

would have helped to meet the power shortage in Maharashtra.

The matter is serious enough to call for immediate attention and action by the Central authorities concerned. I hope, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs would convey this to the Minister for Energy and other Ministers concerned.

I am glad, the Prime Minister is here. He has a special concern for Maharashtra. Therefore, I hope, he would also put in a word to the Energy Minister. They say that production of coal is in abundance and it is lying at the pitheads. The other day, the Railway Minister told us that there was no shortage of wagons. Then where is the bottleneck? Why is the coal not reaching the power stations?

12.49 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill 1978, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th April, 1978, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEVENTEENTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd May, 1978."

With your permission, I would like to point out that there is a printed mistake in bottom line two of the Report. What is printed as 'on' should be read as 'no'..

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd May, 1978."

The motion was adopted.

TOBACCO BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, I introduced † the Bill.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 4-8-78.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Dharmapuri): Sir, in connection with Starred Question No. 977 which was replied by the hon. Minister this morning, I am submitting to you my telephone bill which is printed in Hindi. I request you to direct the Minister to correct the mistake.

MR. SPEAKER: I will examine it.

12.44 hrs.

MOTION RE. DRAFT FIVE YEAR PLAN, 1978-83—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Morarji R. Desai on the 3rd May, 1978, namely:—

“That this House do consider the ‘Draft Five Year Plan 1978-83’ laid on the Table of the House on the 26th April, 1978.”

Mr. P. K. Deo to continue his speech.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I just started yesterday to speak on the Plan. At the outset, I deem it my privilege to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister who visited my constituency on the 9th of April and had a first-hand knowledge of one of the most backward tracts of this country. He went there to lay the foundation stone of the Upper Indravati Project which is estimated to cost Rs. 232 crores. My life's effort and mission has been fulfilled. My dream of 40 years has been realised. My persistent demands in this House for the past 25 years have yielded results. We hope a new era of prosperity has dawned because it will irrigate 5.1/2 lakh acres of chronically drought affected areas in my constituency and will generate 600 megawatt of hydro-power. But I am distressed to find that there is absolutely no mention of this Project in the Draft Plan. The Prime Minister in his inaugural speech has

rightly emphasized on the time-scale dule, the project to be completed in time. Otherwise, it will not only make the Project more costly but, at the same time, the benefits are also delayed and more new problems are created. A big project like this should have been started in a big way. Only a paltry provision of Rs. 1½ crores in the State budget or no mention in the country's Draft Plan is rather very disappointing. So, I suggest that this project should be categorised as 85A among the new schemes on p. 172 of the Draft Plan after the new thermal stations under Chapter 10.

Coming to the thermal stations, I would like to point out that these thermal stations are based on non-renewable resources, that is, coal, lignite or atomic fuel. This means that once we consume our mineral resources, we cannot replace them. At the same time, it creates environmental pollution. In the working of a super thermal station, we need about 5 lakh tonnes of coal every year and it emanates sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide and pollutes the atmosphere. The other day, the Department of Science and Technology had appointed a committee to go into the working of the thermal plants in Agra and they came with a recommendation that, to save the Taj and to avoid pollution in that area, these thermal plants are to be shifted to a far-off distance. Not only that. They suggested that the working of coal-based locomotives also should be stopped in the Agra Marshalling Yard.

I would, therefore, submit that our vast hydro-electric potential should be tapped. Our country has got tremendous hydro-electric potential. The entire Himalayan region is there. Even in the south, there are perennial rivers like Indravati. The Indravati project which has passed all stages of technical scrutiny should be immediately taken up and there should be no delay in that.