

MR. SPEAKER: You know the rules. Under the rules only those whose names appear can speak.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: You should permit me to speak. It is a serious matter.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record. We shall now take up legislative business.

12.55 hrs.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) AMENDMENT BILL

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 be taken into consideration."

Hon. Members are aware of the power development programme in the country for the next five years during which an installed capacity of 18,500 MW is proposed to be added. This will be almost two-thirds of the total capacity available today. Naturally, the challenge to the institutions responsible for executing the programme is enormous. The power sector alone will account for utilising as much as 23 per cent of the total public sector outlay in the next five years. For an investment of this magnitude, hon. Members will appreciate that the State Electricity Boards will have to be fully geared up as they are the main instruments for generation as well as distribution of power in the country. The Bill which is before this House for consideration envisages the improvement which we propose to bring about in the financial working of the State

Electricity Boards. The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 which is now sought to be amended prescribes the broad structure of the electricity industry and particularly of the State Electricity Boards.

This Act has provided the framework for the growth of the electricity industry since 1948 and no major amendments had taken place till 1976 when the amendments introduced and enacted at that time defined the role of the Central Electricity Authority and gave it additional responsibilities.

The amendments of 1976, however, did not make any changes in the financial provisions governing the structure of the State Electricity Boards, the norms for their financial working, or with the manner in which they would prepare and furnish their accounts.

The capital investment by the State Electricity Board is made available to them today entirely in the form of loans, a part from what they are themselves able to generate from their internal resources. The bulk of the loans again has been made available by the State Governments though, in recent years, the Boards have been able to obtain significant financial support from lending institutions such as, the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the Rural Electrification Corporation, and also by loans from nationalised banks through open market borrowings. The International Development Association—an affiliate of the World Bank—is also financing power projects both on the transmission and on the generation side. In the last two years, the International Development Association has been concentrating on financing large pit-head thermal power stations to be installed by the National Thermal Power Corporation. But the State Electricity Boards have also received substantial assistance from the Inter-

**Not recorded.

[Shri P. Ramachandran]

national Development Association for their transmission programmes. The lending institutions who will continue to finance much of the investments in the next few years, would be anxious to ensure that the State Electricity Boards earn adequate returns and work with a degree of financial viability which will strengthen the confidence in these Boards for discharging their undoubtedly major responsibility.

Under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 the State Electricity Boards are autonomous organisations, but are subjected to policy guidelines given by the State Governments. The Chairmen and the Members of the Boards are appointed by the State Governments. The State Electricity Boards are required at present to function in the most efficient and economical manner with particular reference to those areas which are not, for the time being, supplied or adequately supplied with electricity. But there are no positive directions as to how the Boards should accomplish this, and the Boards have functioned in the past in an unequal manner depending on the State Government or lending institutions to meet their entire requirements for capital investment. A Committee had gone into the question of what should be an adequate return on the capital base almost 14 years ago and had recommended a return of 9-1/2 per cent at that time keeping in view the interest rates and the requirements of profit relevant for the power programme prevalent then.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you likely to take some more time?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: I will take another ten minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You may please continue after lunch.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN in the Chair]

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) AMENDMENT BILL—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister will continue his speech.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): I was referring to the interest liability. Even this return is not being achieved by the majority of the State Electricity Boards to-day due to several factors, not the least of which is the fact that enormous interest liability on loans made available by the State Governments places a contingent liability of interest on the Boards' financial working, which the Boards are unable to meet from their resources and which prevent them from generating adequate surpluses. The accumulated contingent liability towards interest on loans advanced by the State Governments has increased from Rs. 54 crores in 1972-73 to over Rs. 500 crores at the end of 1975-76.

Keeping in view the need for the Boards to have a component of share capital in their financial structure and to enable State Governments to participate in this share capital, and also to ensure that the State Electricity Boards are motivated to operate in a manner which will lead to generation of some surplus, the financial provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 have been examined and amendments have been proposed after full consultation with the State Governments.

One of the major amendments being suggested is that the State Electricity Boards can have equity participation in their capital structure. To-day the position is that much of the loans which are made available by the State

Governments to the State Electricity Boards are loans in perpetuity and are not envisaged for being re-paid. The amendments, therefore, seek to enable the State Governments to participate in the equity structure by provision of share capital and also by conversion of existing loans into share capital. While this is not a mandatory provision, it provides an opportunity to the State Governments to participate in the equity structure of the State Electricity Boards, and if availed of, would reduce the interest liability of the Boards to a considerable extent and enable them to give a much better picture of financial performance. We expect that many of the State Governments would take advantage of this provision in the Act to participate in the share capital of State Electricity Boards.

At present, the Electricity (Supply) Act provides that the Board shall not carry on its operations at a loss and shall adjust its charges accordingly, from time to time. This stipulation alone has not been a sufficient motivation to the Boards to generate surpluses from their internal resources to meet any part of their investment requirements. By an amendment proposed in the Act, a positive direction is being given that the State Electricity Boards shall carry on their operations and adjust their tariffs in a manner that the total revenue would, after meeting all expenses appropriately chargeable to revenue including operation, maintenance and management expenses, depreciation, interest payable on loans, debentures and bonds, would leave a surplus. This surplus would be determined by the State Government from time to time. It is also envisaged that in prescribing this surplus, the State Governments would have due regard to the fact that a reasonable sum be contributed towards the cost of capital works. If such a huge investment programme is envisaged for power development through the State Electricity Boards, which are intended to be

commercial organizations and to function according to sound financial principles, it is but necessary that there is some motivation that a part of the Boards is to generate internal resources for financing part of the investment needs of the power sector.

Another important amendment which is being introduced is in regard to the method of calculating depreciation, as prescribed in the Act. The present Act provides that the annual contribution to the depreciation reserve should be such that at the end of the expected life of the plant, the total amount set aside is equivalent to 90 per cent of the original cost of the asset, assuming a salvage value of the retired equipment to be 10 per cent. Depreciation is an important component of the internal resources of the Board, and some flexibility in the manner of calculating depreciation will enable the Boards to generate further internal resources. At present any change in the method of calculating depreciation requires an amendment of the Act. We have, therefore, proposed in the amendment before you that the amount to be provided each year for depreciation shall be in accordance with such principles as the Central Government may, after consultation with the Central Electricity Authority, notify from time to time. It is envisaged that the principles of depreciation will be evolved and notified, which will be relevant to the financial obligations and structure of the Boards at present, keeping in view their assets as well as liabilities.

Some amendments are also being made in the Sixth Schedule of the Act, which deals with the financial principles to be followed by private licensees. Here it is proposed to amend the provisions relating to depreciation available for private licensees to bring them on par with what is being proposed for the State Electricity Boards. There is also a provision in the Sixth Schedule for licensees to

[Shri P. Ramachandran] have a development reserve. to which can be appropriated each year a sum equal to the amount of income tax and super tax on the amount of development rebate to which a licensee is entitled under the Income-tax Act. With amendments having been made as a result of the Finance Act of 1976 in respect of development rebate, it has become necessary to amend the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to allow the licensees the benefit of the tax rebate they were enjoying earlier before the Finance Act of 1976 was enacted. Therefore, provision is being made for permitting a licensee to appropriate a sum equal to the tax saving on the amount of investment allowance, instead of development rebate which does not exist today under the Income-tax provisions.

It is evident that any resources that are to be raised by the State Electricity Boards will depend on their efficient management, economy of working and on the cost of generating and distributing power. These would all be reflected in the tariff, and a rationalisation of the tariff structure, keeping in view the guidelines for efficient performance as well as financial viability, would become necessary. This question has also been discussed by me with the State Chief Ministers and Power Ministers in a conference early this year.

The financial working of the Central generation companies too would be subject to the same scrutiny and standards as we are proposing for the State Electricity Boards. These companies are gradually building up a generation programme in the Central sector, which will soon reach 10 per cent of the total installed capacity in the country. This is being done with a view to supplement the major effort being made by the States to develop the power programme.

I am confident that, with the amended structure for financial working, the consciousness of the State Electricity

Boards themselves to improve their overall operations and financial performance, and the assistance and co-operation of the State Governments, the power programme that we have set before us will be successfully accomplished during the current Plan period.

While commending this Bill for consideration of the House, I may make a reference to the verbal amendments, of which I have given notice, and naturally they will be taken up at the time of the clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव (सहरसा) :
सभापति महोदया, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि :

"विधेयक पर 1 जुलाई, 1978 तक
राय जानने के लिये उसे
परिचालित किया जाए।" (16)

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Madam Chairman, at long last the hon. Minister for Energy has brought this amendment, which ensures financial viability for the Electricity Boards. The Minister has taken care only to see that they are financially viable. One of the amendments that he has proposed is to get funds from the State Governments.

In this respect I want to suggest to the hon. Minister that he should give subsidies also, because when these electricity boards were commercial organisations, the electricity departments were doing the work of the electricity boards and the income and losses were going to the consolidated funds of the States, and the State Governments were also bearing the losses. Now, after these electricity boards were formed, the State Gov-

ernments are not giving anything to the Boards. Therefore, together with loans, the Central and State Governments should also give subsidies to these Boards. Only then will they be viable financially.

When we give so many crores to these electricity boards, we should see their working also. We find that their expenditure is more and work is less. So, a committee should go into the expenditure side of it and see that economy measures are taken up.

There are so many defects in the construction of thermal stations. In Kothagudem in Andhra Pradesh there have been breakdowns which are called teething troubles. In West Bengal also it is said that they are only teething troubles, but actually we find that every now and then they are breaking down, and we are noticing that there is some defect in design. This must be looked into.

The *Statesman* of 13th January, 1978 says:

"Trouble at Santaldih seems serious. The first unit went out of order more than three weeks ago and the second last Sunday. This is not the first time that such breakdowns have occurred at the plant where failure cannot be ascribed to prolonged wear and tear. There may have been something wrong with the design, construction and machinery of the relatively new power stations."

Even in Kothagudem, many of the experts suspect that there is some defect in the design. Therefore, it must be rectified.

With regard to transmission and distribution losses, these have not been reduced to below 20 per cent. Some of the experts also say that these losses are due to a great extent to thefts and pilferage, because power is taken away without permission. So, is it not better to have metres attached to every industry and to every

transformer in the villages. Then we can find out the energy which is given to and the energy which is taken out of each transformer, whether there is theft of energy by the industry or in the villages. We can identify and locate such thefts and penalise those industrialists or those who are thieving in the villages.

To cover up these defects and faults of the electricity boards, they are devising capacitors to be installed by the agriculturists. Why should it be done? Why should the agriculturists bear its cost, when they are already bearing the cost of installing pump sets and also paying more tariff? Why should not the electricity boards install the capacitors with transformers? Therefore, the electricity boards should invest money for these capacitors instead of forcing the farmers to do that. In Andhra Pradesh, the Electricity Board is charging fines. They are collecting Rs. 5, 10, 15 as fine.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): But Andhra Pradesh is a Congress-run State.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: But these electricity boards are janata boards. They are autonomous bodies.

The Government should also see that under-utilisation of the thermal stations should not be there. Everywhere, especially in the north, these thermal stations are not working properly and there is much wastage. It is stated here that there is a large drop. In Bihar, for example, the installed capacity is 720 MW but suddenly it dropped to 260 MW. I do not know why this drop takes place. In *Business Standard* of 17th January, 1978 it has been mentioned that in West Bengal the drop in supply is not accidental. It is the direct effect of a power struggle of sorts that is going on in the power producing units. Therefore, this under-utilisation is there. The Government should go into this aspect and see that the thermal stations are fully utilised to their capacity.

[Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu]

With regard to rural electrification, it should be subsidised and tariffs must be uniform. They say that for rural electrification, the tariffs are low. But they are not as low as the Government says. In Andhra Pradesh, we are paying not less than Rs. 300 per acre. In Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and other southern States, the tariff is more than Rs. 300. Therefore, the Government should see that the tariffs are reduced. Especially in drought-prone areas, it is becoming very difficult for the farmers to utilise this electricity. They have to bear more costs. Even the Study Group of the Economy Committee in its 4th Report said that rural electrification should be subsidised and the tariff should be reduced. But from the speech of the hon. Member, we apprehend that the tariffs may be raised. Anyhow, the farmers, are not going to agree for the higher tariffs. Especially in the North, the tariff should be reduced. The Government says that there is a loss of Rs. 700 crores in Electricity Boards. It is because of not completing the on-going projects in time. For example, some of the projects which were started ten years ago, have not yet been completed. Srisalem project is one such project. For that, in the initial stages, the money given was not even sufficient for the establishment charges.

With regard to Ramagundam thermal power station, it should be immediately taken up and it should be completed within two or three years. In Neyveli project also, we are interested because in south, specially in Tamil Nadu, there is a power cut. In Karnataka also there is a power cut. Everywhere it is so. Therefore, they have to concentrate on production. They must get money from the World Bank and other international financial agencies.

I am glad that the hon. Minister has brought forward this Bill. But with regard to the interest which they

have to pay to the financial agencies, it must be reduced. The hon. Minister should mediate with the financial agencies and see that the interest which the Electricity Board are paying must also be reduced.

With regard to rural electrification, it must not be on the commercial basis because when we increase production, it increases employment also. The hon. Minister should take it as a socio-economic problem. He must appoint a committee to go into the aspect of tariffs and it should not be more than 8 paise per unit, at any rate.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) :
सभापति महोदय, जो विधेयक सदन के सामने है, मैं उसका समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ और मेरे विचार से इस विधेयक के पारित होने के बाद आज जो देश में स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड्स हैं, जनरेटिंग प्लान्ट्स हैं, उनमें जो बिजली की अव्यवस्था है, वह कुछ मात्रा में ठीक हो जाएगी। इस विधेयक के जरिये से सरकार ने कुछ रेगुलेट करने की कोशिश की है और कुछ सुविधाएँ देने का प्रयास किया है।

एक बात तो यह है कि जो कर्जा मिलता था सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट से या कहीं और से, उस कर्जे के ऊपर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स या जो स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड्स हैं, उनको व्याज देना पड़ता था, अब उसकी जगह वे इक्विटी शेयर्स खरीद सकते हैं और फिर उनको व्याज नहीं देना पड़ेगा। एक तरह से उन पर जो बोझा है, वह कम हो जाएगा। इसके साथ ही यह भी व्यवस्था है कि जो पैसा देगा, चाहे सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट हो या कोई और एजेंसी हो, वह यह देखेगी कि ठीक तरह से काम हो रहा है या नहीं। मुझे यह कहने में संकोच नहीं है कि जहाँ तक इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड का ताल्लुक है या जनरेटिंग प्लान्ट्स का ताल्लुक है, एक तरह से इनमें ल.जैस्ट पब्लिक इन्वेस्टमेंट है।

जितना पब्लिक सेक्टर में इन्वेस्टमेंट होता है, सबसे ज्यादा इन्वेस्टमेंट अगर किसी चीज में है, तो वह इसके अन्दर है और जितनी इनएफिशियन्सी इस चीज के अन्दर है, शायद और कहीं नहीं होगी। मैंने पांच छः स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड्स की वकिंग को देखा है। मैंने देखा है कि वहां पर कितनी ज्यादा करप्शन है। वे करप्शन के डेस हैं। वहां पर निपोटिज्म है, फंवेरेटिज्म है और वहां पर पालीटीकल एपाइन्टमेंट्स होते हैं और जितने इनएफिशियन्ट अफसर हैं, वे सारे उनमें भर दिये जाते हैं और परिणाम यह होता है कि इनएफिशियन्सी और करप्शन के कारण बिजली के रेट्स हर साल बढ़ जाते हैं। जो लास सरकार को होता है यह इसी कारण होता है कि वहां पर करप्शन है और पालीटीकल एपाइन्टमेंट्स वहां पर होते हैं। आप हरियाणा को देख लीजिए, आप दिल्ली को देख लीजिए, हर जगह यही हालत है कि जितना करप्शन यहां पर है उतना शायद और कहीं पर नहीं होगा। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इस विधेयक से शायद कुछ चीज सुधरे। उसके लिए मैं भी मिनिस्टर साहब को कुछ सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ।

एक तो मेरा सुझाव यह है कि जितने भी स्टेट्स के मिनिस्टर हैं, उनकी एक मीटिंग बुलाई जाए और एक एक्सपर्ट की कमेटी बनाई जाए जो जगह-जगह पर जा-जा कर देखें कि कहां पर गड़बड़ है। और गड़बड़ी के बाद कुछ सुझाव दिये हैं कि किस तरह से सेक्टर और स्टेट का कोऑर्डिनेशन होना चाहिए। इस चीज को देखा जाना चाहिये।

समापति महादया, आपको सुनकर आश्चर्य होगा कि हमारी जेनरेटिंग कंपेसिटी का शायद दस, बीस या तीस परसेंट तक ही पावर जेनरेट हो पाती है। हमारे देश में इनस्टाल्ड कंपेसिटी तो बहुत ज्यादा है लेकिन उस कंपेसिटी से जितनी बिजली जेनरेट होनी

चाहिए, उतनी नहीं हो पाती है, उससे बहुत कम पैदा होती है। इसका प्रभाव यह होता है कि हमारी इंडस्ट्रीज बहुत अधिक डेवेलप नहीं हो पा रही हैं। इसकी वजह से हमारा ग्रोथ रेट भी उतना नहीं बढ़ पा रहा है जितना कि बढ़ना चाहिए। बहुत सी इंडस्ट्रीज बिजली न होने की वजह से बंद पड़ी हैं या पूरे समय नहीं चल पाती हैं। हमारी एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोडक्शन में भी बिजली की कमी की वजह से वृद्धि नहीं हो पा रही है।

माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने कुछ दिन पहले दिल्ली के लोगों को विश्वास दिलाया था कि दिल्ली में काफी बिजली है, यहां शेडिंग की जरूरत नहीं होगी। लेकिन जैम ही मंत्री जी ने यह विश्वास दिलाया, उसके दो-तीन दिनों के बाद ही यहां पर शेडिंग हुआ। मुझे नहीं मालूम कि मिनिस्टर साहब के घर में बिजली गयी या नहीं गयी। लेकिन समापति महादया, दिल्ली में मंत्री जी के विश्वास दिलाने के बाद जो हालत हुई वह मैं जानता हूँ। जैसे-जैसे गर्मी आती जायगी, वैसे-वैसे हालत और बिगड़ती जाएगी। मंत्री जी आंकड़े दे कर हमारी तसल्ली नहीं कर सकते हैं।

एक बात मैं जेनरेटिंग प्लांट पर आने वाले खर्च के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। आप जो इन प्लांट्स के लिए अनुमान लगाते हैं कि दो-चार साल में यह कम्प्लीट हो जाएगा और इस पर इतनी लागत आयगी, वह कभी नहीं होता है। मेरे खयाल में पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में आप बता दीजिए कि कहीं भी प्लांट समय पर पूरे हुए हों और जितने पैसे उनमें लगने चाहिए उतने उनमें लगे हों। ये प्लांट चाहे स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के हों, चाहे सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट के हों, हरेक प्लांट में बहुत देर लगती है, उन पर आने वाली लागत भी बहुत बढ़ जाती है।

समापति महादया, मुझे दो-चार दिन कलकत्ते में रहने का मौका मिला। मैं वर्णन

[श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त]

नहीं कर सकता कि वहाँ पर लोग कैसे अपना काम चलाते हैं। आठ-आठ, दस-दस बटे वहाँ पर बिजली गायब रहती है। मुझे पता नहीं इसका क्या कारण है। दस-दस, बारह-बारह मंजिली इमारतों में ऊपर चढ़ना हो तो भगवान के भरोसे पर चढ़ना होता है। उनसे उतरना हो तो मुश्किल, चढ़ना हो तो मुश्किल।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu will tell you when he speaks.

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु : आपका अनुभव बहुत रियलिस्टिक है।

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : मैंने वहाँ जो अनुभव किया, उसका थोड़ा सा चित्र आपके सामने रख रहा हूँ।

सभापति महोदय, बिजली के ट्रांसमिशन में बड़ा लास होता है। यह शायद 23-24 परसेंट होता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि सारे देश में, और सभी राज्य सरकारों को एक एफीशियेंट मशीनरी बनानी चाहिए। यह जो बिजली का लास होता है यह हमारे अधिकारियों की कनाइवेंस से होता है। इस ट्रांसमिशन में करीब चौथाई बिजली का हमारा लास हो जाता है। इसको हम कम कर सकते हैं। इसके लिए हमें प्रयास करना चाहिए। मैं समझता हूँ कि दस या बारह परसेंट से ज्यादा ट्रांसमिशन का लास नहीं होना चाहिए।

अब मैं प्रायरिटी की बात करना चाहता हूँ। आपके पास बिजली कम है। आपको देkhना होगा कि बिजली देने में आप किसको प्रायरिटी दें ?

There is no point in abusing them every time in season and out of season. That Government has gone. Now it is our turn. Let us show our performance. Where is the priority to

the rural people, to the farmers and to small scale industries and cottage industries? Whether this thing has been implemented or not, that is for you to see. I am sorry that, even now, there are many big industrialists in this country who are getting power at a very cheap rate and farmers pay a heavy price for that. This type of disparity should go, at least under the Janata Government, Janata expects you to give a fair deal to the common man. I hope that you will do it.

अभी हमारे करीब 36 प्रतिशत गांवों में बिजली है और 64 परसेंट में नहीं है, दो लाख गांवों में हम दे पाये हैं और करीब तीन साढ़े तीन लाख गांवों में नहीं दे पाये हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि एक फेज्ड प्रोग्राम बनाया जाये ताकि हर साल उस प्रोग्राम के मुताबिक गांवों को बिजली मिल सके। यह तय कर दिया जाए कि इतना जैनरेशन होगा, इतने लोगों को और बिजली मिलेगी। हमें देखना चाहिये कि पांच साल में यह देश अपने पैरों पर खड़ा हो जाए, सैल्फ-सपोर्टिंग हो जाए और किसी तरह की कमी न रह पाए।

मैं मानता हूँ कि लेबर प्राबलम है। उसके लिए भी हमें कोई मशीनरी बनानी चाहिये। कहीं गो स्लो होता है और कहीं कुछ और होता है इसके लिए भी कोई मशीनरी होनी चाहिये।

जहां तक दिल्ली का सम्बन्ध है पहले यहाँ पर भाखड़ा से बिजली मिलती थी और सस्ते दामों में मिलती थी। जब से आप मंत्री बने हैं वह पहले की सारी जो व्यवस्था थी वह खराब हो गई और अब भाखड़ा से कोई बिजली नहीं मिलती है। नतीजा यह है कि बिजली के रेट भी आपको बढ़ाने पड़े हैं। दूध के दाम आप बढ़ायेंगे, बिजली के रेट बढ़ायेंगे, हर चीज

के दाय बढ़ायेंगे तो कैसे काम चलेगा हमसे लोग पूछते हैं कि चालीस परसेंट दूध के दाम बढ़ गये हैं, बिजली के रेट बढ़ गये हैं, आप क्या कर रहे हैं ?

एक माननीय सदस्य : आपको भी हटावेंगे ।

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : मैं ऐसी करता हूँ । मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपकी इतनी कृपा दिल्ली वालों पर क्यों हो रही है । मेरा मान है कि जो बिजली का पहले अरेंजमेंट था वह अब भी चलना चाहिये । दिल्ली में और ज्यादा बिजली और पावर की जरूरत है । उसको आपको पूरा करना चाहिये । जो आपके प्लांट कमीशन होने वाले हैं वे ठीक समय पर हों, जितनी कंपैसिटी चाहिये उतनी ही इसको आप दें ।

इन शर्तों के साथ इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि चार साल अभी आप और दिल्ली में रहने वाले हैं और मंत्री भी आप हैं इस वास्ते दिल्ली में रहने की हीसियत में आप दिल्ली का विशेष ध्यान रखें ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE (Ahmednagar): Madam Chairman, I have very carefully listened to the hon. Minister's speech and I have also looked into the provisions of the Bill which has been brought forward for consideration of this august House. I think, the hon. Minister's speech and even the provisions of the Bill, if I am not misunderstood, I would say, are an exercise in futility, an exercise in self-complacency. There is total lack of understanding of the problems of energy in this country.

As the hon. Minister has mentioned in his speech, the previous Act was enacted in 1948. It is true that

it was an old Act. Meanwhile, a number of technological developments have taken place. Not only that, there is the energy crisis all over the world; particularly the oil crisis has added fuel to the energy crisis. Particularly mismanagement in generation and distribution of electricity has created enormous problems for this country. I am not prepared to blame any Party for this. I do not want to make it a narrow Party issue but what I see is this. After the Janata Party has taken over, as even the previous speaker referred to—it is not because of Party I am going to submit this; they are certain other basic reasons....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: 'Other'.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I am coming to you also.

Gradually, the policy-makers and administration are losing grip over the management of electricity and power in this country. We are going from bad to worse; there is deterioration. Now, the Hon. Minister thinks that after five years there is going to be a bonanza in this country and the country is going to be self-sufficient in energy or power. I wish him all well but I may tell him that this will not be so because we are going to have more difficulties in five years than now. That will happen, irrespective of Party positions. For instance, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu's Party is in power in Bengal and his very valuable colleague—all of us have respect for him—Shri Jyoti Bosu, the Chief Minister of Bengal, himself took charge of the Energy portfolio. He thought he would be in a better position to manage but, just now our valued colleague mentioned what is happening in Calcutta: the electricity position has deteriorated after Shri Jyoti Bosu took over charge of the portfolio. Therefore, I do not think we should look at the problem with complacency. It is too serious a matter to be taken lightly.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Why the present position has come about, I shall explain. Your wonderful performance in the last 29 years....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu, you will have your say afterwards. Kindly resume your seat.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Only recently, a very important Committee, a Parliamentary Committee, has gone into this problem and examined this issue. I am referring to the Estimates Committee. The Estimates Committee has mentioned:

"The Committee would also like to point out that there is not a single State or Union Territory in the country where the supply of power has kept pace with its requirements and what causes more concern is that the shortage is likely to persist for the years to come.

The Committee note that particularly in the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, the gap between the availability and the anticipated requirement at the end of 1978-79 will continue to be very wide. Thus the total power picture that emerges is one that cannot but cause great deal of anxiety".

I wish the Hon. Minister takes note of these observations of this august Committee.

Then, the Minister seems to have analysed the entire policy or the energy problem from the narrow angle of financial management. I do realise that financial management is a very important aspect of the Electricity Board, but it is not the only thing. First of all, you have brought this Bill, after 1948, as you said, for the first time—a comprehensive amendment. In the Preamble, the original Act says that it is an Act to

provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to electrical development.

Now, after 1948, what are the developments that have taken place? First of all nuclear energy has come into being as a very important factor all over the world and geo-thermal energy is also playing an important role. I wish that, on bringing this Bill, the Hon. Minister could have made a broad policy statement as to what is the policy in regard to energy, what is the policy in regard to fuel, what is the policy in regard to coordination of all these four branches of energy etc. In this Bill itself there should have been a much more comprehensive amendment. A wider comprehensive amendment should have been brought in to regulate all the sources of energy and also to effectively coordinate them. Unfortunately, this has not been done. I wish, in this country, the Energy Minister is put in effective over-all charge. There may be different Departments and all that but, as far as energy sources are concerned—whether nuclear energy or other branches of energy—the Energy Minister should be put effectively in charge of all the branches of energy so that he will be in a position to rationalise and bring about a proper management of the energy resources of this country.

Now, I referred to this aspect of the problem, that the narrow view or angle from which the Hon. Minister has looked at the problem of energy is financial management. For instance, he expects more returns from the Electricity Boards. The entire understanding of the Planning Commission, of the Ministry and himself seems to be entirely wrong. In this country all of us know what are the energy losses and who is responsible for this. In this country the electricity losses or transmission losses are anything between 18 per cent and

25 per cent while in the world it is between 5 per cent and 12 per cent. Now the entire approach of the Government—whether it is the previous Government or this Government—and the Planning Commission is that people—whether they are industrial consumers or agricultural consumers—should also be taxed for the losses caused by the mis-management of the Electricity Boards, that the farmer should be penalised for this or that the small industrialist should be penalised for this. I fail to understand this theory. While bringing forward this Bill, the hon. Minister should have enunciated in the Bill and should have fixed the normal transmission losses, say, upto 12—14 per cent and said that beyond that the responsibility would be that of the Electricity Boards or the officers who manage the Electricity Board. The responsibility should not be shifted on to the agriculturists or the industrialists. Now, you want to ensure a return of 10 per cent; I have no objection to that, but you want to condone or overlook the mismanagement aspect of it and want to condone the inefficiency on the part of the Electricity Boards or the officers concerned and want to penalise the ordinary consumer for this. In fact, the farmers have a particular grievance in this respect. I have discussed with a number of theoreticians and others in this country as to why they are charging the higher rate from the farmers. They say that the farmers are in the remote villages and the transmission losses are more in the rural areas, and, therefore, they must pay more. This is a very wrong theory to discriminate against them, because they stay away from the cities. We do not do it in the case of other items. Take, for example, food. We do not distribute food cheaper in the villages; we distribute it at the same price everywhere in the country. We do not want to discriminate between consumer and consumer. The argument which the Planning Commission has been advancing perennially that as the transmission losses in the rural

areas are more, they have to charge more, is wrong and must go. Everybody will flock to the cities and nobody will be prepared to live in the villages.

Electricity plays a very important role today in the life of a farmer. There is so much mismanagement in the distribution policy. I have known cases in this country where farmers have raised loans from the agencies which give long-term loans to the farmers; even the instalment of repayment becomes due and the recovery starts, but the pumping sets which the farmers have purchased with the loan are not given connections; they are not yet energised. This is all because of mismanagement; but nobody bothers about this. Not only this. Due to fluctuation in the electricity supply, the electric motors get burnt; the farmer is put to a loss, but there is nobody to hear his complaint. It is not because of the fault of the farmer that his electric motor gets burnt; it is because of the Electricity Boards; it is their responsibility. But, for no fault of his, the farmer is saddled with this loss. The Minister is entirely complacent in his approach in respect of generation, distribution etc. of the electricity. As I said, you must prescribe that transmission losses beyond 12 or 14 per cent will have to be borne by the Electricity Boards or the officers who are incharge or the Corporate bodies concerned. Then alone, it would be possible for you to have moral justification to ask for higher rates of electricity from the farmers and a moral right to have 10 per cent return.

The planning of electricity in this country has to be done keeping in view the fact that we are one of the countries in the world where the consumption of electricity per head is the lowest because of our backwardness. We want the country to be a modern and we want to develop industry and agriculture. But this would not be possible unless all the

[Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde]

energy resources in this country are utilised properly. Unfortunately, the survey of hydro resources was last carried out in 1950s. For instance, the entire Himalayas can produce three or four times or even ten times more electricity, but only 30 per cent of it is surveyed and harnessed and the rest of it has not been surveyed even. I wish comprehensive surveys should be carried out for this purpose. Fortunately, we have the Himalayas and Sahyadri, Vindhya and a number of other mountains in the South. All these favourable physical features must be used for the generation of electricity. Specially after the oil crisis, the position in regard to the generation of electricity has changed. I wish, the hon. Minister to attend to it, so that he will get moral support for such Bills.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Now the country is facing one of the worst crisis as far as power supply is concerned and as a result, industry, agriculture, life and living has come to more or less a stand-still. The amount that we are losing due to lack of supply of energy is something which one cannot calculate accurately.

I am very sorry for this power crisis that we are facing today. I have to blame Mr. Shinde's Party. . . . (Interruptions) They are wholly and solely responsible for this. . . . (Interruptions) I will give you enough supporting material. I would say, that the hon. Minister would have done it better if he had brought a comprehensive Bill. These piecemeal Bills are no solution to this problem. Only theorising that the State Electricity Boards should be run commercially. . . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:

You please come out of the party angle.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only if you give him more time.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Only pious wishes that the State Electricity Boards should be run commercially cannot make them run commercially. It cannot be done that way.

What did the erstwhile government do? In the Fourth Plan the target for additional installed capacity was 9.26 million kw. Am I right or not? But what was the actual addition? It was 4.16 million kilowatts—less than half of the target. In spite of that they have no responsibility. You cannot blame them. If you blame them, Mr. Shinde will come with hammer and tongs and hit you on the head.

What are the reasons why the condition is so bad to-day? It is a man-made thing. The entire responsibility goes to the erstwhile government. I cannot blame the present Minister because he has taken over only a year ago. What are the reasons? One is lack of cost control. (2) Payment of marked up prices and indiscriminate thieving. If you have seen that special audit report submitted by the Comptroller & Auditor General on the Haryana State Electricity Board, you would be horrified to see the quantum of thieving. The third reason was inadequate investigation. The fourth was deficiencies in project report preparations and also a lot of lapses, procrastination and all these things. Fifth is delay in getting plant and equipment and organizational and managerial deficiencies.

The Estimates Committee in its very recent report has clearly stated:

"The Committee need hardly point out that with greater care in planning, greater determination to implement the schemes and necessary coordination with concerned authorities these difficulties could have been easily overcome."

This is the observation of the Estimates Committee where your Party representatives are also there. It is a unanimous report. There is no note of dissent. This is the reason why we have landed difficulties.

In the first two years of the Fifth Plan the addition was only 3.52 million kilowatts. In the third year, i.e., 1976-77 which was the year of discipline and emergency, what was the actual performance? 2 million kilowatts was the announced target. What did they achieve? 0.64 million kilowatts. Mr. Minister if I am right.

Now, there is the illegal shedding. The electricity Act clearly provides that if you go in for load shedding you must announce to the customer in advance and acquaint him with the facts that during such and such periods there will be load shedding. If you do not do it, it is a contractual lapse and you are liable to pay compensation for the same. It should be extensively announced. Now the present Energy Minister stated that the target for addition in power generation in the Fifth Plan is 12 000 MW. Am I right, Mr. Ramachandran? Is it also a fact that the Power Engineers' Federation have disputed the figure and they have put forward that it should be 8000 MW. The Sixth Plan target is 21,000 MW.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN:
18,500 MW.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I stand corrected. Has it been disputed by the same Power Engineers Federation that it cannot exceed 14,000 MW?

15.00 hrs.

This is the position and the condition of thermal power stations in this country because of the reasons that I have already narrated are fast deteriorating. The Central Water Power Commission and the erstwhile Government cannot be absolved. They have to shoulder the blame. This is not a doing of one day, one month or one year. It has been done over the last 30 years.

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): Why do you not be honest?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The Prime Minister recently reportedly acknowledged that in State Electricity Board there is a terrific corruption, nepotism and inefficiency. In West Bengal, Youth Congress recruited 12,000 persons who have not seen a spanner or hammer. They do not know how to read and write. They were all pushed to Electricity Board, as a result the State Electricity Board cannot function. What sort of neglect!

I come to actual dates of over-hauling of the Turbo Generators of the major power stations in West Bengal.

Power Station	Unit	Due in	Done during
1. Bandel	I	May, 1975	Not done till certain date.
	II	Jan., 1974	Not done till Jan., 76
	III	May, 1972	Not done till 5-4-1975.
	IV	Jan., 1975	Not done till certain date.

They had Congress Government there That is how they functioned.

Power Station	Unit	Due in	Done during
Santalidih	I	Jan., 1975	Not done upto the date of publication of this report (September, 1975).
Jaldhaka	I	March, 1968	Was due between 23rd November, 1971 to 2nd March, 1972. If I am right, it was not done.
	II	June, 1968	

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can get on with your point and send the details to the Minister.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: How the generating stations have been ruined and destroyed, please look at the performance!

Year	Percentage of net generation by the Board to installed capacity
1970-71	38.04
1971-72	38.0
1972-73	41.8
1973-74	38.4
1974-75	36.6

That is the performance. You buy the machines. You take a cut as has been done in the case of each and every purchase—substantial pur-

chase from abroad and you get a sub-standard thing. You do not maintain it. This is the situation that you face to-day. Let us not try and think, that it has come from heaven, that this power crisis is creation of somebody upstairs, that is not going to cut any ice.

We would like to know what is the latest correct position regarding the gas turbines? This is a very important thing. This is agitating our mind. This is the reason lot....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bosu, will you continue with your speech and do not have dialogues here and there! That takes up the time of the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I would give one example.

Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation—according to the Industrial Policy Resolution, the power generation should be in public sector and I think this is the one, of this size.

where we have a British control, a foreign controlled company, controlling a vital core sector—i.e., power generation.

It is in fact an unabated loot, which is going on like this, while we suffer. There is lot of corruption. Some industrialists have been bringing them in order to have lesser power-cut. You have the Duncan Brothers and Rama Goenka and their jute mills seldom have the power-cuts. Others smaller jute mills have been having the power-cuts. All these things are happening. This is what happened in the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Limited with which a former Finance Minister, Mr. Sachin Chaudhury, was connected. They always pick up such persons. They always catch up such persons who could come to Delhi and do the lobbying work. Delhi is a place for contact men, to do lobbying. So the Finance Minister was hooked. When the Finance Minister retired his brother-in-law was hooked. Here they generate only 45 per cent of what they sell. Dr. K. L. Rao once told me this, that there is a very powerful lobby in Energy Ministry, I tell you Madam. Mr. Vishwanathan comes very frequently—almost a weekly passenger coming to and fro and discussing problems all the time, what sort of problems, we don't know! Dr. K. L. Rao once told me that generation is the difficult part of the business, distribution is not. I hope the Energy Minister will agree with me. I do not know why a foreign corporation should be allowed to come and trade with power that this public sector is generating. 55 per cent of the power is coming from the DVC and other sources and they are making an enormous profit on the same. There is a lot of cheating in the Billing System today. They are using machines. Every day you find hundreds and hundreds of complaints.

There is also another funny thing which is happening. I have written to

the hon. Minister. But it seems sometimes he has become a Jain Dharm-wallah—he believes in non-interference!

This foreign company is having a consumer deposit of Rs. 6 crores. They have this amount of Rs. 6 crores of consumer deposit, which is more or less an unsecured loan. They would have been required to pay 15 per cent and provide a security for it. But here they are having it almost free. They pay only 4 per cent for a certain amount and below that nothing. As a result—I have calculated it—they are cheating the commonman, whose interest they are supposed to protect—to the tune of Rs. 75 lakhs every year. This is what is happening here. Is it fair?

I am suggesting, Mr. Ramachandran, kindly look into it. Let the consumer make a deposit in a nationalised bank and let the fixed deposit script be endorsed in the name of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation so that the interest of the script may come to the consumer and the security money may remain with the company. Let that be done. And I suggest that if you really want to solve the power crisis, you should bring in a more comprehensive Bill and not piecemeal Bills like this and take the matter more seriously. Otherwise we are in for much bigger trouble.

डा० रामजी सिंह (भागलपुर) :

माननीय सभापति महोदय, लेनिन ने एक बार पूछा था था, आपको सुनने में कुछ रुचि होगी, कि साम्यवाद को परिभाषा दीजिये । तो लेनिन ने कहा था :

Communism is Soviet plus Electricity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Electrification.

डा० रामजी सिंह : हमारे माननीय कामत साहब ने 1948 में इस इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बिल के सम्बन्ध में यह बात कही थी। कामत साहब ने यह भी बताया था कि जो बात लेनिन ने रूस के सम्बन्ध में कही थी गांधी जी ने भी उसके विपरीत बात नहीं कही थी। लोगों के बीच में यह भ्रांति है कि गांधी जी बिजली या यंत्र के खिलाफ थे। गांधी जी बराबर कहा करते थे

I do not hate machinery but the craze for machinery. Charkha is itself an exquisite piece of machinery.

तो गांधी जी से जो कामत साहब बात कर रहे थे तो गांधी जी ने कहा था कि पददलित, लोलियस्ट और लोअस्ट, पीड़ित और गरीब के झोंपड़े में अगर बिजली जा सकेगी तो मैं बिजली का विरोध नहीं करूंगा लेकिन यदि इसको समृद्ध और वैभवशाली व्यक्ति अपनी समृद्धि में वृद्धि करने के लिए इस्तेमाल करते हैं तो मैं इसका विरोध करूंगा। मैं मानता हूँ कि बिजली के मंत्री महोदय के ऊपर यह दायित्व है कि बिजली शहरों से हटा करके झोंपड़ियों में पहुँचायें। अभी हमारे माननीय शिन्दे साहब ने बहुत से रचनात्मक मुझाव उपस्थित किये और मुझे आशा है कि उन मुझावों का ध्यान में रखा जाएगा। मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि जनता सरकार बिजली को गांवों में पहुँचाने के महत्व को समझती है। आपने देखा कि छोटी योजना के प्रारूप में जनता सरकार ने इसके लिए किन्ना प्रावधान किया है। शिन्दे साहब की सरकार के समय में 1974 से 1979 के लिए पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में एनर्जी या बिजली के लिए 10,219 करोड़ रुपया रखा गया था जो कि समूचे प्लान का 26.2 परसेंट था। हमारी छोटी योजना में इसके लिए 20,800 करोड़ रुपया रखा गया

है जो कि पिछली राशि से 102 परसेंट अधिक है। बिजली के महत्व को समझने का इससे अधिक प्रमाण जनता सरकार को कोई और नहीं हो सकता है।

सभापति महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह जो बिल लाया गया है, मुझे लगता है कि यह बहुत बड़ी सद् इच्छा से लाया गया है लेकिन इसे बहुत जल्दबाजी में लाया गया है। यह बिल 1910 में सेन्ट्रल इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बिल था। उसके बाद 1946 में इस पर विचार किया गया और फिर जनमत जानने के लिए इसको पचारित किया गया। फिर 1947 में इसे लाया गया। 1948 में इस बिल पर काफी बहस हुई लेकिन उस समय शिमला में जब एक विचार गोष्ठी बुलाई गयी और उसने अपनी अनुशंकाओं की तो उन अनुशंकाओं को बिल में समाविष्ट नहीं किया गया अब जब कि हम ऊर्जा को एक नयी दिशा दे रहे हैं और ऊर्जा के लिए हम इतना खर्च कर रहे हैं और जैसा कि हमारे सम्मानित ज्योतिर्मय बसु ने कहा, अब जो ऊर्जा के लिए नये नये आयाम खुल रहे हैं, उस समय केवल बिजली का ही प्रश्न हमारे सामने नहीं है। अब एटोमिक एनर्जी की तरफ भी हमें आगे बढ़ना होगा। अभी श्री पानखीवाला ने कहा है कि भारत की सरकार शान्तिमय कार्यों के लिए भी अणु विस्फोट नहीं करेगी। जब हम वचनबद्ध हैं कि केवल शान्तिपूर्ण कार्यों के लिए ही हम अणुशक्ति का उपयोग करेंगे तो यह आवश्यक है कि एक नये मंत्रालय का गठन हो जिसमें सोलर एनर्जी, एटोमिक एनर्जी और इलेक्ट्रिक एनर्जी तीनों का समावेश हो। ये तीनों एक ही विभाग में रहने चाहिए। इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि हम इसको करें। नहीं तो जो बिजली

का अभाव है उससे हम त्राण नहीं पा सकेंगे । अभी मैं जमशेदपुर में तीन दिन पहले था । वहाँ का आदिन्यपुर कम्प्लेक्स सुबह दस बजे से लेकर शाम छः बजे तक एक मिनट भी नहीं चल रहा था । वहाँ के लोगों ने कहा कि वहाँ बिजली का संकट है । इसीलिए सञ्जापति महोदयों में केवल दो बातें मंत्री महोदय के समक्ष रखूंगा । एक तो यह है कि 1948 के बिल में हमारे जो मंत्री थे, उस समय एनर्जी डिपार्टमेंट तो नहीं था, माइनिंग डिपार्टमेंट था, उसके मंत्री जी ने नेशनल ग्रिड सिस्टम को अस्वीकार किया था । वह बहुत आवश्यक है । हम देखते हैं कि आज जो सुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेज्स बन रहे हैं, एक तरफ डी० बी० सी० बिहार को 33 परसेंट बिजली देता है और वेस्ट बंगाल को 66 परसेंट देता है, उसी प्रकार से अभी उड़ीसा में जो तूफान आया, उससे भी वहाँ बिजली का संकट आया और इसके कारण से बिहार में बिजली नहीं आयी । इसलिए इस तरह की जो योजनाएं केवल एक प्रदेश में ही नहीं, अनेक प्रदेशों में चल रही हैं, उनको नेशनल ग्रिड सिस्टम में लाया जाए और राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर उन पर नियंत्रण स्थापित हो, उनका प्रबंध संचालन हो । इनका प्रबंध एक संस्थान के अन्तर्गत होना चाहिए । यह आवश्यक है ।

एक बात में यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो चार-पांच अमेंडमेंट लाये गये हैं, अच्छा यह होगा कि उनके साथ इस बिल को पास कराने के बदले इस बिल को सेलेक्ट कमेटी में भेज दीजिए । और भी कम्प्रोमिसेबल जजिस्लेशन के लिए जो सुझाव आपके सामने आया है उसका भी आपको समावेश करना चाहिये, उसको भी आपको मान लेना चाहिये । बिजली के मामले में ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों के बीच जो विभेद किया जाता है वह बहुत खराब है । ग्रामवासियों को ज्यादा कीमत पर बिजली दी जाती है और शहर

वासियों को कम कीमत पर दी जाती है । पूंजीपतियों को कम कीमत पर और सामान्य नागरिकों को अधिक कीमत पर जो बिजली दी जा रही है इस पर भी आपको विचार करना चाहिये । अपनी एमेंडमेंट्स में आपको इसका भी समावेश करना चाहिये ।

1948 में संतानाम साहब ने इसके सम्बन्ध में बात कही थी । उस समय जब बिजली के बारे में चर्चा हो रही थी तो नेशनलाइजेशन की बात भी कही गई है । इसके बारे में भी सरकार को जल्दी निर्णय लेना चाहिये । बिजली की-इंडस्ट्री में आती है । बिजली पर उद्योग, कृषि आदि सब चीजें निर्भर करती हैं, उनकी उन्नति निर्भर करती है, सभ्यता और संस्कृति की कुंजी विद्युत से चालित यंत्रों में है । इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि सरकार संकल्प ले, निर्णय ले और बिजली की इंडस्ट्री का राष्ट्रीयकरण करे ।

श्री दुर्गा चन्द : (कांगड़ा) : इस एमेंडमन्ट बिल की 24 क्लॉजिज हैं । इनके अलावा 15 और एमेंडमेंट्स सरकार की ओर से पेश की गई हैं । अगर आपका मकसद यह है कि स्टेट्स में जो इलक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड हैं, उनको स्ट्रेंथन करना है, उनको वायबल बनाना है और यह सोच कर आप चले हैं तो मैं समझता हूँ कि एक कम्प्रोमिसेबल बिल आपको लाना चाहिये था और इसके लिए आप थोड़ा और इंतजार कर लें तो भी कोई हर्ज की बात नहीं थी । इस में कई बालें नहीं आई हैं जो आनी चाहिये थीं । शुरू में आपने यह लिखा है :

"In order to ensure that electricity boards are able to function on sound commercial principles...."

जिन स्टेट्स में कर्माशयल अंडरटेकिंग है, फेक्ट्रीज हैं वहाँ पर इलक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड है तो

[श्री दुर्गा चन्द]

वे तो बायबल हैं लेकिन जहाँ वे बायबल नहीं है, बल्कि घाटे में जा रहे हैं उनको भी आपको देखना चाहिये। अगर आपका इरादा है कि बैकवर्ड एरियाज या हिल्ली एरियाज को डिब्लेप करना है तो उस के लिए आपको कुछ और भी करना पड़ेगा। ऐसा करने के लिए जो सोशल आबलोगेशन है या जो सोशल वर्डन है उसको बरदाश्त करने के लिए जब तक आप तैयार नहीं होंगे तब तक यहाँ इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन का काम नहीं हो सकेगा। इस में ऐसा प्राविजन होना चाहिये या जिससे बैकवर्ड एरियाज के लिए, हिल्ली एरियाज के लिए, ट्राइबल एरियाज के लिए बिजली का प्रबन्ध हो सके और वहाँ इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन के लिए जो स्कीम्ज हैं वे अगर घाटे की स्कीम्ज हैं तो उस घाटे को आप सबसिटाइज करें या उनको इस काम के लिए आउट इन एड दें। अगर आप वहाँ पर उन बोर्डज को ही इस घाटे को बरदाश्त करने के लिए कहेंगे तो वे ऐसा नहीं कर सकेंगे। वहाँ पहले से ही मिसमैनेजमेंट चल रहा है, वे पहले से ही सफेद हाथी के तौर पर काम कर रहे हैं। हमारे यहाँ हिमाचल प्रदेश में कई छोटे-छोटे प्रोजेक्ट चल रहे हैं।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे हिमाचल प्रदेश में ट्राइबल प्रोजेक्ट्स अगर हाथ में लिये गये तो यह नहीं देखा गया कि वहाँ बिजली आमानी में तैयार हो सकेगी कि नहीं, कितना सर्वो ह्यूआ है, फीजेबिल भी है कि नहीं बल्कि यह कंसीडरेशन रहा कि किसी मिनिस्टर का घर वहाँ है कि नहीं। अगर है तो प्रोजेक्ट सेंकशन कर दिया गया। बिजली वहाँ पैदा हो सकेगी कि नहीं यह नहीं देखा जाता। प्रोजेक्ट को मंजूर कर लो। जैसे गरीबाटा प्रोजेक्ट है। उसका जो ओरिजिनल ऐस्टीमेट 11 करोड़ रुपये था वह बढ़कर 60 करोड़ तक चला गया। अब इसका बर्डन अगर स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी

बोर्ड पर पड़ेगा तो कैसे उसको कम कर सकेंगे। इसी तरह से गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया की तरफ से हमारे प्रदेश में स्कीमें चल रही हैं, जैसे कि बरासोल की। मैं मंत्री महोदय को मुबारकबाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने हाइडल पावर जैनरेशन कोपॉरेशन के अधीन उसको ले लिया है। लेकिन 10 साल हो गये, कोई पता नहीं था कि उसकी टनल पूरी हो गई है कि नहीं, वहाँ जैनरेशन कब शुरू होगी, ट्रांसमिशन कब चलेगा, इसका कुछ पता नहीं। मुझे उम्मीद है कि हाइडल कोरपोरेशन के अन्दर आने के बाद अब कुछ उसका काम चलेगा। लेकिन वहाँ करोड़ों रुपये के घपले हुए हैं। ऐसी स्कीमें चलाने से क्या फायदा। बिजली हमें अभी चाहिये, कारखाने बिजली के अभाव में बन्द पड़े हैं, 40 परसेंट कट लग रहे हैं जिसकी वजह से नेशनल प्रोड्यूस कम हो रही है। तो इसको अगर हमें पूरा करना है तो मेरा मुझाव है कि, जैसा गुता जी ने मुझाव दिया था, एक हाई पावर कमेटी बनाये और वह परमानेंट कमेटी हो जहाँ भी जेनरेशन का काम हो रहा है और आपका प्रोजेक्ट चल रहा है उन पर बाकायदा तरीके से सुपरवीजन होता रहे और काम टाइम बाउन्ड होना चाहिये। अगर प्रोजेक्ट सेंकशन किया है तो ऐस्टीमेट रिवाइज हो सकते हैं, 10 से 15 करोड़ तक रिवाइज हो सकते हैं। लेकिन यह नहीं हो सकता है कि 10 करोड़ की जगह पर 100 करोड़ रुपये के रिवाइज्ड ऐस्टीमेट हो जायें, या तीन साल की जगह 13 साल का समय लग जाय। इस प्रकार कैसे बिजली पैदा हो सकेगी?

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि रूरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन के लिये एक कोरपोरेशन है जो कि गांवों में बिजली लगाने के लिये पैसा देता है लेकिन जस्टीफिकेशन मांगते हैं। लेकिन हमारे यहाँ पहाड़ों में गांवों में बिजली ले जाना उतना आसान नहीं है जितना कि मैदानी इलाकों में है। उसका कारण यह है कि

पहाड़ों पर ट्रांसमिशन लाइनें लम्बी होती हैं और बिजली ले जाना मुश्किल होता है। इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि आप जनरल रेवेन्यू से यहां बोर्ड को सब्सिडाइज़ करें तब जा कर बिजली जा सकेगी। इस तरह का इसमें प्रोबीजन होना चाहिये। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस बिल को फिर से रीट्राप्ट किया जाय और अच्छी शकल में लाने की कोशिश की जाय।

मैं इतना ही कह कर आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Madam Chairman, I am very grateful to you for the time given to me to participate in this debate. The points already raised have been many and I would not like to take the valuable time of the House in repeating the difficulties faced by the country due to shortage of supply of electricity and different factors of distribution and generation. Madam, I represent the State which does not have an Electricity Board. Therefore, I wish that the States which have got their own Electricity Boards should have their own good mechanism to generate distribute and manage things in a most proper way. Our specific concern is for those States and areas where there are no State Electricity Boards. In the North-Eastern areas, the North-Eastern Council looks after the interests of a number of small States, particularly, my own State of Manipur. In our State Electricity does not mean actual electricity but the electric supply connection taken by a house is itself a prestige symbol in matrimonial alliances. The parties will see whether a particular house where a particular family is living has got electric supply connection or not. Whether it actually consumes the electricity is not a matter of importance because the supply is so poor, but they will see whether the house has got an electric bulb hanging from the ceiling

in each room. That shows the position of the shortage of electric supply in our State.

The Loktak project is the only hope for the Northeastern region, particularly Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. It has been held up due to certain explosion and mechanical difficulties. This project was to be commissioned in 1976 at least the first phase of it. One does not know when this is going to be inaugurated, whether it is at all going to be inaugurated. I want to draw his special attention to the difficulties faced by the backward areas, particularly the hill areas where there is no state electricity board, where there is no hydro project which could provide at least 25 per cent of power requirements. What we do in those places is that we instal certain diesel sets. Most of the diesel sets come from other areas and they are sets which had already been utilised and condemned in some cases. Even if they are in good condition in the process of transportation some mechanical or other defects develop and after working for one or two years the sets stop giving any service at all. As days go by, suffering increases and one does not know when the region will be free from acute shortage of power. Essential industries, even small scale industries, domestic consumers, or important institutions like hospitals, schools and colleges and training centres cannot be supplied with sufficient power. While thinking of the national scene we have to think of outlying areas where difficulties are increasing day by day. Apart from Loktak, there is no planning or identification of feasible projects to generate power to meet future requirements and if we leave the situation as it is it will lead to such a situation when the entire north eastern region minus a part of Assam and Meghalaya will be left out of the total national scene. In the national picture itself electricity and power are not in a happy position. But compared even to that, the north-

[Shri N. Tombi Singh]

eastern area particularly Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland will form a pocket of difficulty and special arrangements will have to be thought of to meet those requirements. In his reply I would request the hon. Minister to clarify the position. When is the Loktak project going to be commissioned, at least the first phase of it? After the explosion in 1975, no progress had been made. But money is being spent every day in routine administration. The Chief Engineers are coming and going and they are bringing labour from outside and spending money like anything on labour without any tangible result. We would like to get a specific assurance from the hon. Energy Minister about the future of Loktak project. What is the revised time schedule? We want a commitment from the hon. Minister that Manipur will get special assistance for the purchase of diesel sets till the Loktak project is completed and the requirements of power met from its output.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक (खजूराहो) : सभापति महोदया, अभी जो ऊर्जा मंत्री ने विद्युत् प्रदाय (संशोधन) विधेयक, प्रस्तुत किया है मैं उसका समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हूँ। यह बात सत्य है कि अगर हमें कृषि का उत्पादन बढ़ाना है तो सिंचाई के लिए विद्युत् का ज्यादा उपयोग होना जरूरी है। मैं अभी एक किताब पढ़ रहा था जिसमें विद्युत् का विवरण है। मध्य प्रदेश ऐसा प्रदेश है जो क्षेत्र में सब से बड़ा है और जहाँ पर कि काफी नदियाँ हैं लेकिन वहाँ जो बिजली का उत्पादन होता है वह केवल कोयले के द्वारा ही होता है। कई बांध बंधे लेकिन बांधों द्वारा यानी जल से विद्युत् का उत्पादन वहाँ नाम मात्र को भी नहीं है। मैं माननीय ऊर्जा मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूँगा कि वह मध्य प्रदेश शासन को लिखें कि जो अब बांध बनने वाले हैं उन बांधों से बिजली

का भी उत्पादन हो ताकि इसमें सहायता मिल सके।

अभी जो बिजली उद्योगों के लिए दी जाती है उसकी बहुत सस्ती दर है लेकिन क्या कारण है कि सिंचाई के लिए बिजली की दर ज्यादा है? अन्न की पैदावार बढ़ाना बहुत ही जरूरी है। मैं ऊर्जा मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूँगा कि अब आगे जो वह संशोधन लायें उसके द्वारा या विशेष आदेश द्वारा ऐसा प्रबन्ध करें जिसमें सिंचाई के लिए बिजली की दर बहुत ही कम हो ताकि किसान को ज्यादा खर्चा न करना पड़े और अन्न के उत्पादन में ज्यादा से ज्यादा उसको सहायता मिल सके

यह विद्युत् का काम बहुत ही तकनीकी काम है और किसान बहुत ही साधारण होता है। आप देखें उसको कितनी परेशानी होती है। उसको बेवकूफ भी बनाया जाता है और उससे ज्यादा पैसा भी वसूल किया जाता है। तो हम यह चाहेंगे कि जो कर्मचारी हैं वे केवल इस दृष्टि से नहीं चलें कि क्योंकि हम शासकीय कर्मचारी हैं और किसान नामसझ है तो उससे हम जैसा चाहे वैसा बर्ताव करें वल्कि उनका व्यवहार किसानों के साथ बहुत ही अच्छा होना चाहिए तभी उन्हें राहत मिल सकती है। वे यह न समझें कि हम शासकीय नौकर हैं तो हम उनके साथ चाहे जैसा व्यवहार करें। अगर किसानों के साथ अच्छा बर्ताव वे करेंगे तो किसानों को बड़ी सहायता मिलेगी। इसके अलावा कुछ उनकी ट्रेनिंग भी किसानों को दी जानी चाहिए ताकि बिजली का मोटर अगर खराब हो जाय या और कोई कठिनाई आ जाय तो वे उसको ठीक कर सकें। कई बार मोटरें जल जाती हैं। कितनी ही बार किसानों ने शिकायतें की कि उनकी दो-दो तीन-तीन मोटरें जल गईं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: This point has already been covered by other Members. I would request you not to

repeat the same because of lack of time.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक : इसलिए मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि उनको कुछ इसकी ट्रनिंग द ताकि बिजली के काम को व ठीक तरह से देख सकें और खराबी होने पर उसको सुधार सकें जिसमें कि उनको ज्यादा नुकसान न हो।

आज लकड़ी की बहुत ही कमी है, इसलिए चाहे शमशान भूमि हो या और दूसरी जगह हो बिजली का ही ज्यादा से ज्यादा उपयोग होना चाहिए ताकि हमारे वनों की रक्षा भी हो सके। ज्यादा से ज्यादा विद्युत से काम लेकर हम लकड़ी को बचा सकते हैं। इसी तरह रोशनी करने के लिए तेल या अन्य साधनों को इस्तेमाल करते हैं तो उसमें ज्यादा पैसा खर्चा होता है, बिजली से कम खर्च में रोशनी हो सकती है इसलिए हमें गांवों में बिजली ज्यादा से ज्यादा ले जानी चाहिए ताकि गांवों के गरीब आदमी भी उसका फायदा उठा सकें और उसका उपयोग कर के कम पैसे में अपना काम चला सकें। इसलिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा गरीबों की झोपड़ियों तक बिजली पहुंच सके इसका भी प्रयास होना चाहिए।

एक बात और है। हमारे शासन द्वारा भेदभाव किया जाता है जो पैसे वाले हैं, साधन सम्पन्न हैं उनका काम जल्दी हो जाता है और किसान अगर चाहे कि उसके पर्सिंग सेट के लिए बिजली मिले तो कई तरह की अड़चनें बता दी जाती हैं। इसको भी देखना चाहिए और बिजली का सारा काम ठीक हो रहा है या नहीं इसकी देखरेख होनी चाहिए। स्कीमें बना दी जाती हैं लेकिन उनकी देख-रेख अगर हो तो किसानों को और दूसरे भाइयों को उससे सहायता मिल सकती है।

अंत में मैं केवल यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि बिजली की दरें कम हों और सिचाई में

बिजली का उपयोग अधिक से अधिक हो ताकि अन्न के उत्पादन में सहायता मिल सके।

एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो कुटीर उद्योग और छोटे उद्योग हैं उनको बिजली मिल सके इसका प्रबंध होना चाहिए ताकि गांवों की जो बेकारी है वह दूर हो सके जिसके लिए कि उद्योग मंत्री जी ने घोषणा की है कि हम अधिक से अधिक कल कारखाने और उद्योग देहातों में ले जायेंगे। तो बिजली भी वहां पहुंचे ताकि उसमें उनको सहायता मिल सके। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस संशोधन विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री हुकम देव नारायण यादव (मधुबनी) : सभापति जी, काफी बातें कही जा चुकी हैं लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूंगा कि बिजली के क्षेत्र में जो क्षेत्रीय विषमता है उसको भी दूर करने की प्राथम्यता है। हमारे बिहार में सबसे कम बिजली का उत्पादन हो रहा है और अभी अखबार में जैसा हमने पढ़ा है, बिजली के उत्पादन में कमी हो जाने के कारण बिहार में काफी बवाल मच गया है, सारे कारोबार बन्द हो रहे हैं। बिजली की कमी का कारण यह है कि बिहार में सात सौ मेगावाट बिजली की उत्पादन क्षमता है लेकिन उसमें से केवल ढाई सौ मेगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन हो रहा है। इसीलिए बिजली की कमी हो रही है। इसके अलावा जो ढाई सौ मेगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन हो रहा है उसमें भी कभी बरोती का प्लान्ट बन्द हो जाता है तो कभी दूसरी जगह बन्द हो जाता है जिसके कारण बड़ी गड़बड़ी हो जाती है।

बिजली की कमी का एक कारण यह भी है कि शहरों में छोटे-छोटे पावर हाउसों के जरिए से बिजली पैदा करके हां पर बिजली की आपूर्ति की जाती थी लेकिन उन छोटे छोटे पावर हाउसों को भी बन्द कर दिया गया और उनकी जगह पर बड़े पावर हाउस बिठाये गए जिनसे उन शहरों में बिजली की आपूर्ति

[श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक]

होने लगी। छोटे पावर हाउस जितनी बिजली की आपूर्ति करते थे, वह तो बन्द कर दिये गये लेकिन बड़े पावर हाउस उतनी आपूर्ति कर नहीं पाते हैं इसलिए भी बिजली की कमी हो गई। इसलिए छोटे पावर हाउसेज को अग्रर चालू कर दिया जाये जब तक कि बड़े पावर हाउस नहीं बिठाये जा सकते हैं, तब तक के लिए भी अग्रर उनको चालू कर दिया जाये तो शहरों की आपूर्ति करने से जो बिजली बचेगी वह किसानों को खेती के काम के लिए दी जा सकती है।

यह कहते हैं कि बिजली में बिना ब्याज के पैसा मिला इसलिए नुकसान होता है। उसमें एक निश्चित राशि, फिक्स्ड डिपॉजिट देना पड़ता है और हम लोग जो किसान हैं, जो मोटर लगाते हैं वह उसको चलावें या न चलावें, पांच हार्स पावर पर साल में 7 सौ या 8 सौ देना ही पड़ता है। इनको पैसा मिलता ही है फिर घाटा कैसे हो जाता है—यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आई। फिर बिजली के तार और ट्रांसफार्मर की व्यापक पैमाने पर जो चोरी होती है, मैं और जगह की बात नहीं कहता लेकिन बिहार में ट्रांसफार्मर का तेल और क्वायल—इन चीजों की साल में एक बार, दो बार चोरी करके लोग ले जाते हैं। बिजली का तार काटकर ले जाने हैं। तार और ट्रांसफार्मर की चोरी से साल में लाखों करोड़ों रुपये का नुकसान होता है। इसके लिए भी बिजली बोर्ड को कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए। मैं तो कद्दूंगा जैसे कोयले के कानून में आपने धारा जोड़ रखी है कि तीन वर्ष की सजा और 20 हजार रुपये जुर्माना होगा उसी तरह से बिजली वाले कानून में भी एक धारा जोड़ दी जाये कि जो कोई भी बिजली की सम्पत्ति की चोरी करेगा, ट्रांसफार्मर की चोरी करेगा उसको 10-12 साल की कड़ी सजा दी जायेगी तभी मैं समझता हूँ लोगों में कुछ भय आ सकेगा।

फिर जो घाटा लग रहा है उसका कारण है भ्रष्टाचार, पक्षपात और अकर्मण्यता। जहाँ तक भ्रष्टाचार का सम्बन्ध है, कम से कम बिहार बिजली बोर्ड का मुझे अनुभव है, बिहार असेम्बली की पब्लिक अण्डरटेकिंग कमेटी का जो काम चलता था उसमें मैंने देखा कि सरकारी स्टोर में कोई सामान आया या नहीं, इन्सुलेटर खरीदे गये या नहीं, ट्रांसफार्मर आये या नहीं लेकिन एक ही सामान को बार-बार दिखाते जा रहे हैं और इस तरह से करोड़ों रुपये का नुकसान हो रहा है। इस संस्था में आप सरकारी खजाने से पैसा देते चले जाये और व्यवस्था ठीक न हो तो घाटा होता ही रहेगा। इस तरह से सरकार का खजाना भी खाली हो जायेगा और व्यवस्था भी ठीक नहीं होगी। इसी तरह से इस विभाग में अनावश्यक पदों का सृजन किया गया है। पी०डब्लू०डी० या किसी अन्य विभाग में एक इंजीनियर इन चीफ होता है लेकिन बिहार एलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड में कम से कम 50-55 चीफ इंजीनियर के रैंक के पदों का सृजन किया गया है। जिस विभाग में 50-55 चीफ इंजीनियर हो जायेंगे वहाँ वे क्या करेंगे? ऐसा अनर्थ तो मैंने कहीं भी नहीं देखा।

बिजली बोर्ड के चेयरमैन के लिए कहा गया कि वह टेक्नोक्रेट होना चाहिए। इसके लिए बड़ा झमेला हुआ, संघर्ष और सत्याग्रह हुआ। जब बिहार बिजली बोर्ड का चेयरमैन टेक्नोक्रेट बनाया गया तो अनुभव यह हुआ कि आई०ए०एस० के रहते जितनी गड़बड़ी होती थी, टेक्नोक्रेट के आने से घीस गुनी बढ़ गई। आई०ए०एस० रहता था तो उसकी दृष्टि दूसरी तरफ रहती थी गड़बड़ी करने में लेकिन टेक्नोक्रेट आया तो उसकी दृष्टि बन गई इंजीनियरों के नये नये पदों का सृजन करो, उनकी सुविधाएँ और भत्ते जितने बढ़ा सकते हो बढ़ाते चले जाओ। कोई रोकने वाला नहीं। ये जो टेक्नोक्रेट वहाँ पर अध्यक्ष बनाये गये, तो उससे भी समस्या का समाधान

नहीं निकला। अब मैंने सुना है कि हमारे बिहार में कोई मिलिट्री-मैन जा रहे हैं। हमारे चीफ़ मिनिस्टर साहब यहां आये थे और वे कोचर साहब को वहां पर लगायेंगे। मिलिट्री-मैन जा रहे हैं और मैं समझता हूं कि उसमें कुछ सुधार हो सकेगा।

अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि ये जो पब्लिक संस्थान हैं, लोक-संस्थाएं हैं, इनमें बहुत बड़ी पूंजी लगी है और जनता का पैसा लगा है लेकिन इन सार्वजनिक संस्थाओं में अगर नफ़ा होता है, तो सब जगह जितने काम करने वाले हैं, वे बोनस की मांग करते हैं। वे कहते हैं कि बोनस दो, बोनस दो लेकिन अगर करोड़ों रुपयों का घाटा उसमें हो जाये, तो उसकी हिस्सेदारी भी उनको लेनी पड़ेगी। अगर नफ़े में हिस्सा ले सकते हैं, बोनस ले सकते हैं, तो मजदूर यूनियन वाले या देश के अन्दर जो राजनीतिक लोग इन संस्थाओं को चलाने वाले हैं, उनको यह सोचना चाहिए कि अगर नुकसान हो, तो घाटे की भी जिम्मेदारी उनको लेनी चाहिए। उस सार्वजनिक संस्थान को चलाने वाले लोग अपने ऊपर उसकी जिम्मेदारी लें और जब तक यह जिम्मेदारी उन पर नहीं डाली जायगी, तब तक काम भी ठीक से नहीं चल सकेगा।

आखरी बात मैं यह कहूंगा कि यह जो बिजली कंपनियों का उत्पादन है उस पर 6 पाई, 8 पाई प्रति यूनिट खर्च आता है लेकिन बिरला को और जो दूसरे बड़े लोग हैं उनको घाटा सह कर भी 2 और 3 पाई प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से बिजली दी जाती है और हम जो गांव के गरीब लोग हैं उनको ज्यादा महंगी बिजली दी जाती है, चार-पांच गुना दामों पर बिजली दी जाती है। मेरा कहना यह भी है कि स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को छोड़ कर बाकी सब जगहों पर एग्ज़क्यूटिव्स और रेफ़ीजिरेटर्स तथा भोग विलास के कामों के लिए बिजली न दी जाये। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में बिजली की खपत होनी चाहिए।

अन्त में मैं यह कहूंगा कि एक बढ़िया सा बिल, जिसमें इन सारी बातों का समावेश हो सके, मंत्री जी को लाना चाहिए।

श्री भगत राम (फिलौर) : मेडम चेयरमैन, यह जो इलेक्ट्रिसिटी एमंडमेंट बिल पेश किया गया है, इसमें यह बताया गया है कि जो बिजली बोर्ड्स हैं, उनको फाइनेन्शियली साऊन्ड करने के लिए यह पेश किया गया है। बोर्डों को कर्मशियल प्रिंसिपल्स पर लाया जायेगा। लेकिन जो पिछला नजुर्बा है, वह यह बताता है कि जो भी अदारे इस मद के अधीन फाइनेन्शियली साऊन्ड करने के लिए लाये गये, उनका जो बोर्ड है वह सारा का सारा लोगों पर पड़ा या वहां पर काम करने वाले मजदूरों पर पड़ा जैसे कोयला स्टील आदि क्षेत्रों में हुआ है। यह जो इलेक्ट्रिसिटी है, ऐसा समझा जाता है कि यह एक पब्लिक यूटिलिटी सर्विस है। अगर यह पब्लिक यूटिलिटी सर्विस है, तो फिर यह लाजमी है कि गांवों में या जो बहुत पिछड़े हुए इलाके हैं, वहां पर बिजली भेजने के लिए सरकार अपनी तरफ से खर्च करके इसको भेजेगी और फाइनेन्शियली साऊन्ड करने के लिए जितना घाटा होगा, वह बोर्डों को उसे देना पड़ेगा। इसका अगर यह होगा कि जो घाटा है, उसको पूरा करने के लिए जो कन्ज्यूमर्स हैं, उन पर भी असर पड़ेगा। मतलब यह है कि इसके जो रेट्स हैं, वे बढ़ाय जायेंगे। हमें यह भी देखना चाहिए कि जो बिजली है, उसको देने के लिए बहुत थोड़े रेट्स पर कुछ संस्थाओं से एग्जीमैट्स कर लिये गये थे जैसे नंगल फैक्टरी है, उसको बिजली की कास्ट आक प्रोडक्शन से कम पर बिजली दी गई है। इसी तरह से दिल्ली को दी गई है और इस तरह से जो घाटा होगा, उसको पूरा करने के लिए जो कन्ज्यूमर्स हैं उन पर उसका भार पड़ेगा। नौकरशाही में भ्रष्टाचार भी घाटे का कारण है। बहाना यह बनाया जाएगा कि यह जो बिजली बोर्डों को घाटा हो रहा है, इसके कारण जो वहां पर काफ़

[श्री भगत रान]

करने वाले एम्पलाईज हैं, उनकी तन्ख्याहें नहीं बढ़ाई जा सकती हैं। एसेंशियल सर्विसेज मान कर उनके वेतनों की बढ़ोतरी को रोका गया है और उन पर एसेंशियल सर्विसेज एक्ट का इस्तेमाल किया गया है और उन पर लाठियां और गोलियां कई जगहों पर चलती रही हैं। मध्य प्रदेश में ऐसा हुआ है। फाइनें-शियली साऊन्ड करने के लिए यह जो बिल पेश किया गया है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसका असर बिजली के रेट्स बढ़ाने पर तो नहीं पड़ेगा। मुझे उम्मीद है कि इसके पास होने पर घाटे को पूरा करने के लिए बिजली के जां रेट हैं, वे जरूर बढ़ाए जायेंगे। इनका जो नुकसान है, वह कंज्यूमर को होगा वहां पर एम्पलाईज को भी नुकसान होगा। इसलिए मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से रिक्वेस्ट करूंगा कि जैसी कि यहां पर बहुत से लोगों ने डिमाण्ड की है, इस बिल में चेंज होनी चाहिए। हमारे पास पहले 1910 का इलेक्ट्रिसिटी कानून है, उसके बाद 1948 में आया। अब तब से परिस्थितियां बहुत बदल गई हैं। बदली हुई परिस्थितियों के मूनाबिक इस बिल में चेंज आनी चाहिए जिससे कि कंज्युमर को भी फायदा हो सके और एम्पलाईज को भी फायदा हो सके।

अन्त में मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से यह अपील करूंगा कि वे इस बिल को वापस ले लें। और फिर रिड्राफ्ट करके इस बिल को लायें। जो भी बिल आप लायें, वह बिल इंडस्ट्री के नुमाइंदों और इंडस्ट्रीज में काम करने वाले लोगों के नुमाइंदों, किसानों के नुमाइंदों से बातचीत करके लाय और एक कंप्रीहेंसिव बिल लायें। मैं जानता हूँ कि अगर मिनिस्टर साहब यह बिल वापस नहीं लेंगे तो भी वह पास तो हो ही जाएगा लेकिन उससे बजली के रेट न बढ़ाए जायें। लोग पहले ही बिजली के रेट ज्यादा होने से तंग हैं। उस पर आपने एक्साइज इयूटी बढ़ा दी है। इसलिए मैं रिक्वेस्ट करूंगा कि वे इस बिल को रिड्राफ्ट करके फिर से लायें और उसे यहां से

पास करायें।

बोधरी बलबीर सिंह (होशियारपुर) :
सभापति महोदया, आजकल सारी दुनिया में नए नए तरीके से बिजली तैयार की जा रही है। बहुत सारे मुल्कों ने यह बिजली बनाना शुरू कर दिया है। सूर्य की तपिश से भी बिजली बन रही है। हमारे देश में सूरज की तपिश सबसे ज्यादा है। अगर उस तपिश से हम बिजली बना लें तो वह बहुत सारे लोगों के काम में आ सकेगी। हमारे पास पहाड़ हैं, दरिया हैं। हमारे यहां जो दरियाई प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, उनके जो मसले हैं कि किस स्टेट को कितना पानी मिलेगा, किम स्टेट को कितनी बिजली मिलेगी, वे सब हल नहीं हो पा रहे हैं। अगर हम सूरज से बिजली बना सकें, पानी से बिजली बना सकें टाइडल वेव से बना सकें, हवा से बना सकें ये जितने भी कुदरती साधन हैं अगर इनसे हम बिजली बना सकें तो सारे देश को बहुत बिजली मिल सकती है किमी भी देश की तरक्की में बिजली का बहुत महत्व होता है। इस देश में कितनी बिजली लोग इस्तेमाल करते हैं, कितनी बिजली लोगों को पहुंचती है अगर हर घर में बिजली पहुंच जाए और उसी तरह से उद्योग धंधे चालू हो जायें जिस तरह से जापान में चलते हैं, छोटी छोटी हार्म पावर की मांटरें वहां लग जायें और पुर्जे आदि वहां बनने शुरू हो जायें तो हमारा देश बहुत जल्दी तरक्की कर सकता है। इसको आप देखें हमारे देश की बदकिस्मती यह है कि तीस साल में इसका ठीक ढंग से चलाने की कोशिश नहीं की गई। आप देखें कि पहले ताम्बे की तारें जो लगती थीं उनकी चोरी होनी जब शुरू हुई तो सरकार ने इसका इलाज यह सीखा कि एल्युमिनियम की तारें लगाई जायें। ऐसा किया गया। इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि जब भी लोड ज्यादा हो जाता है तो तारें जल जाती हैं और इसका एक दुष्परिणाम यह भी निकला है कि बिजली के शाट से आग तक लग गई है। पंजाब में कई जगह यह लगी है। बिजली की इन तारों की गड़बड़ी की वजह से ही यह लगी है।

इस तरह से ग्राम न लगे इसको ग्रामको देखना चाहिए और ठीक सामान लगे ताकि ग्राम न लग सके, इसको भी ग्रामको देखना चाहिए।

पोलिटिकल तीर पर भी बिजली गलत तीर पर इस्तेमाल करने की कोशिश पीछे की गई है। वह इस शकल में कि हमारे पास जितनी बिजली थी, लोगों को खुश करने के लिए या पोलिटिकल तीर पर यह बताने के लिए कि हम ने इतनी बिजली इतने लोगों को दे दी है, इतने नये कनेक्शन बिजली के दे दिये हैं, ज्यादा बिजली के कनेक्शन दे दिये। इसका नतीजा यह निकला कि जब पीक लोड होता है तब बजाय इसके काम चालू रहे और लोगों को बराबर बिजली मिलती रहे वह मिलती नहीं रह सकी। लोड कम होने की वजह से मोटरों जो लोगों ने लगा रखी थी वे जल गई— बिजली के बल्ब फ्यूज होते रहे। इससे बचने के लिए जो गरीब आदमी थे उनको सलाह दी गई कि वे अपने रेग्युलेटर तथा दूसरे स्विच वगैरह लगायें। जिन लोगों के पास साधन नहीं थे उनकी मोटरें जल गई और उनको बहुत नुकसान उठाना पड़ा। पंजाब में हमारे लोगों को नोटिस देने भी शुरू कर दिये गये हैं कि वे रेग्युलेटर लगायें। हर आदमी की हैसियत नहीं कि वह चार पांच या छः सौ रुपये खर्च करके अलग से एक यंत्र इस काम के लिये लगायें। हर आदमी जिसके ट्यूबवैल लगा हुआ है वह गरीब इस बोझ को बरदाश्त नहीं कर सकता है। बजाय इसके कि जहां से ग्राम बिजली देते हैं उसको ग्राम रेग्युलेट करें, उसको तरतीब से सप्लाई करें, ग्राम कहते हैं कि लोग रेग्युलेटर वगैरह लगा लें। बिजली का लोड ज्यादा और कम होने की वजह से जो मोटरें जल जाती हैं या बल्ब फ्यूज हो जाते हैं इसके बारे में आपको ही कुछ करना चाहिये। अगर आप लोगों पर इस चीज को छोड़ेंगे कि वे यंत्र आदि लगा लें तो यह उन पर बहुत बड़ा बोझ होगा।

एक आखिरी बात मैं रोपड़ में थर्मल प्लांट जो बनने वाला है उसको कह कर खतम
866 LS—12.

करता हूँ। मेरा खयाल है कि उनकी मंजूरी मिल चुकी है। उसको क्लीयरेंस मिल चुका है। अगर न मिला हो तो मंत्री महोदय बता दें कि नहीं मिला है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. This Bill does not cover those points which you are raising. There is very little time. I have to call the Minister. So please resume your seat.

बोधरी बलबीर सिंह: उसके लिए जरूर ज़मीन लोगों को ली जा रही है। उसको लिया जा रहा है जहां खेती हो रही है। मेरा सुझाव है कि उस जमीन को न ले कर अगर बंजर जमीन उसके लिए ली जाए तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have evinced keen interest in discussing the power problems in the country, even though the Bill does not envisage such a discussion. Whatever it might be, many hon. Members have raised points regarding the guidelines for the future functioning of the Ministry. I am very thankful to them.

One of the questions asked was why a comprehensive Bill has not been brought. In fact, only in 1976 we had amended the Electricity Act, 1948, constituting the Central Electricity Authority and vesting it with proper powers to give the necessary directions. I think that is enough and this Bill has been brought forward to see that the electricity boards and State Governments are enabled to function better and become commercially viable. It is only with that purpose in mind that this Bill has been brought. I think hon. Members have not tried to discuss the amendments, but have only dilated on the functioning of the electricity boards in the various States.

Hon. Members have raised a point about the defects in design and equipment, and also the functioning of

[Shri P. Ramachandran]

these power stations in various parts of the country, and they wanted the best possible output of energy in the country. It is our endeavour to see that all the units function efficiently and give the power that is necessary for the country but we have got many problems, and the State Governments have to face these problems of maintenance and operations in an efficient manner.

Some of the Members have raised points about the power programme also. I can tell hon. Members that in the course of the last one year, after this Government came to power, addition to installed capacity was to the tune of 2000 MW, the largest capacity addition in any one year, taking the performance of the last 30 years. In the current year also we have a programme to add to the installed capacity 3,800/3,900 MW. Thereby I want to impress upon the House that this Government seriously considers augmenting the capacity of the country and also attaining self-sufficiency in the coming five to six years. That is why we have drawn up an ambitious programme of adding 18,500 MW in the course of the next five years, and almost the entire capacity is being sanctioned, most of it had already been sanctioned and we are having effective monitoring to see that these units are brought about in the shortest time possible. Not only that, we want to add more capacity in the coming few years. For that we want to take advance action also.

Another point that was made by hon. Members is about rural electrification, whether we are devoting enough attention to that. Today we find that about 36 per cent of the villages are electrified. Our aim is to see that at least 50 per cent of the villages are electrified in the next five years.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:
(Chittoor): Only villages, not hamlets.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: It includes hamlets also.

Not only that. Twenty lakh pump sets are going to be energised in the coming five years. It is not only mere electrification of villages we must also see that pump sets are energised to help the villagers. That is why we are having an ambitious programme, and this programme has to be implemented with the help of the State Governments and the State electricity boards. That is why there is a constant dialogue between the State electricity boards and the Government so that this programme can be implemented effectively.

16.00 hrs.

About the functioning of Electricity Boards, the hon. Members raised the point that there is a lot of corruption, nepotism, political appointments and all those things. In the recent conference of the Power Ministers and the Chief Ministers, we have discussed this problem. We want to see that these Electricity Boards are professionalised in the shortest possible time. We also want to see that these Boards are constituted with experts as far as possible and improved to function efficiently. Almost all the Power Ministers have agreed to this. They have constituted a standing committee. We are also actively considering appointing a committee to go into the working of these Electricity Boards and trying to evolve some guidelines so that the Electricity Boards can be asked to function efficiently.

Some hon. Members have raised the point of load shedding in Delhi. A few days ago, I mentioned in this House that Delhi would not suffer for want of power. Even today I maintain that. If there is load shedding, it must be for other reasons and not because of lack of power. Load shedding may happen for various reasons. If there is some disturbance in some system in some part of the region,

there will be some drop in the power generation thereby dislocating the entire system. It is only because of such happenings that you found some load shedding in Delhi yesterday and day before yesterday. I can still give this assurance to this House that Delhi will not suffer for want of power.

The hon. Member, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu—he is not here now—made a point about the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation. The previous Government in West Bengal had extended the licence of that Corporation till 2000 AD i.e. for another nearly 22 years. Not only that they had applied to instal additional capacity under their jurisdiction and that also had been techno-economically sanctioned by the Central Electricity Authority. In all these things, the State Governments have to act and I think, the State Governments are acting in the best interest of the State and the country.

A mention was made about power shortage in the eastern region. I want to tell the hon. Members that in the eastern region, for instance in Bihar, the installed capacity is only about 700 and odd megawatts. Even out of that, only a little over 300 megawatts is being generated. Installation of power stations and augmenting the additional capacity cannot be got overnight. I think, the hon. Members will appreciate that the gestation period for these power stations is very long. If they are hydel stations they take longer period than the thermal stations. That is why, we are actively monitoring and we want to see that power stations which we propose to instal in the coming five years are commissioned on time. It is only with that view that we are trying to assist the State Electricity Boards and also other generating agencies. In the Central sector also, we are commissioning some of the large power stations.

A mention was made about Ramagundam and Neyveli power stations.

All the stations will be commissioned as per schedule. Let there be no apprehension about the commissioning of the stations unless there arises a problem which is beyond our control.

Another point was made about gas turbines and what happened in Calcutta or West Bengal. About gas turbines, I want to make one or two points very clear. It is not that the Government is against installation of gas turbines. Before we approve of the scheme, it is our duty also to bring it to the notice of the agencies which want to instal gas turbines about the cost of power, the equipment that has to be maintained. The equipment that will be sophisticated and its maintenance will be a problem and some buyers must be found for the costly power. All these things have to be brought to their notice. In addition to that, in a large system like this, it will be a very marginal augmentation of power with the help of gas turbines and we have to examine how far they will be helpful. Without examining all these aspects, we should not rush to instal gas turbines.

In fact, we must also find out the fuel that is available for use in gas turbines and also whether we have got a firm commitment by the oil industry to supply fuel required for gas turbines. We have to take all these things into consideration. It is only after taking into consideration all these things the the pros and cons, that we advise the State Governments or the agencies accordingly who want to instal gas turbines. On the part of the Central Government, we will not try to stall any State Government coming forward to instal gas turbines in spite of these problems that face them. Our advice to the state governments would be to ensure whether by proper maintenance and also by proper monitoring, rationalising power supply and utilisation, they could achieve higher generation without the installation of gas turbines. That is

[Shri P. Ramachandran]

also the thing that we have to consider. With that problem in mind, we are advising the State Governments accordingly.

Then, the hon. Members mentioned about transmission losses. Wherever there is a larger rural electrification, the transmission losses are bound to go up. That is why we are trying to minimise the transmission losses by improving the system and also strengthening the transmission lines. By these methods, we want to see that the transmission losses are minimised.

About the other suggestion that was made by some hon. Members, about power being stolen, I do not know whether I can answer that because it is mostly the State Governments which have to go into this problem. It is mostly a law and order problem. The State Governments are being constantly advised to prevent theft of power.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: A reference was made to the Loktak project in Manipur. It is a Central project; it has been inordinately delayed.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: As the hon. Member mentioned, it was delayed because of some kind of difficulty in tunnelling and other things. We have overcome those difficulties. We want to proceed with the work and see that the Loktak project is completed as early as possible. It is our intention to see that the work proceeds according to schedule. Even though there was some set-back due to unexpected problems that we faced in tunnelling and other things, all those problems are being sorted out and we will try to complete it as quickly as possible.

I think I have tried to cover some of the important points mentioned by the hon. Members; if some points, by

chance, mentioned by the hon. Members are not covered, here, definitely we will bear in mind those points and all these problems and see that some improvements are made in various sectors of this electricity.

Now Mr. Chairman, I feel that some of the Members said that this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee; some Members said that. This is not a Bill that is to be referred to a Select Committee because its clauses are very simple. I hope the Members will support this Bill without pressing for any amendment or any such thing. With these few words, I commend this Bill.

SHRI VINAYAK PRASAD YADAV (Saharsa): I want to speak on my amendment no. 16.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not sent your name.

SHRI VINAYAK PRASAD YADAV: I had already given the amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The normal procedure is that you should send your slip indicating that you want to speak on your amendment. If you want to speak, you can just speak for two or three minutes because the time for the Bill is over. You just take two minutes

श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव : हम ने ऐसा प्रस्ताव इसलिए किया है कि आप देखें इस एक्ट में लगभग 6 चैप्टर्स हैं जिसमें सिर्फ फाहर्नेशियल पावर के बारे में अमेंडमेंट बिल यह धारा है। मेरा यह कहना है कि अरबों रुपया अधिक हम बिजली पर खर्च करने जा रहे हैं। जो डाफ्ट फाइव ईयर प्लान पर हम लोग बहस कर रहे हैं उस में अरबों रुपये बिजली पर खर्च करने का प्रावधान है और यह सारा खर्च करेंगे बिजली बोर्ड की मार्फत। बिजली बोर्ड ऐसा निकम्मा और ऐसा अफट है.... (अवधान) इसीलिए सब से ज्यादा आवश्यक है कि यह

जो बिल अभी मन्त्री संहोदय लाए हैं उसके बजाय उनको एक कांफ्रिहेंसिव बिल लाना चाहिए। आज बिजली बोर्ड में इनएफी-शिण्टी है और भाई-भतीजावाद है। (अवध-घान) इसलिए ऐसा बिल माना चाहिए जिससे बिजली बोर्ड के काम करने के तरीके में जो खराबी है वह दूर हो सके। इसीके लिए मैंने संशोधन दिया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि एक कांफ्रिहेंसिव बिल लाया जाये जिसके जरिए बिजली के विस्तार के काम को और ज्यादा इफेक्टिव बनाया जा सके।

MR. CHAIRMAN: That point has been covered by many hon. Members. Please resume your seat. I think you have made your point.

SHRI VINAYAK PRASAD YADAV: I want to withdraw my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment No. 16 moved by Shri Vinayak Prasad Yadav be withdrawn?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

AMENDMENT No. 16 WAS, BY LEAVE, WITHDRAWN.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration. There are amendments on Clause 2.

Clause 2 (Amendment of Section 1)

Amendments made;

Page 1, lines 6 and 7,—

for "after sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—"

substitute—

"(a) in sub-section (3), for the words "Sixth and Seventh Schedules", the words "Sixth Schedule" shall be substituted;

(b) after sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—^a(3)

Page 1, line 11,—

for "1977" substitute "1978" (4)

Page 1, line 13,—

for "1977" substitute "1978" (5)

Page 1, line 17,—

for "1977" substitute "1978" (6)

[Shri P. Ramachandran]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are no amendments to Clauses 3 to 13. I will put all these clauses together to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That Clauses 3 to 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 3 to 13 were added to the Bill.

Clause 14 (Substitution of new section for Section 67)

Amendments made:

Page 4, line 11,—

omit "(1)" (7)

Page 4, line 33,—

after "year" insert—

"or which became due for payment in any previous year and has remained unpaid"(8)

Page 4, line 36,—

after "year" insert—

"or which became due for payment in any previous year and has remained unpaid" (9)

[Mr. Chairman]

Page 4, line 45,—

for "capital" substitute "capital receipts" (10)

[Shri P. Ramachandran]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 15 (Substitution of new section for section 68)

Amendment made:

Page 5, line 12,—

for "1977" substitute "1978" (11)

[Shri P. Ramachandran]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 16 to 21 were added to the Bill.

Clause 22 (Amendment of Fourth Schedule)

Amendments made:

Page 6,—

after line 7 insert—

"(a) in paragraph I, clause (c) shall be omitted;" (12)

Page 6, line 8,—

for "(a)" substitute "(b)" (13)

Page 6, line 12,—

for "(b)" substitute "(c)" (14)

[Shri P. Ramachandran]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 22, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 22, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 23 (Amendment of Sixth Schedule)

Amendment made:

Page 6, line 37,—

for "1977" substitute "1978" (15)

[Shri P. Ramachandran]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 23, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 23, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 24 and 25 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 (Short title)

Amendment made:

Page 1 line 4,—

for "1977" substitute "1978" (2)

[Shri P. Ramachandran]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,—

for "Twenty-eighth" substitute—

"Twenty-ninth" (1)

[Shri P. Ramachandran]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, standard part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.20 hrs.

COAL MINES NATIONALISATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up the Bill further to amend the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 and the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, and the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, be taken into consideration".

Hon. Members may recall that the coal industry was nationalised in two phases—coking coal mines were first taken over under the Coking Coal Mines (Emergency) Provision Ordinance 1971 on 17-10-1971 and there-

after nationalised under the Coking Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1972 with effect from 1st May, 1972. Similarly, the non-coking coal mines were taken over under the Coal Mines (Taking over of Management) Ordinance 1973 on 31st January, 1973 and subsequently nationalised under the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973 with effect from 1st May, 1973. A few amendments were made to both the Nationalisation Acts in September, 1973 to overcome certain difficulties encountered in actual practice. In April 1976, the Ordinance amending the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act was issued for the termination of illegal mining operations. This ordinance was replaced by Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Act, 1976. Even after this, it has been found that there is need to remove certain ambiguities as well as certain practical difficulties which have come to light during the implementation of the Nationalisation Acts. The present bill is intended to remove these difficulties and expedite the payment of the amounts to the claimants and the owners of the coal mines. The main amendments are as follows:—

(a) Certain amounts like dues on account of the sale of coal and coal products effected before the date of nationalisation of coking coal mines and coal mines, subsidies due for the pre-nationalisation period, and earnest monies and security deposits made by the owners of mines with the various authorities did not vest in the Government on nationalisation even though these were collected by the Government company upto a specified date and included in the owners' accounts after meeting the liabilities of the pre-nationalisation period. A doubt was expressed whether the wording of the Nationalisation Acts covered this exception to the assets vesting in the Government on Nationalisation. It is now proposed to clarify in relation to the said Acts that current assets vesting in the Government do not include such amounts.