

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

S. No.	Name of the Project and Capacity	Present Status
1	2	3
3.	Solar Thermal Power Station at Mathania near Jodhpur 30 MW.	report which is still awaited. The selection of the alternative site is in progress.
4.	Anta Gas based Combined Cycle Power Station Stage-II 430 MW.	The project can be taken up for installation once all necessary statutory clearances are obtained and necessary inputs like confirmation of solar radiation data, fuel for back up, technology, etc. are tied up.
		The project has been techno-economically appraised by the CEA. Formal clearance can be considered after receipt of the fuel linkage.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the power supply position in Rajasthan is worst as compared to the rest of the country. The Government of Rajasthan had sent the proposal of Suratgarh Thermal Power Project on 23.5.84, Chittoragarh Thermal Power Project on 1.6.84, Dholpur Thermal Power Project 8.8.84 and of Mandalgarh Thermal Power Project on 20.3.85 to the Central Government for approval. Besides, the proposals of Jodhpur Solar Energy and Anta Gas-based Power Project were also sent in 1985 and 1986 respectively. Is it a fact that all the projects which could improve the power supply position in Rajasthan, have been pending with the Union Government for the last six years, if so, the reasons for not taking an action in this regard so far and reasons for this in-ordinate delay?

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, so far as the first observation of the hon. Member is concerned, it is not right to say that the power position in Rajasthan is worst as compared to the rest of the country. Power

position in Rajasthan is still much better because it is only around 2 per cent during the last two months. Now, so far as these four projects which the hon. Member has referred to are concerned, they are at various stages. For example in respect of Suratgarh Project there has been a revised project estimate. The coal linkage which is tied up with the techno economic clearance will be taken into consideration. I can give the present position of the projects. For example, as I said, though it has been agreed by the Standing Linkage Committee of Coal to provide coal linkage to the Suratgarh Project, but order for the coal linkage in respect of that project is yet to be received. So far as Dholpur Thermal Power Project is concerned, there were objections from the Environment Department that it will affect Taj Mahal. Therefore, a high level committee consisting of very top officials of the Central Government went to find out an alternative suitable site. Two suitable sites were located and evaluated and one site is considered now to be favourable. So far as the Anta gas-based project is concerned, the first phase is already complete. It is under operation. So far as the expansion project is concerned, techno-economic study applied by CEA is

there and certain conditions are to be fulfilled, for example, compliance of section 29 of the Electricity Supply Act and confirmation of fuel linkage. Therefore, this is also in an advanced stage. So, it is not that these four projects have been thrown on the side line; these projects are under active consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given the reply just now. My intention in asking this question was to highlight the fact that quite a long period has passed since 1984 to 1990 but the project is at the same stage where it was at the time of its submission in 1984. When objections were raised time and again in the name of Environment in respect of Dholpur Thermal Power Project, the State Government appointed an adviser in 1989 to conduct a study in this regard. In 1990 this study...

MR. SPEAKER: Katariaji, you should ask a specific question. It will take a long time to read it out.

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: It is based on the report submitted to the Central Government...

MR. SPEAKER: If you go on quoting from it, it would be sheer wastage of item, so please ask your question.

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: I am only referring to it. Since the official appointed to conduct a survey had gone there on June 17, and he has already submitted his report to the Government, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to indicate by what time he would clear the Dholpur Thermal Power Project.

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, I cannot give an exact date, but we have now received a note on the selection of the proposed power project at Dholpur from the

Government of Rajasthan. It is under examination of the CEA and the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The moment the examination will be over, we will go forward with our next step.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he will assure us that the present site of the Solar Thermal Power Station proposed to be set up at Mathania in Jodhpur district will not be changed since all the formalities in this regard have been completed. I have come to know that under the influence of the Hon. Prime Minister and that of Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, the Minister concerned who is not here at the moment, the said project is going to be shifted to Uttar Pradesh. I would like to hon. Minister to make it clear that the proposed site of plant is not going to be changed from Mathania in Jodhpur district.

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, as regards the solar power plants, a number of factors are yet to be considered because this technology utilises direct conversion of solar energy into electricity. Various factors are under consideration of the Government. I do not think that there is any proposal of shifting this project at the present moment.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal.

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is he from Rajasthan?

MR. SPEAKER: That is irrelevant. All Member have equal rights. I would, therefore, like Shri Khandelwal to take interest in Rajasthan.

SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is facing an acute shortage of power. With the gradual devel-

opment of the country, consumption of power is also increasing. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is ready to go in for small power projects to remove the existing shortage of power and expedite the construction work of these projects since the big power projects take a long time and require heavy investment. Is the Government prepared to take up small and medium projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh also to expedite the work of power generation in these States.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, when we have got resource constraint and resources are to be utilised in the best manner possible, obviously various factors are taken into consideration including the factor which has been mentioned by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, the hon. Minister has very beautifully put his answer together concerning the Dolphur power plant. There is not very much for me to ask. But I would like to know when the Ministry proposes to pass this power plant for Dholpur. I would like to know the date.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: As I have just now responded to a question, there is some environmental problem at the original site and therefore a new site has to be found out. The Rajasthan Government's report has come. Two Ministries are involved—the Energy Ministry and the Environment Ministry. We will try to expedite this matter at our end as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is a border state. As such it has been lagging behind in all developmental works. However it is the power generation which can take that part of the country of the road to progress. So I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he proposes to take an initiative in this regard so that all the proposed thermal power projects of Rajasthan, be it Suratgarh Thermal Power

Project or Dholpur Thermal Power Project or any other project, are taken up as a special case and implemented on priority basis.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, the request for giving greater importance and priority has come from all the States. But I can assure the hon. Member that Rajasthan has been given due priorities in the sense that there are 13 projects which are there in Rajasthan under implementation. Therefore, Rajasthan's case has been properly dealt with. In fact, sometimes compared to these figures, I feel that my State has not been properly dealt with. But I can't do it, as a Minister. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is saying that your state is being given more than its due.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: But considering that it is a border State, considering that Rajasthan is a very important State in the economic development, there are 13 projects under implementation. Four projects are also under consideration about which I have already mentioned and therefore, within the financial constraints whatever possible has been provided.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the specific geographical situation of Rajasthan with its vast stretches of desert and Aravali hills etc., the hon. Minister is of the opinion that the position of Rajasthan is good. However, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in view of the specific geographical situation, Rajasthan would be given a special and sympathetic treatment in respect of the implementation of all these power projects.

[*English*]

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:** Sir, I have already answered this question. So far as my Ministry is concerned, we will consider to clear this after examinations, as far as possible.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the hon. Minister has assured a sympathetic treatment to Rajasthan, however, approval to the projects proposed to be implemented in Rajasthan has been inordinately delayed. The Palana project in the vicinity of Bikaner, is located in the desert area which is at a very short distance from the border. This project has been pending for a number of years and no action has been taken on it so far. Similarly in Nagaur, Barmer and Bikaner areas, where lignite and coal is extracted in huge quantities, projects based on these minerals can be implemented. But inspite of repeated requests of the State Government, the Central Government keeps on delaying the approval and that leads to escalation of cost of the projects and thus Rajasthan has been deprived of power supply. Per capita power consumption in Rajasthan is quite low as compared to rest of the country. In view of the above fact, does the hon. Minister not feel that projects of Rajasthan should be approved on priority basis in order to bring that State at par with other states?

[*English*]

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:** Sir, as I have said just now, there are 13 projects and the implementation schedule of some of the units of these projects varies from November 1990 to 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994. Therefore, some of these units will be commissioned. The latest position of commissioning is—so far as mangalore is concerned, so far as Bangalore is concerned—November 1990, then December 1990 and then January 1991. So far as 13 projects are concerned, these are going on according to the Schedule and we will try and Rajasthan's

position will improve definitely when these projects will come into operation.

### **National Commission for Bhopal Gas Victims**

\*165. **SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA:**  
**SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several organisations working among the Bhopal Gas Victims have demanded the setting up of a National Commission on Bhopal for proper implementation of the action plan for mitigating the sufferings of the victims;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up such a National Commission; and

(c) if so, when?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY):** (a) to (c). Government are aware that certain organisations of Bhopal Gas Victims have demanded the setting up of a National Commission on Bhopal. Government are of the view that the various functions proposed to be undertaken by the proposed National Commission are already being undertaken by the competent agencies and that, there is, therefore, no need for a separate body to undertake these functions.

**SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a very vague answer for this important question and he has not given any time bound proposals to mitigate the sufferings of the Bhopal Gas victims.

Sir, the Bhopal Gas tragedy is one of the worst industrial disasters of the world. The compensation given to various victims is being questioned in the court. The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister have assured some time in January 1990 that they will be distributing the interim relief