

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[English]

Tuesday, August 21, 1990/ Sravana 30,
1912 (Saka)

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES
AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). A
Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Generation capacity and availability of Power

*163. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will
the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the power generation capacity and
the per capita annual availability of power in
the country, State-wise, and

(b) the steps being taken for optimum
utilization of various energy sources to meet
the increasing demand of power?

(a) State-wise power generation capaci-
ties as on 31.3.90 and per capita consump-
tion of power during 1988-89 are indicated in
Annexures I & II respectively.

(b) All possible efforts are being made
for optimum utilisation of the various energy
sources in the country to meet the increasing
demand of power. These efforts include (i)
utilisation of available off-peak surplus power
from thermal stations in the neighboring
systems/regions to the maximum possible
extent (ii) coordinated operation of thermal
and hydro power stations within the various
States/Systems (iii) coordinated operation
of the predominantly thermal and the con-
tiguous predominantly hydel systems, ena-
bling mutual exchange of power by regulat-
ing the drawal of water over different time
periods, viz, day, month etc. and (iv) effec-
tive load management, restricting power
supply during peak periods and encouraging
the use of power during off-peak periods.

ANNEXURE—I

Installed Generating Capacity As on 31.3.1990 (Utilities)

<i>Region/State/UT</i>	<i>Total (MW)</i>
Haryana	1780.32
Himachal Pradesh	273.57

<i>Region/State/UT</i>	<i>Total (MW)</i>
Jammu & Kashmir	262.04
Punjab	3048.94
Rajasthan	1721.93
Uttar Pradesh	5527.24
Chadigarh	2.00
Delhi	551.60
Central Sector	5933.00
Total (Northern Region)	19100.64
Gujarat	4202.43
Madhya Pradesh	3087.60
Maharashtra	8185.72
Goa	0.00
D & N Haveli	0.00
Central Sector	3600.00
Total (Western Region)	19075.75
Andhra Pradesh	4064.44
Karnataka	2645.20
Kerala	1476.50
Tamil Nadu	3874.38
Pondicherry	0.00
Central Sector	3800.00
TOTAL (Southern Region)	15860.52
Bihar	1549.43
Orissa	1574.42
West Bengal	2584.38

<i>Region/State/UT</i>	<i>Total (MW)</i>
DVC	1821.50
Sikkim	21.29
Central Sector	630.00
TOTAL (Eastern Region)	8181.02
Assam	537.19
Manipur	24.49
Meghalaya	133.76
Nagaland	6.12
Tripura	46.65
Arunachal Pradesh	22.48
Mizoram	25.82
Central Sector	255.01
TOTAL (North-Eastern Region)	1051.52
A & N Islands	15.19
Lakshadweep	4.87
ALL INDIA	63289.50

ANNEXURE-II

Statewise per Capita Consumption of Electricity During the year 1988-89

(Utilities and Non-Utilities)

<i>(Kwh)</i>	
<i>Name of the Region/State</i>	<i>1988-89*</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
NORTHERN REGION	
Haryana	328.20

<i>(Kwh)</i>	
<i>Name of the Region/State</i>	<i>1988-89*</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Himachal Pradesh	166.60
Jammu & Kashmir	172.02
Punjab	659.66
Rajasthan	181.98
Uttar Pradesh	143.41
Chandigarh	532.35
Delhi	575.80
Sub Total	216.60
WESTERN REGION	
Gujarat	396.96
Madhya Pradesh	188.27
Maharashtra	372.04
D & N Haveli	876.08
Goa, Daman & Diu	381.64
Sub-Total	313.63
SOUTHERN REGION	
Andhra Pradesh	218.06
Karnataka	232.71
Kerala	148.25
Tamil Nadu	276.81
Laskhadweep	155.00
Pondicherry	527.26
Sub-Total	228.80

<i>(Kwh)</i>	
<i>Name of the Region/State</i>	<i>1988-89*</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
EASTERN REGION	
Bihar	109.89
Orissa	200.63
West Bengal	136.72
A & N Islands	121.06
Sikkim	68.24
Sub-Total	134.96
NORTH EASTERN REGION	
Assam	63.29
Manipur	56.72
Meghalaya	98.36
Nagaland	67.08
Tripura	40.52
Arunachal Pradesh	54.59
Mizoram	49.26
Sub-Total	63.07
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	216.48

*Provisional

[*Translation*]

SHRIBHOGENDRAJHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply given by hon. Minister, it appears that there is acute shortage of power in the country. From the statement laid in respect of installed generating capacity of various states, Haryana has a capacity of

1780 MW, Uttar Pradesh 5527 MW. Rajasthan 1721 MW, Punjab 3048 MW, Orissa 1574 MW and West Bengal 2584 MW. As compared to other states, generating capacity of Bihar is lesser than that of even smaller states. I would like to know the steps to be taken to remove the shortage thereof. It has been said in the reply that in order to remove

the shortage of energy, optimum utilization of various energy sources should be made. Sir, I would like to submit that the people use kerosene and other oils for lighting purposes in the absence of electricity but it has been reported last night that the Oil Refinery of Barauni has been closed. My colleague Shri Surya Narayanji also came to know of it last night. Generating capacity of thermal power is also decreasing due to supply of inferior quality of coal to thermal units. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Government of India, the Additional Secretary to the Government of India wrote a letter to me. I quote therefrom.

[*English*]

"We do not have consumers for such a huge block of power".

[*Translation*]

A dam was proposed to be constructed on Kosi river. This dam has not so far been constructed. 3500 MW of power was to be generated therefrom. Therefore, I would like to know the steps being taken to increase the power generation in view of its increased consumption.

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The admitted position is that there is a shortage of power. In fact, if we look back from 1985-86 till today, the shortage has varied between 10.9% and 7.9%; and even the projection for the next year appears that we will be running a situation of shortage. Therefore, we must try to increase the availability of power.

In the Eighth Five Year Plan, we do intend to increase power production by 38369 MW provided our colleague Prof. Madhu Dandavate helps the power sector with bigger finance. There are shortcomings in various fields which the House had discussed a number of times. We have taken certain long-term and shortagies. So far as the short-term strategies are concerned, today in a

number of thermal power stations the position requires close monitoring, etc. We have now decided that, some of these thermal power stations which are old, their performance is improved. A centrally-sponsored scheme for renovation and modernisation has been introduced. Now, there are in all 34 power stations and 164 generating units which are being covered under this programme. The other programme that we have included is to increase the number of gas-based projects, permitting the use of gas and oil fuels at the selected power plants, undertaking renovation and modernisation programmes at various terminals of the hydro-power plants, acceleration of project implementation, improving the quality and ensuring consistency of coal supplies to power plants. We are also trying to reduce the transmission losses and ensure effective inter-connected operations of power systems. I have got a list of long-term measures. But still I must concede that we do have today the shortage of 7.5 per cent and the overall shortage will be to the extent of around 7.9% by the end of the year. But if we can make efficient investment to the desired level, as we are expecting, then we can bring down the power shortage to a very minimum level at the end of the five year plan.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: The hon. Minister did not reply to my points. It has been reported last night that the Oil Refinery of Barauni has been closed. As I said that we are not able to use power being supplied from Nepal. It is a thing of the past, why Bihar is lagging behind comparison to other states?

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I do not have the information regarding Barauni. I will check it up. So far as Bihar is concerned, it must be admitted that position in Bihar is definitely not very happy. If one looks back to April-July 1990, one will find that there had been a shortage to the extent of 24.3 per cent in Bihar, which is on the high side.

[*Translation*]

SHRIBHOGENDRA JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that despite generating capacity of 1549 MW, the actual power generation in Bihar has never gone beyond 1000 MW. If I am wrong, hon. Minister may correct by telling the position of actual power generation in Bihar. I do not say about installed capacity. A scheme for construction of a big dam was submitted to the Nepal Government by the Government of India in 1981. Had the project been completed, 3300 MW of electricity would have been generated therefrom. If all the dams on Kosi are completed, they will have a potential of generating 60,000 MW of Hydel Power which does not require coal at all. I visited Nepal in 1984 on the invitation of the Nepal Government and I stayed there as a state guest from 1st May to 4th May. I am pained to point out that the Government of India did not pursue the matter further. Still there is an opportune time to construct dams on Kosi river. This will bring a rapid development in Nepal and India both. It will prove beneficial for both the countries in many ways like flood control, irrigation etc. but I am just now talking about power generation only. This proposal was submitted to the Nepal Government 9 years ago. Will the Energy Minister take interest in it even now? Pancheshwar Karnali Agreement was signed between India and Nepal in 1974. 14 years have passed since then, but no progress has been made in this regard. It is in Uttar Pradesh. Hon. Minister is not present in the House at the moment. She is busy in planting a thousand trees for every tree felled. She was also telling us about Tehri Garhwal and Narmada projects but issue of Bihar is still pending. I would like to know from the Energy Minister whether he is taking steps in this regard or not? So far as question of planting trees is concerned, fifty times more trees can be planted. Hon. Minister should reply these points.

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The first question is about the installed generating capacity. In Bihar we have shown the in-

stalled generating capacity as 1549. And the hon. Member's next question was whether it has ever been achieved. The fact remains that in this whole country the plant load factor is around 56 per cent. Unfortunately, in Bihar the problem is more acute, because in Bihar the plant load factor has been hardly 34 per cent and in recent times it is 26 per cent. Therefore, what we have given in Annexure-I is the installed capacity. But it has to be admitted that the generation of the installed capacity is not possible. In many of the power plants there is always a shortage. Our endeavour has been to maximise this to the greatest possible extent but so far as Bihar is concerned, it does not depend on us. It depends on so many other factors including as to how the State Electricity Boards are run, over which the State Government has greater control. Today, unfortunately the situation in Bihar so far as utilisation of the plant load factor is concerned, is definitely not a happy one. (*Interruptions*) It has been around 34 per cent. It has gone down to 26 per cent and I request the hon. Member to help us. We are in touch with the Bihar Government and we are in touch with the Electricity Board also. So far as the projects are concerned, about Karnali and Pancheshwar hydro projects discussions with Nepal are going on and my information is that so far as the Kosi project is concerned, the Nepal Government is not very keen on this project. But these discussions have not taken any final shape.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I said that I had received a letter from the Additional Secretary.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not saying anything.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I was invited by the Government of Nepal.

MR. SPEAKER: You have got his reply that Nepal Government is not interested in it.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: What is the present position?

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I am not blaming Nepal. What I am saying is, as you know, in the recent past our relationship with Nepal has not been very good. At the present moment discussions are going on so far as two projects are concerned, that is, about Karnali and Pancheswar. So far as Kosi project is concerned, the Nepal Government does not seem to be keen. This information I am only giving to the hon. Member.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA: The responsibility of the Union Territories is with the Central Government and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been facing acute power shortage and it is going on for a long time without any remedial measures being taken. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that the hydro-electric dam, on Kolpong river, has been pending for a long time with the Ministry, and what action is the Government contemplating to take about it?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: This is a specific question. I require notice for this. But I will convey the information to the hon. Member. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA: What is the position?

MR. SPEAKER: He says that he will convey the information.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHANAN: Is it not a fact that due to the acute shortage of coal so many thermal power stations like Tuticorin in my constituency—which was giving good performance earlier—has not been performing well? Will the Government apply their mind like the previous Government which was importing Australian coal through which the performance of so many thermal stations has improved and the ash content was reduced? Will the Government come to the rescue of the ther-

mal stations which are facing acute shortage of coal? So many Ministers of Tamil Nadu are now halting in Calcutta to get the coal for thermal stations.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: We will try to do whatever is possible for the supply of coal to Tamil Nadu. As I said earlier the problem is a cyclical one. If there is shortage of power, there is also correspondingly a shortage of coal. If we are to import coal for Tamil Nadu, my own feeling is the Finance Minister, even if I approach him, will not agree to it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Do not blame the Finance Ministry for every thing. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHANAN: We shall have to do it in view of the present position.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Correct, but we must have foreign exchange. At the present moment, we shall have to see that the present availability of coal is properly distributed and we will keep into account Tamil Nadu's interest.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I will ask a supplementary question which is very dear to the Minister and also to Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev.

There is a Brahmaputra Board Project. The plan is to tame Brahmaputra river so that it does not cause every year or every half year flood situation but also generate electricity. I will give you the dimension. 20,000 MW can be generated according to their estimate on the basis of the cost expenditure of about Rs. 25,000 crores only. With the supply of 20,000 MW, the problem of Bihar, the problem of Orissa, the problem of West Bengal and the problem of the entire North East can be solved. Only at the time of the Fourth Five Year Plan, we have crossed this figure. So, I would like to know the Government's attitude in regard to taming Brahmaputra river and implementing Brahmaputra Board Project even at the cost of other

projects elsewhere because this will be liked by the entire Eastern region including the North East.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I am extremely grateful to the hon. Member for raising this question because it is one point which I had raised here as a Member a number of times. It is a fact that there are two project reports drawn up by the Brahmaputra Board, which can provide power to a substantial part of this country at a very cheap rate. Of course, the cost involvement is there. But the other problem that arises is that... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The unit cost is less.

SHRIDINESH GOSWAMI: The unit cost is the cheapest, I do agree. But the problem is that if these projects are to materialise, certain areas of Arunachal Pradesh gets submerged. The Arunachal Pradesh Government has not agreed to this, I was told. They are not prepared for this submergence. They have got a negative attitude to these projects. When we met last time in Guwahati to discuss about the development of the North Eastern Region, it was decided that the Arunachal Government, the Assam Government and the Central Government will meet to discuss about this issue. We will be discussing this issue and try to convince the Arunachal Government about the necessity of these projects. But unless we take the Arunachal Government along with us, it is difficult just to carry these projects over the head of the Arunachal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the acute shortage of power in Bihar for last two months due to which farmers and small scale industries have been badly affected. Many small scale units have been closed. Power supply from the DVC and other eastern power stations to Bihar has been stopped. I would like to know whether the pace of construction

work of Thermal Power Station at Kahalgaon in Bhagalpur district of Bihar will be stepped up so that Kahalgaon power shortage could be removed?

[*English*]

SHRIDINESH GOSWAMI: As I informed the House, the position in Bihar is not very happy. With the projection that I have with me, I cannot assure the House that there will be substantial improvement to this position. The DVC has faced certain problems. We are trying to tackle the problems as far as possible. But unless the power generating capacity in Bihar is increased substantially from the present 27 or 30 per cent to at least 45 to 50 per cent, the position will be difficult. We are also, in the eastern region considering the fact that there is a great deal of shortage of power. We have a number of projects in hand. The other problem is that there is a strike of engineers going on in Bihar. Now we are giving special attention to Bihar and some other regions but the problem still persists.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a matter of fact, there is shortage of power everywhere in the country but Gujarat has received scanty rainfall and many farmers have dug wells and installed electric water pumps also after taking loans from banks. Interest on their loans is mounting but they are not getting power connections. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whom will he give preference to the industries or to the farmers, in the matter of supplying power in such circumstances?

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The power situation in Gujarat as compared to many other States is better in the sense that there the shortage is 3.1 per cent as compared to the average shortage of 24 per cent in Bihar or even the shortage of 23 per cent in Orissa. So comparatively Gujarat's position is much

better. But as I admitted in the beginning, there is a situation of shortage from which we cannot get away—a situation of shortage of 7 to 8 per cent. Therefore, within that shortage situation, we shall have to work and adjustment shall have to be made to give as much as possible to agriculture and industrial sector. We have tried to see that the agricultural sector does not suffer for shortage of power.

SHRI LALIT VIJOY SINGH: There are two specific questions regarding generation and availability of power in Bihar. Bihar Government has submitted a proposal for North Karanpura project at a total cost of Rs. 2000 crores. It has also been cleared by the Project Central Electricity Authority. I just wanted to ask the Minister through you whether this project will be considered for inclusion in Eighth Plan in an expeditious manner to ensure sufficient power generation and availability to the people of Bihar.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: This project will definitely be considered. As I told the hon. Members, in the next five year plan our projection is for a capacity of 38,369 MW. But that will require huge investment. Subject to availability of funds obviously the projects will be sanctioned.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The hon. Minister has replied to Mr Nirmal Chatterjee's question. But my question is that in North eastern region—in Assam, Tripura and other States—a huge quantum of gas is being wasted. The Ministry is following the dog in the manger policy. Then, either you utilise it or allow the State Governments to utilise it and the prices become the contention for the last five years. Yes, during our time it was not decided. Will the hon. Minister kindly let us know what is the latest position and whether the Energy Ministry have settled with the Petroleum Ministry about the price on which that can be supplied to the different State Electricity Boards so that they can utilise this gas which is being wasted because you have said that there is a lack of fund to start various projects? But, this is one area where lack of funds will not be there

because there are various organisations which are willing to start the industry. They are willing to utilise this gas. But, this is not being done.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Before I answer Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, I must correct one thing that the Project of Karampura, which has been asked by my hon. friend is slated for the Ninth Plan. Now, about the gas price, we will have to look into this and we are looking into this matter. At the present moment, I am not in a position to give any commitment.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: The entire State of West Bengal is reeling under acute hostage of power. In fact, in Calcutta in 24 hours we get two to three hours supply and that is also without getting any notice of specific time period. The Minister has answered that West Bengal's generating capacity is 2584.38 M.W. There are five sectors from where power is generated in Bengal. These are Kolaghat, Santaldih, Bandel, Calcutta Electric Supply and supply from Chhukha in Bhutan. I want to know (a) what is the plant/load factor in respect of each of these generating units and (b) whether transmission line for taking Chhukha power is well maintained for giving power to the North Bengal area? The previous Government had entered into an agreement with Bhutan Government for supply of power from Chhukha which would give enough power supply to entire North Bengal upto Farakka Barrage. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether transmission lines are properly maintained by the state of West Bengal to take this power from Chhukha?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, the hon. Member should bear in mind that I am holding somebody else's portfolio for the day and, therefore, when specific questions are asked, obviously I shall have to ask for a notice. As regards the two specific questions he has asked, I shall convey them to the Minister of Energy as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to install a gas based power plant in Madhya Pradesh as the Central Electricity Authority has stated in its 3th Report that the present 18.5 per cent shortage of power in Madhya Pradesh is likely to increase to 26 per cent. There is no power house in North Western area of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: As I said whether these projects will see the light of the day is dependent on the allocation of funds and the approach of the Planning Commission. But, definitely the gas based project should be given due priority. That is one way by which we can improve the power position.

[Translation]

Power Projects of Rajasthan

*164. SHRIGULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for setting up of four power projects of Rajasthan namely Suratgarh Thermal Power Project, Dholpur Thermal Power project, Anta gas based

Power project and Jodhpur Solar Energy project are pending with Union Government;

(b) if so, since when and the time by which they are likely to be approved; and

(c) whether Government propose to assist economically backward Rajasthan by including these projects in the Eighth Plan?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). The details in respect of the four power projects including those received from the State authorities of Rajasthan and the status of their clearances are contained in the Annexure.

The Eighth Plan has not been finalised so far and the details of the power projects envisaged during the Eighth Plan period would be known only after its finalisation.

Central assistance is provided to the States in the form of block loans and block grants and is not related to any specific project/programme.

ANNEXURE

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project and Capacity</i>	<i>Present Status</i>
1	2	3
1.	Suratgarh 2 X 210 MW	This project is under consideration in CEA with other appraising agencies and could be considered for techno-economic clearance after the coal-linkage is tied up.
2.	Dholpur 3 X 210 MW	The Department of Environment rejected the proposed site as it was likely to have adverse effect on environment and on Taj Mahal. The RSEB was accordingly informed to locate an alternative site and submit a revised project