

[Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu]

fore, we must distinguish between the small farmer who employs labourers casually and the industrialists who employ the labourers permanently. Here, under the Industrial Disputes Act, not only the actual workers but also many of the sections who are officials who are drawing more than Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1500 have been included under the term 'workmen' so as to get the benefit under the Industrial Disputes Act. I shall read for the benefit of our Members 'In relation to the industrial disputes...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naidu, you may please continue next time.

18.07 hrs.

RE: HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION  
—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, there is one more thing which I want to bring to the notice of the House.

Members will recall that in order to enable the Minister of Energy and Coal to complete his reply on the Demands for Grants relating to Ministries of Energy and Coal, the Half-an-Hour discussion by Shri Indrajit Gupta regarding delay in declaration of results of Assembly elections for Bihar listed to be taken up at 6 p.m. has been postponed to be taken up after disposal of the Demands for Grants of the said Ministries. Shri Indrajit Gupta has now requested that instead of taking up the Half-an-Hour discussion at that late hour, it might be postponed to Wednesday, the 16th July, 1980. The Minister of Law is also agreeable. If the House agrees, the Half-an-Hour Discussion may be postponed accordingly, I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, it does. It is accordingly postponed. Now, the hon. Minister.

18.09 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1980-81—Contd.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF COAL (MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL)—Contd.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHARI: I was speaking on the super thermal power stations. It is our Prime Minister who first mooted this idea of super thermal power stations near the coalfields. When this was started, the idea was to have them on regional basis. Members may be knowing that we are constructing super thermal power stations at Singrauli in Uttar Pradesh; at Korba in M.P., at Ramgundam in Andhra Pradesh and at Farakka in West Bengal. Our experience tells us that building a super thermal power station near the coalfield automatically solves the most difficult problem, that is, transportation. Our present thinking is that wherever coal is available, we will start there a super thermal power station. For this we have decided to set up a power station at Khalagaon. Our friend, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad was very furious. An eminent member like Mr. Azad should not have talked like that. Because, whenever we build up a super thermal power station that power is not meant only for that region.

Take for example Farakka. When we are constructing it, we are not doing that for West Bengal only. But we have reached an agreement already with Bihar and other States that the power flows also to Bihar. So, there should not be any confusion on this. To start with the idea was to have 1,000 MW for Farakka. Now it has been increased to 2,000 MW. So, for Kalgaon, to start with, my idea is to have 1,000 M.W. if more coal is available. I can assure you that we shall go up to 2,000 M.W. The point here is whether coal availability is there or not. That is the whole thing. Similarly, for Talcher, we are thinking. I do not know it. It depends upon the project report. Our thinking is like that. For M.P. also if there are coal fields, we will go in for the super thermal

power. Our present policy, if I may be allowed to say so, is this. Obviously to fill up the gap between the demand and supply, the most important task is to do this as quickly as possible. The country is suffering due to power shortage. Immediately only the super-thermal power can come to the country's rescue. We have urged upon the Chief Ministers, Ministers of Finance and the Power Ministers who had come to the Conference to make optimum use of resources they have at their disposal.

In the suggestions some of our friends made, they very rightly emphasised the idea of hydro-power. I do agree with them. But there are lots of technical and operational difficulties. Capital cost in hydro is more but its running cost is much cheaper. So, we are going on in a very big way for the hydro. We have identified that at least we have the potential of 75,000 M.W. of hydro potential at present though the actual hydro capacity developed is 11,400 M.W. I intend to give much greater attention to solve the problems which have delayed the project of hydro. Hydro-electric projects linger for many years and several projects are not started due to lack of accord among the States on the use of water. We will have to find a suitable method to solve this problem with the cooperation of the States.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: But what about Srisaïlam Project—a very important project?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I am coming to that.

I have talked to the representatives about the hydro. Look at the process. Normally it takes from eight to ten years. Naturally, very few State Electricity Boards who are suffering from the power shortage want to take this sort of construction.

So, we are thinking of having foreign collaboration or expert knowledge

on this so that we can cut short this period. Another difficulty in hydro is investigation. It takes a longer time. Sometimes the State Electricity Boards do not have enough funds to do justice to proper investigation. We have decided that from the Centre in co-operation with the State Electricity Boards we will do this investigation and at Centre's expense.

Sir, we are also thinking in terms of new sources for generation of electrical energy like solar, geo-thermal, tidal and wind. We are having talks on these matters especially on solar energy with various countries although, I am afraid, nothing concrete has come out of the talks as yet. But we are having talks and many European countries have shown a lot of interest in this.

Sir, I am very glad that some of the Members have put a lot of emphasis on rural electrification. I can assure the hon'ble Members that I am very much interested and I will leave no stone unturned to see that rural electrification is done with a meaningful purpose and speed. When I talk of meaningful purpose, I mean only that rural electrification is done but there is no power. That is a silly thing. I want to assure that wherever rural electrification is done, there will be at least six hours or eight hours power is assured to agriculture sector. Sir, the distribution is done by the State Electricity Boards but we can persuade them and try to tell them that they should not ignore the agriculture sector which is a vital sector of our country.

Similarly, I have talked to many Chief Ministers and I am going to visit almost all the capitals to impress upon them the need for rational distribution of whatever power is available. So, not only generation aspect has to be looked into but also the distribution aspect has to be looked into. Unfortunately, there are some State Electricity Boards where there is irrational distribution of power. I am glad to inform the House that many States have been able to do away with the power-cuts, namely, Maharashtra;

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Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. All these States have been able to do away with the powercuts. Haryana has also been able to do away with the power-cuts because of good rains and if there is any power-cut it is very nominal, It is about 10 per cent.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. No.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: This is our information. You may contradict it.

Sir, I think, I have covered most of the points. I do not want to make repetition. As I have said—I am repeating—any power project which is sent to us we will examine it and in three months we will dispose it of but it may not be implemented for lack of resources.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: What about Srisailam?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I will check up and give you. I do not have much time.

Now I am coming to coal.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: May I ask him one question regarding power? (Interruptions)

Only one question because he is going to another subject.

Some days back, one Bulgarian delegation came. Our Chairman was also there and we had a discussion with the Leader of the Delegation. We were told that there was some agreement with the Government of India... (Interruption) Mr. Minister, may I repeat it? Some days back a high power Bulgarian delegation came here. The delegation leader met us. Our Chairman was also present. In that meeting he described certain points on power and they said that they have developed a particular technology where low-quality coal could be used for generating electricity at a much cheaper rate. He visited Bangalore and other places. He told us that we are having talks with the Government

of India. I am asking you. Is there anything for us to be enlightened with regard to this subject? Have you got anything to say about this?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: The Minister of State had discussions with them and I think he will be better able to tell you about this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): It is at the discussion stage because they have to give us concrete proposal. Then they have invited us to Bulgaria. So, we are at it.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I now come to Coal. The salient features of the coal policy are as follows:

Coal will be the primary source of energy in the coming years and coal production will be stepped up to enable it to meet the growing demand for energy in the country.

Top priority will be given in the allocation of funds and resources to the development of the coal industry.

The coal industry which was nationalised in 1973 will remain in the nationalised sector. There is no question of allowing private sector to do coal mining.

The development of coal industry will be done so as to ensure due regard to conservation of this non-renewable resource. This aspect will receive top priority in designing, development and mining, processing and usage.

Top priority will be given to maintenance of safety of the mines and of the personnel working in them.

Priority will be given to improving the conditions of life of the workers engaged in the coal industry.

If the coal production has to be stepped up we have to take certain

short-term measures and certain long-term measures. We have already started looking into these measures and we are trying our best to implement these. Short-term measures include adequate availability of essential inputs, such as diesel, cement, steel, power and explosives. We have to procure all these and unless we procure all these things, coal production cannot go up very much. We are having much difficulty especially in Asansol belt regarding land acquisition. This has to be eliminated. I have approached the Chief Minister and other Ministers and I hope we will get the land. The disturbed law and order situation has to be improved.

Regarding long-term measures, we need availability of adequate data about proved reserves of the earlier years. This is being made up by intensive drilling and exploration. One of the shortcomings is the inadequate expertise in mine planning and design of the magnitude required. This is being made up by the training of personnel for planning and design and by obtaining the services of foreign experts from Russia, Poland, U.K. and France.

Sir, our thinking at the present moment is to take expertise knowledge from these countries. We have to build up our infrastructure of coal so that we can build up the production as quickly as possible.

This shortcomings in respect of inadequate equipment and expertise in mine construction technique to the extent required are being rectified by assigning some of this work to outside agencies, including foreign countries and by developing internal construction expertise. The legacy of this bad mining practice and the obsolete technology adopted during the pre-nationalisation period which had led to difficulties in modernising mines for rapid increase in production had to be put an end to. The introduction of new mining technology is possible only

in new mines taken up after nationalisation.

Now, we have already done a bit of reorganisation of Coal India and we want to do more. But unfortunately today I am not able to place on the Table of the House the complete structural changes in this organisation. At present discussions on this matter is going on with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry. Unless we can make these structural changes according to our need, I do not think we can fulfil our commitment to the nation. For meeting the internal demand which is growing up every year, for example, in the year 1984-85 the demand is expected to rise 170 million tonnes, I personally feel that there is no difficulty in raising the coal production provided infrastructural difficulties are removed. We are also thinking to introduce some system by which Coal India itself can take lot of responsibilities on the marketing side, that is on the distribution side. We cannot shift our responsibility of the coal goes in black market. We intend to flood the market with coal provided transportation bottleneck is resolved. I have been emphasising on this point and there will be no dearth of coal. (Interruptions). This can be solved in at least some States, for example, Eastern region, West Bengal, Bihar, coal can easily be moved by trucks to different destinations. I am also thinking in terms of removing the present restrictions of permit system. When there is a shortage of supply, public distribution system is the only answer. But the public distribution system should be efficient and honest. When distribution system is not efficient and commodity concerned is not in scarcity, open market is much better although the transportation bottleneck remains. According to the guidelines, Coal India is fully authorised to improve the present distribution system. On one or two occasions, I have talked to the Chief Minister, West Bengal and the Food Minister about the malpractices that are going on in West Bengal. (Interruptions). I do not remember that they have taken any re-



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action against any coal dealer for the last three years. Scarcity of coal is going on all over West Bengal. Whenever we point this out to the ruling party in West Bengal and suggest that distribution be improved, I am afraid, the improvement is not done. Charges of corruption have been made against our officers. If they really think that there is something wrong with the coal organisation, they can write to me. I can assure the House that we will take penal action against the officer who are guilty but the guilty must be proved before action is taken.

(Interruptions). Accusation should not be made without basis against those who cannot defend themselves in this House. But if they are angry that some people of Malda either on the recommendations of the District Magistrate or on my personal intervention get some coal for silk industries etc., where they need badly, I do not think that I have done anything wrong... (Interruptions). This is within my competence. Similarly when people in distress come to me or to coal companies for their genuine requirements of coal, we issue coal permits on *ad hoc* basis subject to proper verification by the Coal India... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is not yielding.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I do not think heaven has fallen, simply because some permits have been issued from my end to the needy consumers. It has to be remembered that *ad hoc* allotment of about 40,000 tonnes are nothing but a drop in the ocean when it is realised that Coal India distributes about 91 million tonnes of coal every year. Anybody can give any twist to this but the charges of corruption are completely baseless and politically motivated... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot do like this Mr. Ghosh. Whatever the Members are saying without my permission will not go on record.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: When I made reference to the CPM Government and the malpractices which are going on in West Bengal, I wanted to focus attention on the fact that large number of persons in West Bengal had approached me and told me that they were not getting coal for their needs from the Government machinery there because they were not CPM supporters... (Interruptions).

Despite liberal release of coal, consumers have continued to face difficulties in getting coal at reasonable prices at their end. One of the causes contributing to this state of affairs is re-despatches of coal allotted to area of allocation. As an example, I would like to cite a case of Calcutta from where each day 100 to 150 rail wagons of coal were booked as smalls (coal packed in gunny bags) to destinations outside Bengal. Continued consumer distress in Calcutta was, therefore, not unnatural... (Interruptions). Besides till the middle of April, unauthorised mining of coal deposits by private operators in West Bengal was rampant. There was little control on distribution and prices of this coal.

To mitigate hardship caused to people, because of wrong practices permitted in the State, I advised Coal India, to open major distribution centres in Calcutta. This, as mentioned earlier, would give relief to public Rs. 5—7 per 40 Kg. of soft coke.

I have also come to the conclusion that Coal India would have to extend its control on distribution to other States also—not only in West Bengal and Bihar—wherever we can get dumps. The main thing is getting dumps. (Interruptions) I did not disturb the hon. Members. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I make a request to the Members? We are discussing a very important Department. The policy is being explained to the House, and to the country as a whole. Please... let us hear what the Minister has to say. (Interruptions)

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN  
CHAUDHURI: Discussions with the  
States of Orissa, Bihar and U.P. to  
meet the end are being held. (*Inter-  
ruptions*) I would, therefore, request  
the hon. Members to approve of these  
Demands for Grants.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go  
on record.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will handle the  
House. Please keep quiet I will do  
it for you. I shall now put all the  
Cut Motions together now.....

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I  
want my Cut Motion No. 119 and 120  
to be put to vote separately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put  
all the Cut Motions, except Nos. 119  
and 120 to the vote of the House.

*Cut Motions Nos. 1 to 12, 17 to 23,  
38 to 61, 93 to 98 and 121 to 125 were  
put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put  
Cut Motions nos. 119 and 120 moved  
by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to the vote  
of the House.

*Cut motions Nos. 119 and 120 were  
put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put  
the demand for Grant relating to the  
Ministry of Energy. The question is:

"That the respective sums not  
exceeding the amounts on Revenue  
Account and Capital Account shown  
in the fourth column of the Order

Paper be granted to the President  
out of the Consolidated Fund of  
India to complete the sums neces-  
sary to defray the charges that will  
come in course of payment during  
the year ending the 31st day of  
March, 1981, in respect of the head  
of demand entered in the second  
column thereof against Demand  
No. 30 relating to the Ministry of  
Energy".

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put  
all the cut motions moved to the vote  
of the House relating to the Depart-  
ment of Coal (Ministry of Steel, Mines  
and Coal) unless any hon. Member  
desires any particular cut motion to be  
put separately—I shall now put all the  
cut motions together.

*All the cut motions were put and  
negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put  
the Demand for Grant relating to the  
Department of Coal (Ministry of Steel,  
Mines and Coal): The question is:

"That the respective sums not  
exceeding the amounts on Revenue  
Account and Capital Account shown  
in the fourth column of the Order  
Paper be granted to the President  
out of the Consolidated Fund of  
India to complete the sums necessary  
to defray the charges that will come  
in course of payment during the  
year ending the 31st day of March,  
1981, in respect of the head of de-  
mand entered in the second column  
thereof against Demand No. 82 re-  
lating to the Department of Coal  
(Ministry of Steel, Mines and  
Coal)".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Demands for Grants (General), 1980-81 in respect of Ministry of Energy and the Department of Coal  
(Ministry of Steel, Mines and Coal) voted by Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 14-3-1980		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
<b>MINISTRY OF ENERGY</b>					
30.	Ministry of Energy . . .	21,88,71,000	169,52,68,000	44,07,56,000	370,28,86,000
<b>MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL</b>					
82.	Department of Coal . . .	37,46,58,000	178,52,63,000	70,86,28,000	381,03,28,000

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 14th July, 1980, at 11 A.M.

18.44 hrs.  
The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 14, 1980/Asadha 23, 1902 (Saka)