

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: This is a very serious matter that Rs. 13 lakhs, 62 thousand and odd should have been kept in a foreign bank....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You cannot keep getting up like this and raising all kinds of matters without notice. Nothing will go on record if you persist.

13.03 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS*, 1977-78 —contd.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demands Nos. 31 to 33 relating to the Ministry of Energy for which six hours have been allotted.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Sir, today is a fearful day—the day of the guillotine and I am sorry to say that my fears and forebodings which I had voiced the day before yesterday have unfortunately come true. A look at the clock shows only five hours are available today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Members were so excited that they have taken up more time on other matters.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: You announced that six hours have been allotted for the Ministry of Energy, but even this quantum of time may not be available today for discussion on the demands of this Ministry. You had also said that the time allotted for the Minisry of Energy might be reduced.

I submit that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting being in my judgement, in my estimation, far more important than the Energy Ministry should not be subjected to a desultory casual discussion in this House, because it may get only one and a half hour or an hour even if the time allotted for the Ministry of Energy is cut. I do not want that. I would submit, and I am sure, the House will agree with me, that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should have a full-dress discussion in this House in this session, either next week or the week after the next before the session comes to a close. On that understanding, I would let the guillotine descend at 6.00 O'clock.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I have written to you also and I want to make a submission in support of Shri Kamath's submission. At the same time, I would like to point out that when Shri Advani lays down a White Paper on his Ministry's working, which I am told would be laid in 7-10 days, it is better that we have a full-fledged discussion under rule 184 on that White Paper. I do hope that the Chair and the House would agree with me in this regard.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the entire business of the House is being regulated by the Business Advisory Committee. They have gone into the priorities of the Ministries and allocated time, and we should stick to it. The Business Advisory Committee is represented by all the parties. Taking into consideration that we have fully approved the minutes of the Business Advisory Committee in this House, we should stick to the schedule. So far as the importance of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned, I do not want to belittle it. As suggested by my friend, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, there would be

*Moved with the recommendation the Vice-President acting as President.

[Shri P. K. Deo]

a substantive motion for a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under Rule 184. I would submit that there should not be any time restriction so far as the discussion on the Ministry of Energy is concerned.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) :
 उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं भी जो ज्योतिमय बमु ने कहा है उस का समर्थन करना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि मेरे विचार से आज तो जो प्रोग्राम है उस को टालना नहीं चाहिए लेकिन फुल फ्लैज्ड डिस्कशन इस के ऊपर होना चाहिए इसलिए कि 20 महीने इस मास मीडियों का पिछली सरकार ने जितना मिस्यूज किया है वह अनपैरेल-डॉ है दुनिया में। एक अनकांस्टी-च्यूशनल एथारिटी का प्रचार इस मास मीडियो के जरिए से किया गया है हम चाहते हैं कि हमारे विचार सरकार अच्छी तरह से सुने और क्या तथ्य थे वह देश के सामने आने चाहिए। आप को मानूम होगा, 29 तारीख को हम जेल में थे तो हम वे रेडियो से मुना कि उस समय की प्रधान मंत्री ने यह कहा कि मुझे और मेरे परिवार को ये लोग सब मारना चाहते थे। इस प्रकार का भी प्रचार किया गया। आज वह पूछने हैं कि हमारे पास क्या सबूत है? इस समय वे चले गए, मैं उन से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उन के पास क्या सबूत था?(व्यवधान)....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not bring other issues.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह का अनांगल प्रचार रेडियो से और टेलीविजन से किया गया उस के बारे में हमारे विचार क्या हैं वह सुनें और सरकार क्या करना चाहती है इस संबंध में वह हमारे सामने आए इसलिए पूरा डिस्कशन आप एलाइ बीजिए, यही मेरी आप से प्रार्थना है।

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Sir, I want to say something in support of the Point of Order raised by my esteemed friend, Shri Kamath. As you know, he has been raising this particular point for the last three days consecutively and you were good enough to assure him, and through him the House, that some time at least will be available to the I&B Ministry, two or three hours to-day. Unfortunately, it so happens that we will not be able to get even full time for Energy Ministry. I suggest that there are two possibilities, if the House agrees, of course,—and you will ask it, whether it agrees—we may have only three hours for Energy Ministry, 1.00 to 4.00, and we will still have two hours for I & B Ministry and then we can have further longer discussion on the document which the Minister is going to lay on the Table of the House sometime next week. I say this, because after the lifting of the emergency and after the restoration of the Rule of Law and of democracy in this country, it is only now that we can discuss freely, and the people in the country and outside the country will know what we discuss here, as to what exactly happened during those 19 dark months of emergency when freedom of information was completely curtailed. Therefore, my submission is this, that this is a very vital Ministry. I do not know how and why this Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was rated low in priority. I am not a member of the Business Advisory Committee. But if I were there, I would have certainly stressed the importance of this Ministry and would have pleaded for priority being given to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in view of what had happened during the 19 months of emergency. Having not been there, my submission today in the House is this. Let us have some time to-day for giving vent to our views. If that is not possible, let us have an assurance that during this very session we will have a full 8 or 10 hour debate,

if necessary spread over two days, so that the entire working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting can be looked into, both in terms of media, newspapers, Samachar and the harassment to journalists and what not. All those matters may be brought before this House to a full extent.

SHRI UGRASEN rose—

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please make your submission from your seat.

श्री उग्रसेन : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सम्बन्ध में मैं आप से एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। विधान सभाओं का कुछ अनुभव हमें भी है। वहां पर प्रमुख विभागों की मांगों पर बहस होती थी और उस के लिए समय भी ज्यादा होता था लेकिन मैं मानता हूँ यहां पर समय की कमी है लेकिन स्वास्थ्य जैसा विषय बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है, जो कि माननीय राज नारायण जी के पास है और उस को गिरीषों नहीं होना चाहिए।

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के सम्बन्ध में कामत महाबल ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है उस का मैं पूरी तरह से समर्थन करता हूँ, इस मंत्रालय पर पूरी बहस होनी चाहिए। होनी तो आज ही चाहिए थी लेकिन अगर आज नहीं कर सकते हैं तो आगे इस के लिए समय मिलना चाहिए। मुझे तकलीफ होती है जब हम जेलों में थे, जेन के दफ्तर में जाते थे और माननीया मोहतरमा मलकाए मोइज्जमा की बातें सुनते थे तो बड़ी तकलीफ होती थी। आज जनता ने जनता पर्टी को यहां पर भेजा है, आज हम अपनी राय भी यहां पर न रख सकें तो यह उचित नहीं होगा। मैं चाहता हूँ समाचार, हिंदी समाचार, उर्दू समाचार, अंग्रेजी समाचार—सारी बातों पर पूरी पूरी बहस होनी चाहिए।

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): During the nineteen months we had only a Ministry of

Misinformation. That was the position. Now that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has come into being again, let us have a proper discussion on this Ministry which is a very vital Ministry. So, we want a full debate on this.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): I appreciate the desire of the hon. Member to discuss the media in a thorough detail. Ever since this government has come into office, it has been seized of the fact that during the last 19 months the media has been abused. Therefore, a committee has been appointed to investigate the views of the media and on that, a White Paper is being presently prepared and it is at the final stages of preparation and I hope I will be able to lay that paper on the Table of the House very soon. If the House so desires, we can have a full-fledged debate on that. The Government has no objection because that would cover the entire gamut of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. That way, even though this House would not be able to discuss the Demands as such, the working of the entire Ministry would certainly be open to then.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it is now the sense of the House that we have a full discussion on the basis of the White Paper. Therefore....

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: May I have an assurance that the discussion on the White Paper will be not only on what is said therein but on the working of the entire Ministry?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: I have already said that the White Paper covers the entire gamut of the Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now take up the Demands for Grants of the Energy Ministry.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amount 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, 1978, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 31 to 33 relating to the Ministry of Energy."

Demands for Grants, 1977-78 in respect of the Ministry of Energy submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha.

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 30-3-1977		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		1	2	3	4
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
MINISTRY OF ENERGY					
31. Ministry of Energy .		22,75,000	..	45,51,000	..
32. Power Development .		17,28,69,000	48,52,31,000	34,57,39,000	140,51,62,000
33. Coal and Lignite .		7,67,68,000	113,10,00,000	15,35,35,000	211,20,02,000

Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Congress Benches are empty....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They will come back after refreshing themselves.

Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Those who want to press their cut motions may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the cut motions they want to move.

Yes, Mr. M. Govindan Nair.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR (Trivandrum): Now after the question of political power has been amicably settled among all political parties through the recent elections, we are discussing the question of electric power.

I know it is not fair on my part to blame the present Minister for the

shortcomings in the working of the Ministry of Energy, nor do I want to applaud him or compliment him for the gains that they have made therefore, I would try to concentrate on one point—i.e., shortage of electric power. It is a common knowledge that there is a great shortage of electric power in this country excepting perhaps Kerala and Gujarat. It is also a common knowledge that if you want any economic growth either in the industrial sector or in the agricultural sector, electricity is a must. I do not want to go into the percentages of cuts. In Madras it is 30 per cent. Karnataka is no better. Maharashtra is no better. So, it is an admitted fact that there is a great shortage of energy in this country hampering our economic growth. Even though top priority was given to this sector, the target set up for the completion of these projects could not be achiev-

ed. If the present Ministry wants to fulfil the promises that they have made and the challenges that they have taken up, then they also should give top priority for the generation of electricity in our country.

I have been noticing that with regard to the generation of Hydel Power the Ministry has a step motherly attitude. Up to this date, I am sure, we have yet assesed the potentialities that are there in our country for generating power from the hydel resources. I know, if the Central Government is interested to find the necessary amount, something to the tune of 1,000 megawatts can be additionally produced from Kerala alone. It is the question of funds that stands in the way.

Further, a new obstacle has been now raised by the Ministry of Forests preventing the working of all Hydel projects. They are taking great interest in maintaining forest reserves as such; I am not against maintaining the forests. But it should not be at the cost of more important national interests. There is the Silent Valley Project in Kerala. Planning Commission approved of it, and even allocated funds. But unfortunately, some ecology-minded interests came in the way. They were very much impressed by the beauty of the place and now there is a general order that if the Government wants to clear more than 10 hectares of forest land the permission should come from the Centre. There is now a Government at the Centre who claim to respect Constitution in letter and in spirit. Forest is not a Central subject. Somebody wanted to put it in concurrent list and I do not know whether the Government now is going to stick on to it. They are thinking of constitutional changes which would enable the States to get what they have been provided for in the constitution. That has become a need of the hour. Excuse me for going back to the question of political power. After the recent elections on the political scene an entirely new picture has emerged. The intelligent electorate has equit-

ably distributed political power in States to all political parties. At Kashmir you have the govt. of the National Conference with Sheikh Abdullah as its leader. In Rajasthan you have Jan Sangh ministry. Same is the case with Himachal. In UP you have the BLD and in Madhya Pradesh you have Jan Sangh. Although they have merged in Janata, they want to remain as separate components. My point is, you have Jan Sangh headed Ministry in four places, the congress in 3 or 4 places and even a party like ours, the CPI, has a share in Kerala Ministry. In Tamil Nadu it is the Anna DMK headed by Mr. M. G. Ramachandran. What I want to point out is that an entirely new situation has emerged.

[SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI in the Chair]

13.25 hrs.

[SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI in the Chair]

Previously, the Central Government and the State Governments were all controlled by one single party. They could ignore the Constitution, steamroll anything they wanted.

Now, that situation has changed. The Central Govt. should end this interference in forest matters which is a State subject. At the same time, on principle, I am prepared to accept whatever good advice they give; they want to maintain beauty of the forests. All right. That does not mean that all the hydel projects that had been taken up by Kerala or any other State should be sacrificed for maintaining the beauty.

The I.G. (Forests), Delhi has informed the Government that they are going to convert silent valley into a national park. We completely disagree with it. We want that to be converted into a hydel project whereby the people of Kerala and the neighbouring States may benefit. The ecologists need not worry. We can do it without disturbing the beauty of the forests.

[Shri M. N. Govindan Nair]

Take for example Idiki. It has underground tunnel and underground power house. If Silent Valley is also built in the same way and if the government decides that there shall be no habitation or township there, then these forests can be maintained as they are. Further the presence of reservoir will not only help tree growth but also help the animal growth. True, certain areas will be covered by the reservoir, but the overall benefits to the country will be very much higher than what it is to-day. I am not here speaking for Kerala alone. I feel that this generation of energy through hydel project is to be undertaken all over the country as there are rivers which have very big potentialities. I would, therefore, request the Minister concerned to look into this matter and appoint a high-power Commission which would make a thorough and exhaustive study of our hydel potential.

There is now an agreement against the hydel project. It is said that more time will be needed for completing it. I completely disagree with that argument. There was a time when you had to depend only on masonry dams. That took more time for completion of the project. But, now, concrete dams—mechanised concrete dams—can be built up in no time. So, the hydel projects can compete with the thermal project as far as time needed for completion of it is concerned provided, of course, the modern techniques are utilised. I feel that our resources are immense. The whole of Meghalaya region and North-Eastern Region and even Madhya Pradesh may be a source. I want someone to make a study; I want a high power Commission to make a study of it and then take up projects after projects because, according to me, hydel projects will give cheapest power possible. Further, unlike the thermal plants, once the projects are completed, there is no problem.

Another point I want to make is about the restructuring of the Electricity Boards. The Planning Commission and Finance Commission have been always harping that the Electricity Boards are not giving enough returns. The first thing that you have to do is to re-structure it in a scientific manner.

Now you claim that the Electricity Board as an autonomous public undertaking. There are other public sector undertakings in the country. Compare the Electricity Boards with them. Do they have one single pie by way of capital? For every public undertaking, fifty per cent is equity and fifty per cent is loan. The entire fund of the Board is based on loans. Even the loans that you get from foreign countries bearing an interest of 2 per cent or 3 per cent, when you hand that over to the Electricity Boards, you exact a higher percentage. Not only that other Ministries are exploiting the electricity boards. The State Government wants to give power at a subsidised rate to agriculturists. That is a national need. I agree. My suggestion is whatever subsidy you want to give to the agriculturists in the matter of electricity that should be debited to the Head of the Agriculture Ministry and not to the Electricity Boards. So also with regard to industries. So, Sir, I would like to make here a suggestion to kindly re-structure all the electricity boards in such a way that they are on a par with other public undertakings.

Sir, I would like also to say a few words about the electricity workers. There should be a national wage policy for the electricity board workers. Today the position is that if some State Government decides to give an increment to its State electricity board employees, the electricity workers working on other State electricity boards start agitating. It results in many problems. Therefore, I would suggest to the hon'ble Minister that he, in consultation with the Labour Minister, should evolve a

national wage policy for all the electricity workers so that there may not be strikes and stoppage of work.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to say that the previous government wanted everything to be under their control. They were of the view that nothing can be done effectively, promptly and properly without Centre's supervision. I disagree with this view. On the other hand I would like to suggest that if you want to achieve some results then you must decentralise. At present, the Planning Commission makes a lumpsum allocation of funds to the State Governments. The State Governments in turn allocate these funds under various heads of expenditure according to their priority. Thereby the question of national priority may go. Therefore, when plan allocations are made and if the Government of India wants to give priority to certain sectors, money has to be found by the Centre and should be taken out of the State plan and when money is allotted to the States, it should be earmarked for the particular projects. If that is done, I think you will be able to take many projects in hand.

Then again the question of transmission is a very important factor. There is the regional grid and there is the national grid. You have to spend for them also. Then only you will be able to follow a system.

Now, I have to revert to two other points. Even though I have been laying stress on the potentialities of the hydel power, unless it is matched with thermal power, you cannot be sure of steady supply of power. Even when I stressed on the need for utilisation of hydel potentialities, I do not want you to do it at the risk of giving up the thermal projects that are already there. You have to build them up. There is already a plan to have a few super-thermal power stations. Now, people are quarrelling whether it should be in Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka or in Tamil Nadu. On this silly point we are wasting

time. What I would suggest is that steps should be taken immediately to start them nearest to the coal-pits and arrangements for transmission should be made so that power can be supplied to any part of the region. Yesterday, there was a talk about a power-station which should be beneficial to both North-Bengal and Bihar. Therefore, as much as you produce hydel power, there should be an equal or a little more of the thermal power generated. Then only will you be able to have a steady flow of power.

Now, the third thing is the atomic power stations. That is another source of power. I know it is very costly, but with the growing demand for power, I would request the hon. Minister to consider the possibility of encouraging atomic power stations also. In Madras there is one atomic power station. I do not know at what stage it is now. In North-Bengal also there was an idea of starting one. I do not know whether it is still in cold storage. Therefore, the Minister for Energy should have enough energy to persuade his colleagues, especially the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister, that if the plan for economic growth and giving employment to everybody in the country are to materialise, topmost priority has to be given for the generation of power in the country. I may mildly remind the hon. Minister that on the sins of the past Government, you will not be able to survive long. It may be possible for this session or for another session, but unless you tackle these problems—the economic problems facing this country—you will lead us nowhere. If you want economic growth, the Minister for energy is the key man and he has to energise his other friends and get enough funds for the working of the schemes.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri P. K. Deo]

[Desirability of tapping Geo-thermal energy in the hot springs of Athmalik, Taptapani of Atari in Orissa (15)].

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Urgency of uniform development of rural electrification with priority to backward areas (16)]

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Desirability of having a National Power Grid (17)]

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Desirability of taking up big hydro-electric projects by National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation where the resources of respective States are limited (18)]

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for expeditious electrification of Harijan bastis in Orissa (19)]

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Desirability of harnessing hydro-power in collaboration with Nepal from rivers like the Kali, the Rapti, the Gandak, the Karnali, the Baghmati and the Kosi (20)]

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Urgency of taking up the Upper Indravati Project Hydro-Power Station which will generate 600 MW of electricity (21)]

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Desirability of tapping solar energy to meet the country's power shortage (22)]

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Necessity of developing power by Magneto Hydro Dynamic process wherever possible in the country (23)]

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Desirability of harnessing energy from the tide near the coast (24)]

"That the demand under the head 'Power Development' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Desirability of popularising Gobar Gas Plant in rural areas to meet the power shortage in those areas (25)]

SHRI A. K. ROY (Dhanbad): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced to Re. 1"

[Mechanisation of the collieries with imported machines causing unemployment amongst miners and wagon loaders (35)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced to Re. 1"

[Elimination of 10000 Harijans and Adivasis from employment in BCCL and ECIL within last 3 years (38)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced to Re. 1"

[Failure to provide safety arrangement to the colliery workers increasing fatal accidents (40)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced by Rs. 100"

[Failure to return CDS to the colliery workers (45)].

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced by Rs. 100"

[Failure to announce 8.33 per cent bonus to the colliery workers (46)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Impersonation of 9 Adivasi workmen by non-adivasis in Ten-tulmari colliery under B.C.C.L. (47)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Driving out of 85 adivasi workers from West Mudidih colliery under B.C.C.L. by the money lenders (48)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Employment by the Nirsa Murga Zone of the E.C.I. Ltd. (51)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Atrocity committed on the workmen of Ram Kanali colliery and their women folk on 7th and 8th July, 1977 (53)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Assault of C.I.T.U. leaders by the goondas engaged by the Sudamdihi colliery N.C.D.C. on 30-5-77 (55)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Dismissal of union representatives of the C.I.T.U. in Amlabad colliery in B.C.C.L., Dhanbad (56)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Retrenchment of 500 workmen from Damuda and Kessergarn colliery during Emergency (57)]

"That the demand under the head 'Coal and Lignite' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Termination of service of 200 Adivasi workers from Jogta colliery, B.C.C.L. (Dhanbad) in last 33 years (58)]

श्री यूवराज (कटिहार) : सभापति महोदय, मैं ऊर्जा मंत्रालय की मांगों का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ :

जब हम ऊर्जा की प्रगति का सिहावलोकन करते हैं, तो ऐसा लगता है कि राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर एक संकट पैदा हो गया है और हर एक राज्य में बिजली की भारी कमी हो गई है। हमारे यहां एक तो थर्मल पावर है, दूसरे, हाइड्रो-इलेक्ट्रिक पावर है और ऊर्जा के कुछ अन्य स्रोत भी हैं। केरल, महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात ऊर्जा के सम्बन्ध में सब से ज्यादा प्रगतिशील प्रदेश हैं। मगर हम देखते हैं कि कर्नाटक में 25 से 40 प्रतिशत तक और तामिलनाडू में 15 से 30 प्रतिशत तक बिजली की कटौती की गई है, और इन दोनों राज्यों को केरल से सहायता लेनी पड़ी है। इसी प्रकार महाराष्ट्र में भी 15 से 30 प्रतिशत तक कटौती हुई है और उसे गुजरात से सहायता मिली है।

समूचे विद्युत सेक्टर के लिए 1976-77 में 1453 करोड़ रुपये का आवंटन किया गया था। राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर बिजली

[श्री यूवराज]

की प्रतिश्वेति खपत 109 के ० डब्ल्यू एच० आंकी गई है। 1976-77 में (31-3-77 तक) विद्युत का कुल उत्पादन 89,185 मिनियन थूनिट था । 11 राज्यों में 3185 मेगावाट (थर्मल) और 1550 मेगावाट (हाइड्रो) की योजनायें मन्त्रूर की गई हैं। लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में बिहार की ओर उपेक्षा की जाती रही है, हालांकि वहां विद्युत के उत्पादन की सब से अधिक पोटेंशिलिटी जैसी है।

पूरे देश में रुरल इलेक्ट्रिकेशन प्रोग्राम के अन्तर्गत 1,95,993 गांवों को बिजली दी गई है और 2931 लाख इर्गेशन पम्प सेट और ट्यूबवैल एनर्जीज किये गये हैं। लेकिन बिहार के 67,665 गांवों में से 16 प्रतिशत गांवों को भी बिजली नहीं मिल सकी। हमारे यहां विद्युत का जेनरेशन थर्मल पावर से होता है। हाईड्रो-इलेक्ट्रिक का बहुत ही कम इंतजाम है। जब तक दोनों का कंबिनेशन नहीं होगा तब तक हम मांग के अनुरूप बिजली की आपूर्ति नहीं कर सकेंगे।

हम जब अपने प्रदेश की स्थिति पर विचार करते हैं तो देखते हैं कि जो अभी हाल की प्रस्तावित पंच वर्षीय योजना यी उसमें बिहार राज्य की तरफ से 800 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की गई थी। अधिक से अधिक रुपये ट्रांसमिशन और डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन पर खर्च होने वे। रुरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन को छोड़ कर 70 प्रतिशत रुपये इन्हीं कामों में लगते हैं। 24 जार गांवों में और विद्युत देने की योजना है। कुल मिला कर बिहार में जहां 11 सी करोड़ रुपये की जरूरत थी वहां यह कहा गया कि अपनी योजना में और अपनी मांग में कटौती करो, आधी मांग करो तो उस पर विचार होगा। आप जानते हैं कि हमारे यहां बहुत बाद में बिजली के डेवलपमेंट का काम स्टार्ट

हुआ। 1922 में हम रुस से भी आगे थे लेकिन आज पर कैपिटा कन्जम्पशन बिजली का 90 यूनिट हमारा है जब कि अमेरिका 7000 यूनिट का कन्जम्पशन करता है, रशिया 3000 करता है और यह अमरांग प्रदेश बिहार है जिस के उत्तरी बिहार और दक्षिणी बिहार दो हिस्से हैं, उत्तरी बिहार में 9-10 यूनिट ही हम पर कैपिटा कन्जम्पशन करते हैं। हमारी खेती, हमारे छोटे-छोटे उद्योग धन्वे सभी नष्ट हो रहे हैं। जहां बांस का बोरिंग लगा कर दो एकड़ तीन एकड़ जीतने वाले किसानों ने दो सौ, तीन सौ रुपये की लागत पर नलकूप बिठाए थे वहां उन्हें डीजल से ही पम्प चलाना पड़ा। उनको जरूरत थी कि निरन्तर अपने खेतों को पानी देकर सीचे, लेकिन वह नहीं हुआ। इस बार खेतों में समर्पणी के जो पौधे ये वह अधिकतर बबाद हुए। इस सामर्थिक वर्षा से कुछ उनकी रक्षा हुई है लेकिन जिस धान की रोपनी हुई थी बड़े पैमाने पर उसकी अधिकतर फसल बबाद हुई। लेट सोइंग जिस धान की हुई थी उसमें किसानों को कुछ नहीं मिला।

हमारी जनसंख्या पूरे देश की जनसंख्या की 10 प्रतिशत हैं। हम अपने की खानों से कोयला, अध्रक, लोहा, आदि बड़ी मात्रा में देश को देते हैं लेकिन बिजली की उत्पत्ति के लिए थर्मल, पावर स्टेशन और हाईड्रो-इलेक्ट्रिक का इन्तजाम करने के लिए 800 करोड़ रुपये की मांग हमने की तो वह रुपया देने में केन्द्र की सरकार को बहुत परेशानी है। हमारा काम प्लानिंग कमीशन के सामने लम्बित पड़ा रहता है। हमारी उपेक्षा होती है और आपको यह जानकर ताज्जुब होगा कि उत्तरी बंगाल की सरहद से लगा हुआ जो हमारा उत्तरी बिहार है, जिसकी पॉवर-डिमांड उत्तरी बंगाल से दस गुना ज्यादा है वहां एक थर्मल पॉवर "स्टैशन बैठाने की" बात कठिन है जैसी थी। 1 जून 1972 में बिहार की

विधर्ण सभा ने सर्वेसम्मत प्रस्ताव द्वारा इस बात की मांग की थी कि बिहार के उत्तरी हिलाके में, जहां 3 करोड़ लोग बसते हैं, एक धर्मल पावर स्टेशन की स्थापना कठिहार में हो।

तमाम राजनीतिक दलों के विधायकों का एक डेसीगेशन प्रधान मंत्री एवं विद्युत मंत्री जी से मिला और उस समय के हमारे तत्कालीन विद्युत मंत्री ने एक बिजली की प्लानिंग कमेटी बना कर उसका प्रतिनिधित्व केन्द्र से करवाया था। तत्कालीन विद्युत मंत्री डा० के एल राव से उनकी बातचीत हुई थी। इस पर छात्र-जीन हुई और समस्या खड़ी हुई कि दालकोला हो या कठिहार। लेकिन न तो दालकोला बना और न कठिहार बना, कहीं भी नहीं बना और आज भी वह मामला खटाई में पड़ा हुआ है। मैं आपके द्वारा सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रकार कब तक हमारी उपेक्षा होती रहेगी। ऐसी जगह पर धर्मल पावर स्टेशन की स्थापना होनी चाहिए जो कि बाढ़ से मुक्त हो। कठिहार बाढ़-मुक्त एरिया है। 12 करोड़ की लागत पर वहां एक बाढ़ नियन्त्रण योजना बनी है, वहां माइक्रोवैव कम्युनिकेशन है और एन०एफ० रेलवे का डिवीजनल हेडकार्टर है तथा नेशनल हाईवे से उसका सम्बन्ध है। वहां पर छोटी छोटी इंस्ट्रीज स्थापित हैं। इनकी टीम वहां जा कर देख आई, इनके बड़े बड़े अफसर वह जाते रहे लेकिन आपको जानकर ताज्जुब होगा कि अन्त में उन्होंने एक रिपोर्ट दी कि वी जी नाइन के नजदीक है, वहां धर्मल पावर स्टेशन हो। लेकिन वह भी नहीं हुआ। मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार में विद्युत की कमी को देखते हुए, वहां की विधान सभा और बिहार की 6 करोड़ जनता की भावनाओं को महेनजर रखते हुए जो

वहां पर धर्मल पावर स्टेशन की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव था उस पर अमल होना चाहिए। अगर इस तरह से बिहार की उपेक्षा होती रही तो उस क्षेत्र में जो हमारा एशियाक्लबर का सब से बड़ा उद्योग है, जो वहां मार्जिनल फार्मसें है, जो बीकर सेक्शन के लोग हैं, उनको बहुत बड़ी परेशानी होगी और उनके सामने समस्या पौदा होनी कि-वे क्या खाये? वे लोग महाजनों के फेर में पड़कर, बैंकों के फेर में पड़कर, वहां से कर्ज लेकर, धीरे धीरे भूमिहीन होते जा रहे हैं। इस प्रकार से ग्राम समाज में गरीबी बढ़ती है, उत्पादन घटता है और बेकारी बढ़ती है, तो फिर हमारे लोक-तांत्रिक जीवन के जो मूल्य हैं वह भी टूटते हैं। इसलिए आज इस बात की आवश्यकता है कि वहां पर खेतों की सिचाई का प्रबन्ध किया जाये, ताकि जमीन को पानी मिल सके। जमीन के नीचे जो पानी का भण्डार है उसको निकालने की भी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए जैसे आपने तमिलनाडु में किया है। हमारे यहां चूंकि नदियों की बहुतायत है इसलिए आप वहां पर हाईड्रोएलेक्ट्रिक के जरिए भी पावर जेनरेशन कर सकते हैं। तमाम नदियों और प्रचुर पानी के स्रोतों के बावजूद आज तक बिहार में कुछ नहीं किया गया। वह हमारी एशियाक्लबल बेल्ट है और वह हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था का महेन्द्रण है इसलिए अगर उसकी उपेक्षा हुई तो फिर आर्थिक दृष्टि से बिहार टूटेगा और उसकी आर्थिक हालत गिरेगी। बिहार आज देश में सबसे अधिक खनिज देता है। जो सब से ज्यादा कोयला देता है—

'The country is rich, but people are poor'

कहावत है—देश धन-धान्य से भरपूर है, लेकिन जनता गरीब है। इस जगह के कोयले से दूसरी जगह कारखाना बैठता है, लेकिन यहां एक धर्मल पावर स्टेशन सरकार नहीं बैठती। इसलिए मेरी प्रार्थना है—

[श्री युवराज]

कटिहार में जो थर्मल पावर स्टेशन का प्रस्ताव है, जिस को जून, 1972 में बिहार की विधान सभा में 'सर्व-सम्मति से पास किया गया था, उस को पूरा किया जाये। विधान सभा किसी भी प्रदेश की स्थानीय जनता की भावना का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है। मैं मानता हूँ कि केन्द्र की सरकार उस समय की सरकार के बारे में कुछ आलोचना कर सकती है, उसने उपेक्षा की थी, लेकिन जो सरकार जनता-की-सरकार कहलाने का दोष करती है, वह जनता की भावनाओं के प्रतिकूल आचरण करे, ऐसी भेंटी आप से अपेक्षा नहीं है।

जहां तक ऊरल इलैक्ट्रिफिकेशन प्रोग्राम का सम्बन्ध है, हमारे यहां बहुत कम प्रगति हुई है। पूरे देश के सभी प्रदेशों में जितने गांवों का विद्युतीकरण हुआ है, उस की तुलना में बिहार में केवल 16-17 प्रतिशत गांवों को ही बिजली मिली है और वह भी कुछ चुने हुए गांवों को, जहां मंत्री लोग जाते थे, जहां उन की मीटिंग बराबर हुआ करती थी, जहां की पैरवी ज्यादा होती थी, कुछ कालोनियों को, जहां उपनिवेश है, जो बड़े लोगों के उपनिवेश थे—उन में बिजली गई, लेकिन हरिजनों के गांवों में, आदिवासियों के गांवों, संथाल-पश्चाना, छोटा नागपुर, आदि स्थानों पर बिजली तो दूर किरासिन तेल भी उपलब्ध नहीं होता है। ऐसी उपेक्षित बस्तियों में, जो बिहार में बहुत बड़ी संख्या में हैं, जिन की आबादी 22 प्रतिशत है, वहां 2 प्रतिशत लोगों को भी बिजली नहीं मिल सकी। इसलिए मैं आप से आग्रह करना चाहूँगा कि जो बिहार आप को खनिज देता है, उस की तरफ आप का ध्यान जाना चाहिए और उस की जो योजनायें आप के विचाराधीन हैं उन पर शीघ्र अमल होना चाहिए और बिहार की विधान सभा ने जिस सर्व-सम्मत प्रस्ताव

के द्वारा आप से मांग की थी, कटिहार में उस थर्मल पावर स्टेशन की ज्वीन स्थापना होनी चाहिए।

श्रीमन्, मैं आप के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान अपने प्रदेश की दयनीय हालत की तरफ आकृष्ट करना चाहूँगा — बरौनी में आपने एक थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बढ़ाया है, लेकिन वहां की कई यूनिट बराबर पड़ी हुई हैं। पश्चातु में थर्मल पावर स्टेशन है उसकी भी सभी यूनिटों काम नहीं करती हैं। यह ठीक है कि डी० थी० सी० से आज हम को कुछ बिजली मिल रही है, उसके बावजूद भी आज हमारी बहुत सी इण्डस्ट्रीज विद्युत के अभाव में बन्द पड़ी रहती हैं। इसलिए मेरा अनुरोध है कि जो थर्मल पावर स्टेशन लगे हुए हैं, वे पूरी तरह से चलें, उन के बेकार यूनिटों को ठीक किया जाये, उन को ठीक से तेल मिले, कोयला मिले और जिन थर्मल पावर आदि योजनाओं को स्वीकृत करने का आप के सामने प्रस्ताव है, उन पर तेजी से अमल हो।

14.00 hrs.

DR. B. N. SINGH (Hazaribagh): Coal has been recognised as the primary source of energy in India; but I am afraid that it is far from establishing its mark as an alternative fuel for India's rural population. Although there has been a steady growth in the production of coal from 1973-74 to 1975-76, i.e. from 78.2 million tonnes to 98.67 million tonnes, the production in 1966-67 was more or less the same, as was produced in the previous year. The reasons for this stagnation in growth is given in the Performance Budget of the Ministry of Energy. It reads as follows:

"After meeting the coal requirements of all the sectors in the country in full, the production had to be regulated more or less at the level

which obtained in the previous year, due to this slow growth in demand."

In chapter 3 of the Report, it has been claimed that the coal industry today is in a position to meet the country's requirements of fuel in full. This is not the correct picture of the demand of coal in this country. Both these tall assertions are very far from the truth. I am afraid that this negative satisfaction which the Department has drawn, is derived from the fact that they have completely overlooked rather ignored the demand of the rural population. What to speak of the far-flung rural areas i.e. far from the coal fields, the people of the villages which are in the periphery of the coal mines in the district of Hazaribagh in the State of Bihar which is one of the major coal-producing districts of India, are starved of coal. They do not get the coal that they want. A survey was conducted by the National Council of Allied Economic Research, New Delhi; and its findings are really revealing. These findings say:

"Nearly 100 million trees are being cut every year and burnt as fuel in the rural and semi-urban areas. Taking into account that there are nearly 580,000 villages in the country with an average population of 800, the surveys have worked out the per capita energy consumption at 0.8 tonne per annum. Based on this, it has been calculated that the amount of fire-wood used as fuel is the equivalent of 58 million tonnes of coal per annum."

This is more than 50 per cent of the coal produced in India by the Coal India Ltd. Every one in this country has come to realize how very important it is to grow, preserve and protect our forests from denudation. If selling of the trees for the purpose of keeping the kitchen fire burning is at the rate of 100 million trees and more per year, what will be left of our forests? If we cannot prevent our forests from this wanton though necessary destruction—I deliberately use the words 'necessary'—since there is no alternative fuel which has been supplied to

the rural population, they have to go on cutting the timber and cutting the forests and thus keep their hearths and kitchen fires burning. If this process continues, in not too distant a future our paddy fields and our agricultural lands will be converted into a big desert. The catastrophe towards which this heavily populated agricultural country is proceeding can very well be imagined.

So, unless the Government provides alternative fuel to the rural population in the shape of coal or soft coke, if needs be even at subsidised rates, if they do not do this how can they stop the denudation of forests, how can they stop the erosion of valuable top soil, how can they prevent famine from occurring in our country from year to year? There is destruction in another field too. Coal India Limited does not supply soft coke to the rural population. There is available in the country 117 million tonnes of cow dung. Because they are not supplying soft coke, because they are not supplying coal to the rural areas, half of this 117 million tonnes of cow dung goes for fuel, which otherwise could have gone into agriculture as very cheap manure for increasing the food yield per acre.

Coal India Limited is expected during the current financial year, 1977-78, to produce 104 million tonnes of coal. During the Mid-term Appraisal of the Fifth Plan, the coal production figures were greatly slashed, and for the year 1978-79 the figure of production has been reduced from 135 million to 124 million tonnes. The planners have done so, because they have not taken into account the requirements of coal in the rural sector. When 90 per cent of the production of coal goes to feed the public sector, the private sector and, if I may say so, the affluent sector in the urban areas, and 10 per cent of coal is there as pit-head stock, what coal is left for supply to the rural sector? If we want our precious forests to be preserved, if we want to utilize cow dung in our fields as cheap manure, then Coal India Limited must raise its production. If it cannot be stepped up, at least let us maintain the

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production figures at the original levels before the figures were slashed during the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Fifth Plan.

I find in the current year's budget that the allotment for production of coal, even as compared to the revised estimates of 1975-76, has been reduced by Rs. 15 crores. With this reduction, how does Coal India Limited consider that it is going to step up its production? With this background, I fail to understand the logic, the wisdom, in closing 54 collieries after nationalisation. These collieries were being worked by private owners. I have no disputes about the scheme of nationalisation of mines. It has been decided that they should be worked in the public sector; very good; I have no disputes to raise. But what I fail to follow is, what was the reason for closing these collieries after their nationalisation. At the time when the Government took over the management of these private collieries, 54 of them—47 falling in the State of Bihar, mostly in the district of Hazaribagh, and 7 in West Bengal—these collieries collectively were raising 30,000 tonnes of coal every day, in other words, 10 million tonnes of coal roughly in the year, which used to cater to the needs of the rural sector. Now, it may be that Coal India Limited is not interested in working the small collieries.

They might have got used to working big chunks with massive machinery in collaboration with Russia and Poland. If the CIL is not interested, let it be given to another public sector undertaking, Bihar Mineral Development Corporation, which was started to look after the mineral wealth of Bihar and its exploitation. But the CIL is following a dog in the manger policy, that neither will it work nor allow anyone else to work, when there is growing need of coal. Had they worked these mines, apart from solving the fuel supply problem or meeting the requirements of the rural sector to a great extent, they would have at least

prevented the escalation of unemployment which the CIL has created due to its wrong policies. At the time of the takeover of these coal mines, they were employing 1.75 lakh workers in the categories of managerial, clerical, skilled semi-skilled and unskilled. It is the policy of the Janata Government that in the next ten years they are going to give employment to all who are unemployed, but unfortunately by closing these 54 collieries where 1.75 lakhs people were being employed, the CIL is creating a new unemployment problem instead of trying to solve the existing unemployment problem in our country. The worst sufferers due to the nationalisation and the closure of these mines have been the labourers. Their number was 1,50,000, 40 per cent of them coming from the District of Hazaribagh.

Through the closure of these mines, the Government has suffered a three-fold loss; loss in production, loss of employment opportunities and loss of revenue to both the State and Central Exchequers. Through the closure of these collieries, the Bihar Government has lost, by way of royalty, local cesses and sales tax, more than Rs. 5 crores per annum, and the Central Government has lost nearly Rs. 3 crores annually. I request the hon. Minister of Energy to get this matter examined in great depth and, if he finds logic in my submission, to immediately order the re-starting of these collieries either under its own supervision or through the Bihar Mineral Development Corporation.

Coming to safety in mines, apprehensions were expressed at the time of the nationalisation of the coal mines. Even today in the Question Hour we were discussing this point. The increase in accidents only shows the careless manner in which the public sector Managers are trying to manage and work these collieries and also the slackness on the part of the Directorate of Mines Safety. All the eminent persons appointed by the Government to preside over the courts of enquiry

to enquire into the circumstances that led to these major accidents have held that precious lives have been lost due to the carelessness of the managerial staff. These could have been avoided through care and caution. Along with the colliery officers, the officers of the Directorate of Mines Safety are also responsible for not exercising strict supervision on safety measures. Before these collieries were nationalised, the attitude of the Directorate of Mines Safety was pre-labour and anti-management. They used to enforce safety measures in the mines with great firmness. But I find that after nationalisation, the attitude of the officers of the Directorate is pre-management and anti-labour. I would, therefore, like the Minister, rather the Labour Minister, to see that their attitude, if it is not pro-labour, let it be neutral. Let them see whether all safety laws are properly observed by the collieries so that accidents do not occur.

When collieries were being run in the private sector, for any offence under the Mines Safety Act, the owner, the director and the manager of the colliery used to be prosecuted. Since the Government took over the management of these collieries, for reasons best known to the bureaucracy, the Managing Directors of these collieries and the Chairman of the CIL are not being prosecuted which is against the law. The law says that the owner and the Managing Director are to be prosecuted. Because of this intentional omission, you will see that there is a carefree attitude in the collieries and officers do not observe safety rules scrupulously. I would request the Minister to see that whenever there is any mining offence or violation of any safety laws or violation of rules and regulations under the Mines Act, the Managing Directors of these collieries, the Chairman of the CIL and other managerial staff should be prosecuted. If it is done, I am sure the number of fatal accidents will be reduced considerably because they will then see that all the mines safety laws are properly observed in the collieries.

There is an urgent need of having good relations with the labour. The labourers are being prosecuted for minor offences vindictively. The officers are not prepared to sit at the round table with the labourers in order to negotiate and settle their genuine grievances. If healthy working conditions are to be introduced and a sense of participation inculcated in the minds of workers, then bossism must end.

The living conditions of the workers are very pitiable. There is gross inadequacy of the houses. The CIL employs 6,45,000 workers and the number of the houses taken over at the time of nationalisation and huts constructed since then and those under construction, is 1,63,591. This means that the number of houses is very much below the number of workmen enrolled by the CIL. 75 per cent of the workmen are still without houses. I would request the hon. Minister to have the construction work speeded up so that these labourers, these workmen, can get a roof over their heads and are not to live in improvised palm-leaf huts indefinitely.

I have also to request the Minister that while taking up new construction work, he should allow a bit more of plinth area. The dhauras that exist now are no better than pig sites. They are so huddled up together that they are just human stables. There is no privacy in the houses that have been allotted to the workmen. So, when new houses are being constructed, they should be properly spaced, they should have a little more of breathing space and a little more of plinth area of the comfort of the workmen.

This moves me to the next important point of pure drinking water. It is a matter of great pity that even after 30 years of democratic socialist rule of the Congress, we have not been able to supply pure drinking water to the workmen. At the time of nationalisation of mines, a population of 1,93,655 was covered in the pure drinking water scheme. Since nationalisation, an additional coverage of 6,12,050

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persons has been provided. Assuming a family of five members to each worker, the requirement of water is for 32,25,000 persons. Therefore, 24 lakh workmen are still drinking the contaminated pit water, thus falling a prey to all sorts of water-borne diseases. I would request the Minister to instal water purification plants. These are not very expensive. There is plenty of water inside the pits which can be chlorinated, pumped up and supplied as pure drinking water to the labourers of the mines.

Another important point is with regard to the employment policy of the CIL and its subsidiaries. I am concerned with the collieries which are working in the two divisions of Chota Nagpur. Chota Nagpur is considered to be very rich in mineral deposits. There are plenty of industries too both in the public sector and in the private sector. Ordinarily, anyone would think, with this background, with the industrial growth of the area, that the people of Chota Nagpur are very well off. Though it may sound paradoxical, the deduction is not correct. Because of the inherent simplicity of the people of Chota Nagpur, they have been continuously ignored, exploited, overlooked and continuously pushed back with the result that they continue to be backward and continue to suffer utter poverty in their land of plenty. Even against the vacancies of Class III and Class IV categories, the people from outside are recruited for the jobs of clerks, durwans and even sweepers. The people of Chota Nagpur are not preferred. The people are brought from outside. I would request the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Industry and the Minister of Labour to issue strict orders that when the vacancies in Class III and Class IV categories are to be filled up, the local people of Chota Nagpur should only be eligible for such employment. For higher jobs where skill and talent are needed, if the people of Chota Nagpur can offer matching qualifications, if they are equal in all other respects, I would suggest that the people of

Chota Nagpur should be preferred to others. If the Government agrees with this policy and, I do not see why they should not agree because it is the policy of the Government to remove regional imbalances, to uproot backwardness, then we can bring forward those people who have been suffering for these days. This is also to which our Party is committed. So, if we agree, I am sure that in not too a distant future the people of Chota Nagpur will find a place of honour and will be respected by their more affluent brothers outside. With these words I support the Demands of the Ministry of Energy.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN (Madras South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this demand is perhaps the most important demand in our administration because without power, without electricity, it is not possible to develop any other branch of economic growth, be it industry, agriculture, communication, transport or whatever it is. Therefore, this is the most important infrastructure that is required for the economic growth and I feel that we should give greater attention to this particular department of administration.

Actually, the Estimates Committee mentions that next only to Defence the Department of Energy must get the highest priority in allocation of resources. I am putting a very strong plea in favour of the Department of Energy for larger resources and better consideration because I consider that unless we develop this particular Department, unless we are able to make great progress in this field, all other fields will suffer.

Let me briefly touch a few points with regard to the achievements in the last few years. In the last few years, we have been adding at the rate of 1.62 million kw of energy every year. Then our thermal generation efficiency has gone up. Actually, we were producing only 3000 kwh from every kw of installed capacity and now we are producing 5000 kwh out of the same installed capacity. I am glad

that the Beas Sutlej Project which is a marvel of engineering has been completed. I had something to do with it, and therefore, I know the difficulties involved in it. There are two tunnels of about 13 km in length, an open channel and a very important dam. All these things have been completed very successfully.

In rural electrification, in 1975-76, 1.85 lakh and odd villages were electrified. In the next year, practically two lakh villages have been electrified. As far as pump sets are concerned, from 27 lakhs it has increased to nearly 30 lakhs during the last year. These are on the credit side.

Now looking at the future, unfortunately, the power generation appears to give a lot of scope for better development and in fact it causes concern. Over the entire plan period, we have always fallen short of the target we have set. In the First Plan period, our shortfall was only 15 per targeted 3.50 million kw, but we targeted 3.50 million kw, but we performed only 2.25 million kw resulting in the deficit of 35.7 per cent. In the Third Plan, we targeted 7.04 million kw, but our achievement was 4.52 million kw resulting in the deficit of 36 per cent and in the Fourth Plan period, our deficit was nearly 50 per cent. As against the plan target of 23 million kw, we ended with 16.8 million kw. In 1974-75, we have achieved 1.7 million kw and in 1975-76 we have achieved 1.8 million kw, thus bringing the total to nearly 20 million kw. By adding 1.7 million kw last year we have reached roughly 22 million kw of energy.

Now, the Fifth Plan target is 33 million kilowatts and the shortfall is 11 million kilowatts. It means that, in the next two years, in the current year and in the next year, we will have to achieve at the rate of five to six million kilowatts of installed capacity in a year which is clearly beyond the realm of possibility. (*Interruptions*) The performance has always been poorer than the promises. People

come and promise the Planning Commission that they will perform many things and on the basis of their promises, the Planning Commission allows certain investments. But unfortunately the performance has been poorer than the promises. Not only that, the costs have been going up. I will give the figures later.

I would draw the attention of the House to this very important aspect, namely, at the end of the Fifth Plan period, we will be left with a deficit of 11 million kilowatts, and this is going to affect very seriously our development in agriculture, industry, communications and every other aspect. The chronic shortage is reflected in the power cut which has been found throughout the country. In 1975, except two States, Gujarat and Kerala, all the other States suffered power-cuts. It is a very regrettable state of affairs. All the States except Gujarat and Kerala have suffered a power-cut and this is likely to continue in the years ahead because the shortfall in the Fifth Plan period is going to be of the order of 11 million kilowatts.

Now I have a suggestion to make in this regard. Power planning should be done not on the basis of Five-Year Plans but on the basis of a long term, or even longer term than ten years. I would suggest that a plan be drawn up for power position upto the end of this century, 2,000 A.D., what will be the power that will be required at the end of this century and then work back on the basis of our requirements and then say how much will have to be done in each Plan period. If you do that, we may be able to organize better our generating capacity. Now we plan only for a period of five years, and as most of our schemes spill over five years, it becomes difficult to organize our entire production programme over a long period and certain distortions occur. My suggestion is that the Ministry may take up with the Planning Commission the idea of having a long-term projection, nearly 20-year projection, by which they will achieve a

[Shri R. Venkataraman] particular level of generation. In this connection, it may be useful to compare what the other countries have and see what our target should be. I shall not quote the United States of America which is one of the biggest power consumers and where it is 418 million kilowatts; in the USSR it is 186 million kilowatts. It would be better for us to compare ourselves with Yugoslavia where it is 85 million kilowatts now and it is further going up. Japan also has 85 million kilowatts. My estimate is that, if you want to have a fairly comfortable power position at the end of 20 years, you will have to plan for 150 million kilowatts of energy—at the end of this century. It is only then we will be able to organise our power generation during the entire period and prevent any shortfalls during the period. One of the reasons for the shortfall is the poor estimation of cost as well as the time required for the project.

I will cite only one or two examples. The Salal Project which was sanctioned in 1970 was estimated to cost Rs. 55 crores and it was estimated that we will establish three units of 290 mw; the revised estimate is Rs. 225 crores (i.e., it has gone up by more than 400 per cent) and the new generating capacity is 345 mw (i.e. about 27 per cent). Now, you can compare the cost: the estimated cost was Rs. 55 crores but within just five or six years the revised estimate became Rs. 222 crores. It is not only that: It is said that this project will be commissioned only in 1982 while it was sanctioned in 1970. That means that we want 12 years to complete a power project. I do not know whether, if originally the suggestion had gone to the Planning Commission that it would cost Rs. 222 crores and would take 12 years to be completed, they would have accepted this scheme or not. Anyway, this merely shows how unrealistic our estimates are and how very casual we are about the time we take to complete a project.

The same thing can be said about the Siul Project. Sanctioned in 1970, the original estimate was Rs. 20 crores but the revised estimate is Rs. 92 crores.

I am submitting this only to show that the norms relating to the capital cost as well as the time for commissioning the projects have never been adhered to. Whether it is a hydro project or a thermal project or a nuclear project, we have never adhered to the time or the cost originally estimated for the projects.

I have sat on both sides of the Table and I can therefore say one or two things. The State Governments always give an under-estimate of the cost of the projects as well as of the time that would be taken to complete them. On the other side, the Central Government has some very theoretical norms and it will not approve the schemes unless these theoretical norms are satisfied. So, between these two, they give the Planning Commission an estimate, both in regard to time and the cost, which is totally untrue to their own knowledge—that is, the knowledge of the persons who are submitting the schemes and the knowledge of the people who are sanctioning these schemes.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Why do they do it? Is it only to convince the Planning Commission that the State Governments and the Central Government do this?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It is really to get the schemes passed: We are trying to pass a camel through the eye of a needle! This is how it has been going on. So, now at least, let us start with a clean slate. Let us make a realistic estimate, both of the time and the cost, and then sanction schemes on that basis so that we may know when the projects will fructify and when the power will become available.

Similarly, we should also know what the cost would be. Take, for

instance, the Fourth Plan. The amount sanctioned was Rs. 1250 crores and the actual expenditure was Rs. 1550, but the performance is only 50 per cent which means that, for each kilowatt of energy generated, the capital cost has gone up twice and, therefore, the cost of the electricity supplied to the people has gone up twice. We are living in a time when utmost economy is required, when we want to produce electricity as cheaply as possible for the people; yet we find this kind of things taking place—that is, the expenditure remains the same but the performance is only 50 per cent, resulting in doubling the cost of the projects.

I would therefore submit that the Government has got to do a great deal in the matter of thinking about the projects which are put forward or approved.

There is another reason also. We have not utilised the indigenous capacity in our country. We are always bitten by the bug of size and scale. When we could produce 60 megawatt sets in our country, the Ministry or whosoever was concerned, insisted on 110 megawatt sets. When the BHEL developed the capacity to produce 110 megawatt sets, the insistence was on 200 megawatt sets. And now when we have achieved the capacity to produce 200 megawatt sets, the talk in the air is that, we must install 500 megawatt sets. I went to Yugoslavia when I was the Minister for Electricity to see their projects. At one place, they had a series of 50 megawatt sets. I asked them, why they had a series of 50 megawatt sets; it would have been more economical to put in 100 megawatt or higher capacity sets. The answer was that this was the capacity that they had at that time and they could produce at that time 50 megawatt sets and, therefore, utilised it. Had we also done similarly during the earlier period instead of going in for larger capacity sets on the plea that there was economy of size and scale, we would have done much better than what we have done.

Even now my suggestion to the Government is that they should standardise on the 200 megawatt sets for the Fifth and Sixth Plan period with interchangeable parts and components. Let us install at each Thermal Power station five 200 megawatt sets, instead two 500 megawatt sets. 500 megawatt sets are not being manufactured here; these have to be imported and we will have to spend foreign exchange for that. Taking all these things into consideration, my suggestion is that we standardise our equipment and we should see that we use them as we produce. If the idea of using 200 megawatt sets is adopted, we will be able to do much much faster and quicker than we would have done with 500 megawatt sets to come from other countries.

I would also like to make a suggestion in this regard not because Shri Ramachandran is my friend, but for valid reasons. The railway workshops and the P&T workshops are under their respective controls. Why not allow the BHEL to go under the control of the Energy Ministry? It would then be possible for the Energy Ministry to plan their production, match their manufacture with the requirements and also observe the delivery schedules. I know on previous occasions, there was such a hiatus between the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Power that one would not buy the products from the other. One Department of the Government would not buy a product from another Department of the Government. Therefore, it is better that you transfer BHEL and the associated units at Bhopal, Hardwar, Ramachandrapuram and also Tiruchirapalli to the charge of the Ministry of Energy so that we may at least have coordination between the two.

So far as the location of these super-thermal power stations is concerned, there is a great argument whether these should be located on the pithead or consumption place. It is a question of economy in each case; there is no general rule which can be applied. If

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you establish a super-thermal power station at the pit-head, you have to use high tension wires for the purpose of carrying power to long distances, otherwise the line losses will be great. In our country, we have hardly 230 KV lines, while the development in the other countries has gone upto 600 and 800 KV to reduce the transmission losses.

It is a matter to be calculated in each case. There is no general rule that if you have it in the pithead, it will be cheaper. Other people say that if you have it in the consumption areas, it will be cheaper. In each case it depends upon the relative position and the economy of operation and one has to calculate on the basis of investment in the transmission and the line losses which will occur so that you may be able to arrive at the right conclusion.

On this occasion I will urge that if a super-thermal power station is going to be set up at Neyveli, it cannot be sustained at the present level of lignite production in the area and a second mine cut will have to be necessarily ordered. I think it has already been mentioned and I think it is already within the knowledge of the Government and I hope they will immediately take action. It will take a long time to develop a mine—to remove the over-burden and then to mine the lignite, etc. Unfortunately, in our country, lignite is in a far deeper place than it is in the other parts of the world. Therefore we have to go nearly 200—300 ft down. It is an open cast mine and a second mine will have to be sanctioned. Otherwise, there is no use in having a super-thermal station there....

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: What is the estimated investment?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: For the second mine cut?I do not know.

SHRI T. A. PAI (Udipi): I think it is Rs. 600 crores.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Well, I will not detract from all these projects.

Sir, I want to make one simple suggestion for increasing power in a very quick manner. Of course, I made a simple suggestion how to control monopolies. Similarly, I will make one or two very simple suggestions.

Thermal stations have high capital investment and high consumption costs because it consumes coal. Hydel stations have high capital costs but low consumption costs because it requires only water, whereas if you take up number of "run of the river" schemes, schemes are cheap, the cost will be low, the execution will be early and we will get a lot of power within a short time. We are always after big things which are a mirage that we are chasing. If you do have a number of small stations, the sum total of benefit that will accrue out of them will be far greater than one big project. Here, I will suggest that there are a number of projects which can be undertaken on the run of the river. The Energy Survey Committee has made this calculation and has said:

"The unutilised hydro-electric power in the country is of the order of 29.5 MKW. One-third of this represents the potential of the run of the river projects. This does not require expensive investigations as dependable power drafts have been estimated on the basis of gauged data available for Himalayan rivers for fairly long periods."

I am sure these are with the Ministry and they could take it up immediately so that within a very short time they could put through a number of run of the river stations whereby they can avert power shortages.

While on this subject, I would also like to mention that there is a very good project between Mysore and

Tamil Nadu on the border, the Hogenekal Project which is on the river Kaveri. It has been investigated and it has been almost approved, I should say, by the then government, but it did not go through. This is a project which will give 800 MW of power. The cost can be shared between the two States and the power can be shared. Alternatively, the Centre may take it up under the Central Generation Scheme and then distribute it according to the needs of the region. I am not particular whether it should be inter-State or at the Centre. My suggestion would be that this should be taken up immediately and investigated.

Regarding tidal wave projects I wish to say something. Natural source as you know, is always cheap. I have seen the La Rance project in France. This is a tidal wave project. This works during the high tide. At that time water rises and goes into the river and when it goes number of turbines are motivated. When the tide goes down the water flows from the river into the sea and then the process is reversed. By this system they generate electricity. You have 10 M.W. units and so on. The cost of generation is very cheap. I don't know if there is any place where we could have that kind of tidal wave. I was told that you should have 5 metres of tide in height and if that is available you can give priority to this kind of project. In everyone of the estuaries of the big river you can try that. This is one of the things which I wanted to say.

The state of the State Electricity Boards is in utter confusion. They are running in the red. The Sixth Finance Commission has stated that the arrears of interest from the State Electricity Boards to State Governments would be of the order of Rs. 400 crores. Very few State Electricity Boards are able to earn 6 per cent on the capital invested. There was a

committee which went into the working of the State Electricity Boards, and that committee recommended that 11 per cent return should be earned by each of the Electricity Boards. That would have been possible if they followed the two phases which were suggested. The first phase was that they should adjust the working expenses, the interest charged and the depreciation and the second was to get 11 per cent return including the electricity duty. It has been suggested to the Committee that so far as the Electricity Board's loans are concerned they could be treated part as equity and part as loan on the ratio 1:1. If you can have half of the advances as equity and half of this as loan you may be able to improve matters.

While on the subject I wish to refer to one of the recommendations of the Public Undertakings Committee which should receive the serious consideration of the Ministry. It said that the Centre should assume statutory power to direct transfer of surplus power from one State to another. It can arbitrate on disputes relating to rates for export of power by Electricity Boards. If this is done, number of disputes arising all over the country in this regard could be solved. If this is done perhaps we will be able to share the power and the All India Grid which is coming will enable us to share whatever power is available in the country amongst all the States.

*SHRI A. MURUGESAN (Chidambaram): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the All India Anna D.M.K. I rise to say a few words on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy. At the very outset, I would like to pay my congratulations to the hon. Minister of Energy who hails from Tamil Nadu.

Sir, it is axiomatic that industrial growth is the essential prerequisite for economic development. None can dispute that the primary requirement for

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A. Murugesan]

industrial growth is power. In other words, power is the life-breath of economic development. If the power generation is not cared for, then the economic development is neglected.

During the past thirty years, we have been able to exploit only 22 per cent of the hydro electric power potential in the country. If to-day there is acute shortage of power throughout the country, it is due mainly to power projects not having been implemented vigorously and expeditiously. We have the potential to produce 25257 MW of electric power, but we have so far produced only 6461 MW. This also substantiates my contention that by neglecting the generation of power we have hindered the economic progress in the country.

Sir, the pace of economic development is accelerated if the entire rural area of our country is supplied with power. Out of 5.75 lakh villages in the nation, only 1.95 lakh villages have been connected with electric supply. This also proves the fact of our callous attitude towards power generation.

In Tamil Nadu, there is no scope for any hydel project, and therefore only thermal plants should be planned. So, it has become essential to sanction the second-mine cut in Neyveli. Then only we will be able to execute and run the super Thermal Plant with the help of lignite produced in the second-mine cut in Neyveli. The hon. Minister of Energy should exert his energy in getting this sanctioned from his colleague, Shri Biju Patnaik.

In April, 1977 there was 40 per cent power cut in Tamil Nadu and it was raised to 50 per cent in May, 1977. If the recurring paucity of power is to be solved, then the projects taken in hand must be executed promptly. The hon. Minister of Energy, who fought the Parliamentary elections in alliance with the D.M.K., has blamed the D.M.K. Government's inefficiency

in running the power projects. There is another factor also which should be looked into by him. The machinery supplied by BHEL has proved to be defective, which in turn affected the power generation. The hon. Minister should take up this issue with the BHEL, and ensure that quality equipment is supplied by the BHEL for power projects.

In Tamil Nadu 12000 pumpsets, as on 1-3-1977, are awaiting power connection. Unless the pumpsets are given power connection agricultural production cannot be augmented. It is being mentioned that the first unit of Tuticorin Thermal Plant, which is to be completed in 1978-79, may be delayed further. I would like to know the reasons for such delays in the execution of power projects. The Tamil Nadu Government has submitted to the examination of Central Electric Authority 330 MW Mettur Thermal Plant. If at least 50 per cent of the anticipated power demand in 1983 in Tamil Nadu, i.e., 5022 MW, is to be met, then this project must be approved and executed without delay, on a war footing. Since 1965 we have been talking about Pandiyar-Ponnun-puzha Power Project. The Planning Commission gave its approval in 1968. The Central Electric Authority has given its views only in April, 1977. I am sure that the hon. Minister of Energy will clarify why such a long time should have been taken in this case. I appear to him that this project also must be taken up for execution at the earliest.

The first unit of Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant should have been completed by 1973-74. It is felt authoritatively in the official circles that this project may not be completed even after 4 or 5 years. I request that the hon. Minister of Energy hailing from Tamil Nadu must take personal interest in completing the prestigious project of Tamil Nadu.

Sir, the coal based Thermal Plants produce 54 per cent power of the total power generated in the country. At

the moment we have 146 lakh tonnes of coal. This is the time for planning, more coal-based Thermal Plants in Tamil Nadu so that the power problem of Tamil Nadu can be solved once and for all. As on 31-3-1977 there were 6.45 lakh workers in the public sector coal industry, out of whom only 145 lakh workers have got residential accommodation. The remaining 5 lakh workers live in filthy environment. In 1976, the coal workers were compelled to go on strike demanding minimum basic amenities of life, which resulted a loss of 1.50 lakh tonnes of coal production. If the Government wants to step up coal production, then the only alternative is to accord all basic amenities for the workers whose work is both hazardous and arduous.

With these words, I conclude my contd.

15.00 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. DEATHS DUE TO CONSUMPTION OF POISONOUS LIQUOR IN DELHI

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHAFAN SINGH): Sir, it a matter of deep regret that some deaths due to consumption of poisonous liquor have occurred in Delhi last night, as also this morning. According to information available so far, 7 persons have died, 3 in Willingdon Hospital, 1 in Irwin Hospital and 3 in Karol Bagh area. 3 persons admitted in the Willingdon Hospital for consumption of poisonous liquor are still under treatment. 7 separate cases are being registered by the police u/s 304-A IPC in connection with this matter. The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police is being entrusted with the investigation of these cases. The District Magistrate, Delhi, has also ordered an enquiry by an ADM regarding the cause of deaths and other related matters. The SHO, Karol

Bangh, the SI in charge of the area and the beat constable have been placed under suspension for their failure to take preventive action in regard to distillation/sale of poisonous liquor in the area. Action is also being taken by the Excise Commissioner, Delhi, to get the liquor in various shops chemically analysed.

15.02 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1977-78—contd.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY—contd.

SHRI A. K. ROY (Dhanbad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I wish the Minister of Energy would be more energetic in dealing with the affairs in the Ministry of Energy because it is not only that the things are stationary but also we have reached a point where we are feeling that we have started going back from where we started.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there were three causes for nationalisation of the coal industry. First, slaughter mining, bad mining and wrong mining; Second, scuttling in production and thirdly bad industrial relations. Sir, coal is the nucleus of energy as 57 per cent of the entire energy in electricity comes from coal only. In the industrial area coal has been accepted as the nucleus on which the entire citadel of our energy pattern has been made. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has gone deep into it that not only the very basic idea on which we did nationalisation has been lost sight of but also the fundamental proposition, namely, the recommendations of the Fuel Policy Committee are going to be reversed. Sir, today when the world is moving not only from the coal age but also from the petroleum age to the nuclear age we still stand in the fire-wood age where the industrialised countries were in the beginning of the 19th century.