्रेजी दोनों में है। बिहार राज्य विद्युत् बोर्ड, पटना

3000 MW Thermal Power Station Project Feasibility Report Vol. I, 1977.

यह सरकारी रिपोर्ट है। मैं आग्रह करता हूँ कि इसको सभा पटल पर रखने\* की इजाजत दी जाए। यह मेरी रिपोर्ट नहीं है सरकारी रिपोर्ट है। इसको मैं आपकी अनुमति से सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ —

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It will be definitely examined.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : हा प्राप एग्जैमिन कर ले ।

दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि उस रिपोर्ट को दबा दिया गया ।

पुन मंत्री महोदय ने श्रोचित्य को स्वीकार किया और कहा कि एक हजार मेगावाट का वहा थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बनाया जाएगा। मेरी डिमांड है कि तीन हजार का बनाया जाए। इसके पक्ष में मैं आपके सामने तथ्य रखना चाहता हूँ। इसलिए मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि ज्यालोजिकल सर्वे आफ इंडिया के मुताबिक वहा पर 3123 मिलियन टन कोयला उपलब्ध है, कहलगाव के बगल में। अगर तीन हजार मेगावाट का स्टेशन आप वहा लगाते हैं तो पूरे प्लाट की लाइफ में चार सौ मिलियन टन कोयला पावर जेनरेट करने में लगेगा। कुल मांग है 400 मिलियन टन और वहा उपलब्ध है 3123 मिलियन टन। उसके बाद प्लाट की लाइफ यह पर खत्म हो जायेगा? कोयले का कमी के सम्बन्ध में जो शर्त लगा देते हैं तो उसकी वहा पर कमी नहीं है। कोयला इतना है कि 3000 मेगावाट चलाइए कहलगाव में और 2 हजार मेगावाट चलाइए फरक्का में और लक्ष्मी साहब वहा से ले जाना चाहे तो ले जाये फिर भी कोयला नहीं घटेगा। वहा रेलवे लाइन की सुविधा मिलेगी लेकिन फिर भी बरीनी, मुजफ्फरपुर पावर स्टेशन ले जाने को रेल लाइन लगानी ही है। वैसे भी मुपर पावर स्टेशन लगेगा तो भी लाइन लगेगी तो इकनामिक दृष्टिकोण में खर्च बचता है।

दूसरी जो पिट हैड की बात कहते हैं तो कहलगाव की दूरी मुश्किल से 24 किलोमीटर भी नहीं है। आपने जो कहा कि वहा 1,000 मेगावाट का चला रहे हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या काम, वहा चल रहा है? जिम रफ्तार से काम चल रहा है उसमें किनने वर्ष लग जायेंगे यह वहा मुश्किल है।

\* इन आधार पर पूरा श्रोचित्य है कि आप कहलगाव में एक मुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेशन लगाइये और 3 हजार मेगावाट का लगाइये।

मैं यह प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब वहा कोयला उपलब्ध है, पानी उपलब्ध है, रेलवे सस्ते में आपके उपलब्ध है, जब ये सारी चीजे हैं, मजदूर उपलब्ध हैं, बगल में आदिवासी इलाका है, तो फिर वहा क्यों नहीं 3 हजार मेगावाट का थर्मल स्टेशन लगाते हैं? यदि आप इसको स्वीकार करते हैं और कहते हैं कि वहा 3 हजार मेगावाट का बनाना चाहते हैं तो जो नर्वेक्षण का काम धीरे-धीरे चल रहा है,

\*The Speaker not having subsequently accorded the necessary permission, the documents were not treated as laid on the Table.

क्या उसे तेज करेंगे ? इन्होंने बिहार की हालत को होपलैस कहा है, तो क्या बिहार में किसी और जगह आप इस तरह का थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बनाने का विचार कर रहे हैं ? यदि हाँ, तो वह जगह कौन सी है ?

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बिजली की कमी की जो समस्या हमारे देश में है, यह सर्वविदित है। गो कि अभी कुछ देर पहले वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने बहुत वाहवाही लूटने की कोशिश की कि बहुत सारे राज्यों में बिजली संकट पहले के मुकाबले में बहुत कम ही गया है, लेकिन स्वयं सरकार जानती है और बारबार यह कहते रहे हैं कि हमारी दिक्कत है, कई राज्यों में अभी दिक्कत बर्न हुई है और तमाम देश की दिक्कत है। इसका हल निकालने के लिए इन्होंने 10 साल की योजना बनाई है जिसके अन्दर 28,701 मेगावाट बिजली पैदा करना चाहते हैं।

बिहार की बात आपने सुनी और आपने स्वयं कहा कि वहाँ की बीमारी बहुत गहरी बीमारी है। असाध्य तो नहीं, लेकिन बहुत गहरी है।

मैं बिहार की बात कहना चाहता हूँ। बिहार विद्युत बोर्ड ने सरकारी खर्च पर बहुत सारे इंजीनियरों को विदेश में ट्रेनिंग के लिए भेजा था, कई सी की उनकी तादाद है। क्या यह सच है कि ट्रेनिंग लेकर वापिस आने के बाद वे इंजीनियर जनरेशन के काम से हट कर डिस्ट्री-ब्यूशन की साइड में चले गये, जिसका असर पड़ा पतरात और बिहार के दूसरे बिजली के कारखानों के उत्पादन पर ? अगर यह बात है, तो इसको ठीक करने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ? "ठीक करने" का मतलब यह है कि जो व्यक्ति जनरेशन का इंजीनियर है, उसको जनरेशन के काम में ही लगाया जाये। अगर मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि इस बारे में बिहार सरकार ने कोई कार्यवाही की है, तो वह बतायें ताकि जनरेशन बढ़ सके और बिजली की कमी दूर हो सके।

कुछ दिन पहले माननीय सदस्य, श्री भोगेन्द्र झा, ने कोसी नदी पर बराह क्षेत्र में हाई डैम बना कर बिजली पैदा करने का सवाल उठाया था, जिसका जवाब श्री महाजन ने दिया था। मुझे जो जानकारी दी गई है, उसके अनुसार यह हाई डैम बना कर 28 लाख मेगावाट बिजली तैयार की जा सकती है। लेकिन लाखों रुपये खर्च करने के बाद भी इस काम को शायद इस प्रायंका से पूरा नहीं किया गया है कि इतनी बिजली की खपत कहाँ होगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी राय सरकार को किन अधिकारियों ने दी और इस बारे में सरकार ने क्या कार्य-

वाही की है। ऐसी गलत सलाह दे कर उन लोगों ने बिहार को बिजली संकट में मुश्किल रखने का अपराध किया है। इस योजना के बारे में सरकार की स्थिति क्या है और वह क्या करना चाहती है ?

अभी माननीय सदस्य ने कहलगांव में थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बनाने की बात कही है। इसके अलावा मुजफ्फरपुर और कटिहार में भी थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बनाने की बात कही गई है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन दोनों जगहों के बारे में सरकार की योजना किस स्टेज में है और उसको आगे बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है। बिहार में जो बिजली संकट है, उसके बारे में स्वयं मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि वह एक गहरी बीमारी है। अगर इन कामों को किया जाये, तो हम पूरे हिन्दुस्तान को बिजली दे सकते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कोसी नदी पर हाई डैम बना कर बिजली तैयार करने और मुजफ्फरपुर तथा कटिहार में थर्मल पावर स्टेशन स्थापित करने के बारे में इस समय क्या स्थिति है।

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I will put very straight forward questions. My first question is regarding the policy approach to the problem. This question has been raised many times and even today and I hope the Minister would be kind enough to answer it. There is a move on the part of the Government of India to grant licence to the private sector to generate power. This is in violation of the industrial policy of the Government. Would the Government kindly explain its policy in regard to licensing the private sector in the matter of generation of power. Secondly, Government have claimed that certain effective measures have been taken to improve the power situation. Even today afternoon the Finance Minister in his speech has said or claimed that the hurdle has been crossed.

Now, I have got a report with me which says that according to the estimate of the improvement measures that have already been taken, if everything goes well and on schedule the power deficit will be reduced from 16.1 per cent as at present to 7 per cent in the coming year. The question is, even if all the improvement measures materialise and it

[Shri Chitta Basu]

goes as per schedule and bears the desired result, the country is to suffer a shortage to the extent of 7 per cent. Now, may I know in this context from the hon. Minister: Are we going to be in a perpetual shortage for power? If not, by which time, by which decade--as he has mentioned about the programme for decade--by which and what decade we shall be freed from the shortage of power?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Mr. Lakkappa, an eminent Member, has asked about the 10 per cent reserve which was advocated by the Prime Minister in the Power Ministers' Conference. Well, we have taken note of this, the Planning Commission have taken note of it and our planning is going like that so much so that all the time we can have 10 per cent spinning reserve so that the load shedding which is a normal phenomenon today, that sort of a thing does not exist. He has asked me about some hydel projects in his State. I can tell him that I have received a number of hydel project reports through the Central Electricity Authority from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. But there are certain disputes among the States and unless there is an agreement about the inter-State aspects it is difficult for us to act on them. I can assure the hon. Member that we are inviting soon all the concerned States on this and we try to resolve the difficulties and in no time we will give you a green signal.

With regard to Khalgaon, the hon. Member has shown me a book. Probably he does not know...

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a report.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: He does not know probably, he should know that the feasibility report is an incomplete one. It does not satisfy the Central Government in all its aspects and he should also know further that this project

report has to be sent to World Bank because we expect a lot of assistance from the World Bank. So, we have asked to make this project report up-to-date and the NTPC will prepare this project report and there is no quarrel about 2000 or 3000 or 1000 MW. As I have said in unequivocal terms only the other day, 'here is no controversy whatsoever about 1000 MW. If the coal deposits justify 2000 MW, we are going to have 2000 MW. There is no doubt about that, but I as a Minister, as a lay man cannot inform the House unless I get the expert's report. About 1,000 MW they have assured me. The coal people have told me that this can be done. If they assure me about 2,000 MW, I can assure the House. That is the problem.

The hon. Member probably does not know that only the other day I had a prolonged discussion with the Chief Minister. We are trying to help them, to find a way out. Probably the installed capacity in Bihar today is approximately 800 or 900 MW, but what is the generation today? If I mention it, you will be angry. Generation of electricity is in the Concurrent List. The State Electricity Board is the supreme authority there. We only send suggestions, try to persuade them, prevail upon them, send our task force etc. Generation today is 125 MW. A few days back it was a big zero. That is the situation in Bihar. Naturally if I criticise the State Electricity Board, it is not because I am angry with that State, but because of their performance. The nation cannot suffer like this. It is not because there is the CPM Government that we decide in one way. That is not the case. It is the functioning. There must be better performance. That is the whole point at issue.

Another problem has been put to me. I have been misunderstood more than once. What I have said is that the private sector came and criticised the Government. I told them they



only criticised us, they do not anything themselves. I asked them to invest the money and generate 2,000 or 3,000 MW near some coalfields, but one condition is that they will sell the power either to the State Government or the Central authority. They will not be able to distribute it. They will have no transmission line. But unfortunately I have been misunderstood and misquoted. I never said that the private sector can start power generation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What you stated was joint venture, both private and public.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: In Europe it is the normal thing. If somebody generates power, it is sold to another country across the frontier. I do not think there is anything wrong in it to buy power. I would like to inform the House that nobody has come forward.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Tatas.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Tata is only a licensee. The Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation is only a licensee. You have given them extension. There is nothing wrong in it.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It is your Government which has given.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Why are you touchy? There is no need to be touchy. One has to admit the fact that the performance of the Calcutta Electricity Corporation is the best today. One has to admit. You cannot dispute this fact. About Tata we have not received

any formal proposal. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: What about Kosi?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: It is an international river. Naturally international agreement has to be reached. We are obviously persuading them. Unless the initiative comes from Nepal...

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Have they objected? According to my information they have not objected at all.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: They have not given clearance so far. We are persuading them.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: It is not true. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: My honble friends if they think they are the fountains of truth and we are the fountains of lies then I am extremely sorry. Only the other day the Vice-President of World Bank was here and we discussed many projects of Nepal. He also expressed his desire. I told him that from our side we will take all the initiative and we are taking the initiative. That is the position. Nepal is a sovereign State. Unless they agree we cannot just do.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

19.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, July 31, 1980/Sravana 9, 1902 (Saka).*