

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). In view of the steep increase in the price of crude oil, the availability of oil may not be commensurate with needs. Efforts are, therefore, being made at all levels to ensure that there are no undue strains on the economy of the country. These include:

(i) Placing increasing reliance on alternative sources of energy, particularly coal;

(ii) Curbing the non-essential consumption of oil products;

(iii) Maximising exports to meet the cost of oil imports for the essentially needed requirements of the economy;

(iv) Intensifying activity for maximisation of indigenous production of crude oil etc.

With a view of softening the impact of the increase in crude oil prices, bilateral arrangements with a number of Gulf countries have been or are being entered into.

Amar Dye-Chem. Ltd.

5486. SHRI D. B. CHANRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one major unit manufacturing dyestuffs downed its shutters and another is on the verge of closure for want of fuel oil in Bombay;

(b) if so, whether there are some more units which are facing difficulties; and

(c) the steps Government propose to start functioning the Amar Dye-Chem. Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). M/s. Amar Dye Chem. Ltd., are reported to have closed down their factory for want of furnace oil for a few days during December, 1973 and February, 1974.

A Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary & Director General, Technical Development has been set up to regulate Furnace Oil supplies in a manner that will not unduly depress industrial production particularly for the essential industries. The committee decides on the scheme of allocation every month taking into account the availability of furnace oil. For the present Oil Companies are meeting 90 per cent of the requirements of all industries based on their past offtakes. It is expected that a 10 per cent saving can be achieved by taking economy measures in the use of Furnace Oil and by improved efficiency without affecting production.

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ACUTE POWER SHORTAGE IN CERTAIN STATES

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The reported acute power shortage in Uttar Pradesh, Faridabad Industrial Complex of Haryana, Gujarat, West Bengal and several other States.”

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): Large parts of the country are currently facing a power shortage. The areas where the situation is difficult cover U.P., Haryana and Punjab in the northern region, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in the southern

region, the D. V. C. area and West Bengal in the eastern region, Lower Assam in the north-east and Goa in the West. Because of the power shortage, restrictions have been imposed on power supply in the different States by the concerned State Government.

Primarily, the current power shortage is due to generating capacity not keeping pace with the growth of demand. Over the Fourth Plan period the demand for power has increased by nearly 70 per cent while the generating capacity has risen by only 30 per cent. Against the target of 9.25 million kw to be added to generating capacity (almost entirely in the States) in the Fourth Plan to take it to nearly 23.3 million kw at the end of the Plan, only 4.26 million kw of additional capacity could be commissioned. This large shortfall of nearly 54 per cent in adding generating capacity is the single largest factor responsible for the current situation. In absolute terms, the aggregate of energy shortages over the year in the different areas is of the order of 7,500 million units during the year i.e., about 10 per cent of the requirement of about 74,000 million units during 1973-74. But even this average percentage of shortage does not truly reflect the situation in the different regions and States where the extent of shortage experienced in specific areas for limited periods may be vastly different.

The House will recall that most parts of the country passed through an acute power shortage during the period October 1972 to June 1973. With the replenishment of most of the hydel reservoirs following the monsoon rains of 1973 the power supply position returned to normal almost throughout the country. The notable exceptions were U. P., where the Riband reservoir failed to receive any significant replenishment by the 1973 monsoon rains and the D. V. C. area where frequent outages of thermal units continued to occur. The power position in U. P., therefore, continued to

be difficult and has become critical in recent months. In the D. V. C. area too the power supply position continued to be difficult though there was tangible improvement during November 1972 to January 1973 and again recently due to the determined efforts made to improve the operation and maintenance of the thermal power stations. The shortage in Karnataka continued because of inadequate rains in the Shrivati catchment area. Shortages began to be felt in the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu power systems from October 1973 and these shortages continue. In Haryana, where shortage began to be felt soon after the monsoon season, the position worsened with the progressive increase in agricultural loads and the worst sufferer has been the industry. In Punjab the shortage which started as a marginal one, got accentuated with the increase in agricultural load and the failure of the winter rains. Gujarat and West Bengal also face shortages at present.

The Ministry has had detailed discussions with the State Electricity Board to assess the extent of the power shortages in the different States, their impact on the economy and the measures to be taken to relieve the situation to the extent possible. The outlook for the period upto the onset of the next monsoon rains may briefly be summed up thus: In Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Delhi in the northern region, in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in the Western region, in Kerala in the South, in Orissa and Bihar outside the D.V.C. areas, the power supply position will continue to be generally satisfactory, Haryana, Punjab, U.P. and the Kashmir Valley in the northern region, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in the southern region, Goa in the West and D. V. C., West Bengal and Lower Assam in the East will face shortages both in terms of energy requirements and peaking capacity. The position in Gujarat which is currently facing a shortage of peaking capacity, will improve after

the first unit of Ukai Hydro Electric Project is commissioned later this month.

The Central and State Governments have been making concerted efforts to relieve this situation by measures designed to maximise availability of power from the existing power stations, speeding up the commissioning of new generating units and construction of transmission lines, transfer of power from pockets of surplus or relatively better availability to the deficit areas across State and regional boundaries, rational use of the available power to meet the requirements of the essential services and the priority sectors of the economy in the best manner possible, and austerity in the consumption of power.

An installed generating capacity of about 2 million kw is expected to be added during 1974-75. The progress of construction of the projects which will contribute to this addition is being watched closely to ensure that they do not fall behind schedule. The commissioning of these projects together with the measures earlier mentioned by me will, I hope, go a long way in improving the power situation in 1974-75, if we have a good monsoon in 1974. However in view of the uneven distribution of the additions to capacity and increases in the anticipated demands, we shall not be wholly free from power shortages in some States. The systems which have to be watched carefully in this regard are U. P., Haryana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, D. V. C. and West Bengal.

I am having the projections of the power situation with reference to demand and availability over the next five years, ten years and fifteen years carefully studied to examine what further steps, if any have to be taken to make up the leeway as expeditiously as possible and meet our requirements adequately in the coming years.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am surprised to read the statement which is just like a tale told by a Minister, full of assurances signifying nothing. Ultimately, he has said:

"The commissioning of these projects together with the measures earlier mentioned by me will I hope go a long way in improving the power situation in 1974-75, if we have a good monsoon in 1974".

So either it is God or nobody.

The question is this. In UP alone, there is a heavy power cut and only 25 per cent is being given. Before the general elections in UP, it was increased from 30 per cent to 60 per cent. I do not know where from they got power then. All the textile and jute mills in UP started working 16 hours, two shifts. After the announcement of the results of the elections and the success of the ruling party it has been reduced to one 8 hour shift. All the textiles mills in Kanpur, Man-nath Bhanjan and other places, are working only 8 hours a day. More than 13,000 substitute workers have been sacked and 54,000 workers are just on the streets earning not even one-third of their wages. Then all the engineering units, whether large, medium or small, are facing closure. The workers have refused wages on the grounds that this is neither a natural calamity nor the fault of the employees. They were not given any wages. Yesterday, in Kanpur there was a huge demonstration by all unions demanding full wages and the restoration of the power-cut.

Then the ordnance factories which are manufacturing the most sophisticated weapons for the army have been threatened with closure. I do not know how the ordnance factories and the rayon factories are continuing if this particular power-cut continues, and which is to the tune of 20 per cent. We were assured in this House that every step was being taken to have a

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national grid and they would supply surplus power to those States, especially Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu parts of Bihar and also Jammu and Kashmir. I do not know how they will be given power.

In West Bengal in Calcutta and Hooghly, load-shedding is extensive, up to eight to 10 hours per day. Nobody knows when it is going to be powerless. Nobody knows, not even the Minister. There, complete anarchy is going on; there is no ration. All the industries are idle for 20 to 30 hours per week. The jute workers, I was told, were to get at least 50 per cent of the wages, but they are not getting even one-third of the wages. All the engineering units practically are facing closure and because of the non-availability of both gas and power. They say that the Electricity Supply Corporation Calcutta,—a British-owned concern—recently was allowed to increase the cut from 20 to 30 per cent. There was a unanimous demand by all the Opposition parties that this should be taken over by the Government, and the Government assured them that they will be taken over. Instead, when there is power crisis going on and the people in Calcutta and other parts in Bengal are not able to get electricity, this British-owned company has been allowed to increase it to 30 per cent.

There is a breakdown in Durgapur Bandel and the DVC power stations. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what has happened to the power station at Santald. This was commissioned with great fanfare by the Prime Minister, several months ago. But uptill now it has produced no power. I would like to know what has happened to this.

I would also like to know what has happened to the Thein dam in Punjab; three States were concerned with it. It was to be completed in 1970, but still, the thing is hanging fire and no action has been taken by the Central Government. Though Punjab and Haryana and Himachal

Pradesh have agreed to take up this project which has been given to them no decision has yet been taken.

I want to know from the hon. Minister another thing. Recently at Bhuvaneswar,—yesterday—the Prime Minister referred to the strike by railwaymen, by saying that some of the railway employees are holding the country to ransom. I would like to know, who is holding the country to ransom. When people want to produce, they are not allowed to produce. A slogan was given earlier: "Produce or Perish." The people have produced but they are non perishing. I would like to know who is responsible for this. When the employees are arrested for stoppage of production under the DIR, is it not high time that all the chiefs of the Electricity Boards were arrested under the DIR and put behind the bars? But no action has been taken. There is now the power famine, which has continued from the last four Plans and I do not know what the fifth Plan is going to give us. What is this planning? Did they not anticipate the growth of industrial units during this Plan? Did they not know before-hand that there had to be some planning and there was enough industrial growth in the country? Now, he says that it has increased from 20 per cent to 30 per cent. What a sad commentary on our country? I would like to know when this situation is likely to improve, and whether the Government will assure us that those workers who are being paid off or laidoff or have been retrenched because of the power shortage—whether it is the Central Government or the State Government or the employers—will be paid full wages. I had been to Faridabad yesterday and saw the situation in respect of practically all the units. I do not know what is going to happen. The same thing is happening in Bengal; in U.P. also. If they are unable to give wages to the workers it would create a law and order situation. No use of speeches and sermons asking people to tighten their belts and threats of D.I.R. etc.

We have told this to the workers. If the position does not improve in a month they will go on strike and show the Government that they are united on this issue. They have sold their utensils and they are starving. It is happening to the Textile workers of Kanpur. What positive steps have been taken to see that the situation improves immediately in these States where power supply is only 20 per cent or 30 per cent? It is so in Haryana, U.P., parts of Bihar, Tamil-Nadu and Gujarat.

What has happened to the national grid. Dr. Rao assured the House that it would come up. He has gone. I want a high power commission headed by some eminent experts to go into this matter and let Members of Parliament be associated with it. The U.P. Chief Minister had been demanding two generators and they want import licence. They said: we shall give from Bharat Electricals Hardwar. It never come. Our thermal power is working 50 per cent. My friend Mr. K. C. Pant is an engineer; I am not; I understand that rain has something to do with hydel power, not with thermal power or nuclear power. Let us not depend upon the mercy of God; let us not bring in God because he is not a member of this House. Let us depend upon the efficiency or inefficiency of the Government. I hold this Government solely responsible for creating this kind of a situation. It is they who are holding the country to ransom, not the workers. If things do not improve, they will go on an indefinite strike. They cannot get food; they cannot get clothes. I demand a high powered enquiry committee to go into the whole matter and let responsibility be fixed on the persons concerned.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Rainfall does affect power production. As a matter of fact we have seen that last year because of shortage of rainfall in the catchment areas, in Rihand and Shrivati there has been shortfall in power production from hydro electric projects in these two States. It certainly

affected the overall power position in the two States. Usually that does not affect thermal plants but in the case of Rihand my friend knows that the tail race water of Rihand hydro electric project is used for cooling purposes in Obra thermal project. To some extent therefore, it also affects production in Obra. Together, Obra and Rihand constitute a very large segment of power capacity in U.P. These are factors which are material and have to be taken into account.

Then, Sir, so far as his suggestion that UP should be helped by neighbouring States is concerned, I would like to assure him that the neighbouring States have been very very helpful to U.P.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Even during election, it was 60 per cent. Now, it has been reduced to 20 per cent. Why don't you have another election?

SHRI K. C. PANT: There is a reason for that, which he will understand fully, if he thinks about it seriously. The assistance given by the neighbouring States began some time in October last year and the relief varied from 2 million KWH to 2.8 million KWH per day. This relief came from Badarpur, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan and Bihar. All the neighbouring States helped to the extent they could. I must say, there was a spirit of cooperation and understanding between the States which brought this about. But, later on, winter rains failed in various parts of Northern India, as my friend knows very well and wheat crop began to get affected. Irrigation was needed by all these States and many of them are major wheat growing States in the country. Therefore, they began to need more power for their tube-wells and more power was diverted for their tube-wells and they had less to spare for U.P. In the Bhakra system, the amount of rainfall in the catchment areas so far has been less than it was last year, and there again, Bhakra is producing now slightly less than it could have, had there been more rainfall. These are factors which are

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affecting power supply in U.P. and these are factors which we cannot ignore, because of the necessity to produce enough wheat, about which all of us are aware.

The question of national grid was raised. The aim is to have a national grid, but it is bound to take time. Regional grids are coming up, and but for the regional grids, it would not have been possible for all these States to go to the help of U.P. at this time. But, now, when Haryana is in deficit and when Punjab is in deficit, it is not possible to do it. But, I know that between the Western Regional Grid and Southern Regional Grid, there was some transfer of power at one stage. Therefore, international transfer of power is also taking place, but, I cannot say that we have a full-fledged national grid which we are aiming at. Connections are growing, but, we should have high voltage lines if the national grid is to become a reality.

So far as the position in Bengal is concerned, I had been to Calcutta only recently and I met the officers and the Minister there. They are trying their best. After all, this is a matter which concerns the State Government normally. We are also trying to help them. In Bengal, we have a direct responsibility to the DVC and we have been trying to raise the power production from the DVC network. As I said in my statement, there has been some perceptible improvement in DVC in the last few months except in the month of February and the improvement has been such that steel and coal, the two basic industries which require power, are being supplied most of the power that they need now. The surplus then goes for other purposes. Coal, steel and Railways are the first priority consumers and I was told that DVC has been supplying its due supply, that is, 75 MW, I think, to the West Bengal system. But, he knows the difficulty in Bandel on account of break-down of machinery which is creating a problem. Two of the transmission towers came down and created problems and in Santaldih, it is not right to say that no power

has been produced. But, not enough power has been produced. There is some difficulty in respect of...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): How much has been produced in Santaldih?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I do not have the figures. They said that some power has been produced. One transmission line was not there and they were feeding it into another system. This is what I was told. I made enquiries about Santaldih myself. The operation and maintenance side have been taken care of to the extent possible, in the DVC system. There are some defects in design which cannot be got over so quickly. But, in regard to spare parts and other things, which we can manage in a relatively short time, we are getting foreign exchange for the import of these materials. We have flown spare parts, wherever it was necessary in order to reduce the time required for overall maintenance etc.,. Sometimes the quality of coal received by these units has also posed a problem. We have been getting all the assistance we can from the Ministries of Coal and Railways for movement and ensuring good quality, but they have their own difficulties which we appreciate. I think it will take a little time before the power plants can get the kind of coal they require in every case.

He referred to the Thein Dam and the fact that the three States had agreed. I have been discussing with the Punjab and Haryana Government the distribution of waters between them and I am afraid so far they have not come to an agreement. The Central Government can take a decision under the powers flowing from the Punjab Reorganisation Act, but I think it is better in this matter to carry the States with us as far as possible. Otherwise, it leaves some bitterness behind. We are trying to expedite the matter so that the Thein Dam can be proceeded with quickly.

He wanted to know how we would try to ensure that production from

these power plants would be hastened or the construction would be completed on time. As the States are constructing the power plants, it is very difficult for me to give a categorical assurance, but we are trying to set up a monitoring system in Delhi which will keep a close watch on the power projects which are under construction with a view to helping the States wherever bottlenecks arise. If they have any difficulties in regard to scarce materials etc., we will try to help them out as much as we can. This is the only way we can help the States in this matter.

Faridabad normally gets a certain supply from certain DESU plants. But where there has been a surplus in these power units, that has gone to Haryana. From Badarpur, something has gone to Haryana. Nangal fertiliser plant has been good enough to agree to reduce its intake of power for some time, so that Punjab and Haryana can get some extra power during this period for irrigation. Again, there has been a spirit of cooperation here to help Punjab and Haryana. But there are limitations in the overall power supply which cannot be got over quickly.

He said, there should be immediate improvement. I can't hold out any such promise. It is not possible to set up a new power plant quickly. It takes time. But we are trying to expedite the completion of the projects which have spilled over from the fourth plan. That is a feasible proposition and I have mentioned it in my main statement also.

He referred to the two generators which were sought to be imported by U.P. but which Bharat Heavy Electricals said they would supply. It is true. He will appreciate that if Bharat Heavy Electricals say they can supply, they should be given this opportunity and we cannot allow imports if they assure supply in time. That is a matter of general policy.

Finally, he said that workers would be asked to go on strike. My only request to him is, if he thinks that power supply will increase by their going on strike, they are welcome to do so. Otherwise I do not see how the situation will be helped by the strike.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I asked whether he is prepared to appoint a committee of experts to investigate into the matter as to why the situation has come to this pass. Then, why should thousands of workers lose their wages because of the power cut?

SHRI K. C. PANT: No commission is necessary to go into the causes. What is more necessary is to take steps to see that the projects which are under construction are expedited. Rather than to go into the causes, what caused the delay in the past, we are trying to see the positive part of the programme to see that these projects are accepted and are commissioned quickly. I think that is the need of the hour. I cannot deal with the labour question.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI (Jalore): The hon. Minister has made a very wide statement on the power crisis facing the country, particularly the Northern States. He has also tried to answer Shri Banerjee in a very long statement, giving the various reasons. One factor is very clear from the statement, namely, that the power crisis in this country is heading towards a serious situation: In 1972-73 it was related to the rains. But last year, even though we have had very good rains, even then the situation has not improved.

What he has mentioned in this statement is that in the Fourth Plan, as against the desired capacity of 9.25 million kw, we had been able to generate only 4.26 million kw. There is a spill-over. He said that while they will do their best he cannot give any guarantee. What is the Fifth Plan target? We want 18.5 million kw. of electrical energy to be created in this country in the Fifth Plan. With the small increase in power supply when

the Fourth Plan schemes are completed, we will have hardly 50 per cent of the target achieved. Are we to understand that we are going to be in the same serious situation year after year, and whatever we discuss here is not going to have any effect, as far as the industrial and agricultural development of the country is concerned?

The energy crisis has got a shadow on our economy as a death warrant. The industry has come to a grinding halt not only in Faridabad in Haryana but in many other States. Today it is a big crisis and in this crisis the most surprising part is one does not know what will be the position next hour. The Faridabad industrialists have been saying that they know and appreciate that there is shortage of energy but the shocking part is that they do not know by what time they are going to get energy, between what time and whether it will be in the night or day, or whether they are going to get it after an interval of five or six days. It is a very serious matter and somebody has to be held responsible for this peculiar situation in the area. We can understand shortages in the country. One may have to eat a little less or put up with a little difficulty. That one can understand. But unless you give them energy, even as a ration if necessary, how can they work? This is one of the pitiable conditions that has been created in the country.

It is quite clear that the programme of the Fifth Plan for the development of energy targets would not be able to see the light of the day. It is a difficult matter. We find that most of the thermal plants are not working due to shortage of coal. Whenever we discuss the coal situation, the railways say they have sufficient capacity to carry the coal but they do not get the coal. On the other hand, the steel & Mines Ministry says that it has sufficient coal but the railways are not able to carry the coal. This has created a funny situation.

Then, is it a fact that the Planning Commission had advised the Punjab

Government not to put up a thermal plant at Rupar and not to go ahead with the third phase of the Bhatinda plant because of the coal shortage? If such a guideline has been given by the Planning Commission to the various State Governments, not to go ahead with their thermal plants which are being commissioned. I do not know what the situation is going to be. With a backlog of our energy crisis, if we do not go ahead with whatever plants are coming up, the situation is going to be very very serious, and some light should be thrown by the hon. Minister as to what is happening.

Then, we are told that in U.P. there are as many as 50 generating sets lying idle out of which are five are thermal sets with a capacity of 15,000 kw. which are to be installed. What has happened to their installation? When there is power shortage, why could they not be installed.

I am reminded of a newspaper report in which the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is reported to have told the industrialists that high-power consumption industries are free to move out of U.P. to other States. It is a very funny statement to be given by the Chief Minister. It shows frustration, it shows only defeatism that the Government are not thinking in terms of increased power generation in the coming year and that they have practically made up their minds that they do not want any more industries which are consuming more power. This is a matter which has to be looked into because we have different statements from different places, giving the feeling that the Government is not going to think on right lines to arrange that we have sufficient energy.

Then I would like to draw attention to the atomic power plant at Kota. What has happened to that? Though its first stage was scheduled to produce 200 mw, presently it is giving hardly 50 mw. It is afflicted by recurring breakdown in the machinery. We had invested our precious money to build a mighty power project and yet in the first stage of its working we are hardly

(Shri N. K. Sanghi)

getting 25 per cent of the rated capacity. We do not know how much time it will take to complete the second stage. I am sure if this plant had been commissioned earlier, the power shortage, particularly in Haryana, U.P. and Rajasthan, could have been well taken care of.

There is a report that the water level in the Gobindsagar dam is fast depleting. This is the dam which supplies water to the Bhakra Dam. If the water in Gobindsagar is fast depleting, what will be the supply position in Bhakra? And Bhakra is the one project which is giving regular supply to U.P. and Haryana and if there is any bottleneck in that supply, what is going to happen to the power supply to these States? Has any assessment been made about the water level in the Gobindsagar, which is mentioned in the newspaper reports?

Then, I would like to know whether the Rajasthan Government have written to the Central Government regarding the setting up of a thermal power plant in Kota in the Fifth Plan. Rajasthan is one of the very backward States and in the background of this energy crisis unless we go ahead with these projects I do not think we can go ahead with speed in power generation.

Finally, I would like to ask the Minister whether he will have a new outlook on the power shortage all over the country and whether the whole matter will be re-examined. Are you thinking of setting up a National Power Commission with an integrated outlook so that it can consider what are the present difficulties that can be solved by discussing these matters?

The hon. Minister said that recently he had a meeting with the authorities of the electricity boards of various States. What is the result of the meeting? Is the Government going to increase power production in the various States? What are the conclusions of that meeting? Has the Government

thought about better distribution between the industrial belts and the agricultural sector and if it will be strictly adhered to? I would like to have some definite information from the hon. Minister on the various points raised.

SHRI K. C. PANT: My hon., friend said that there were good rains in 1973: This is generally true. There were good rains. Even in the eastern region of UP the rains were generally good. But it is a quirk of fate that in the catchment area of the Rihand the rainfall was not sufficient and, therefore, the range of water of Rihand was low and that it did affect the generation of power in Rihand. Similarly, in Sheravati the level of the water in the lake was low. These two factors are the specific ones I have mentioned, while acknowledging the fact that rainfall was generally better and, therefore, the power situation did improve after the critical period to which my hon. friend referred.

So far as the Fifth Plan is concerned the target is 16.5 million and not 18.5 million. 18.6 or 18.7 million is the present installed capacity. I agreed with him that this is a large programme in relation to what we have been able to achieve by way of commissioning of fresh generating plants, new plants, because it is almost 3½ times what has been achieved in the past: We are trying to have (a) a good monitoring system at the Centre and close coordination with the States and (b) we are trying to have a co-ordinated approach at the Centre so that the finance, scarce materials etc. could go to the projects which are under constructions. These are the practical ways in which we can help these projects to come up quickly. So, we have taken these measures and we will continue to keep a close watch on the execution of the projects. With the cooperation of the States I hope this will speed up the projects.

On Faridabad, though I have all the details with me, I do not want to go into the details. The unrestricted daily requirement is about 1.4 million kw hours. Of this 0.3 million is re-

quired for agricultural purposes and 0.1 million for domestic and other loads. So, about 1 million kw hours are required for the industries. Out of this 1 million kwh. 0.1 million is required for the tyre industry in which there is no cut. In the remaining industries there is a cut. Out of 1 million kwh they would be getting 0.6 million kw just now because of the cut. I have here the number of hours during which power supply was closed down in Faridabad, and I find that it is not entirely erratic as my friend was pointing out, though it is not as assured in terms of periods of the day as I would like to see. But this is conditioned by various factors over which even the Haryana Government does not have full control. I only hope that they inform the industry in time so that they can make arrangements to do without power supply when the power supply is to be closed down. For instance, I find that for 7 to 15 hours the power supply was closed down on several days, beginning at 7 O'Clock.

On the question of coal, I do not exactly know what he wanted to ask me. He has said that there is some controversy between the Steel and Coal Ministries. There is no controversy with the Power Ministry. We are a user Ministry and we want the Coal Ministry and the Railway Ministry to cooperate with us as they are doing today, and with their cooperation we are keeping these plants going, sometimes even with one or two days' stock. The only thing that I have pointed out is that sometimes the quality is not of the kind which is required by the boiler and that does affect the performance of the boilers. But we shall, perhaps, have to wait for some time because we can establish the linkage between the coalmines and the boilers and make it fool proof as we would like it to be.

He referred to certain thermal plants and asked why sanction has not been given, why they are being delayed, etc. The main reason is that linkage is sought to be established between strategic coalmines and power projects, so

that one knows the coal to be expected and can design the boiler accordingly, and later on one can do the blending and so on and so forth, to get over some of the problems we have encountered in the past. Until this linkage is established, the sanction is being delayed. Otherwise, once the sanction goes, the power plants come up and later on we start looking around for coal. This creates difficulties. You cannot switch over from one coalmine to another at that stage. This is the main reason.

The U.P. Government is looking into the possibility of energising its diesel set though the total quantum of power that would be available is not too much; though it may be important for individual consumers, taking the totality of the shortage in U.P. just now, it does not amount to too much.

The Kota atomic power plant has had its difficulties. But it has already been producing at a certain level which is higher than 50 kw. which my friend mentioned, for periods of time. It has had its difficulties, and I do not want to go into the details at this stage.

It is a fact that the water level in Bhakra is not what it had been in the year before last, and before there is rainfall in the catchment area of Bhakra, we have to make sure that we do not take away so much water from Bhakra that the irrigation for one or two seasons is affected. That has to be kept in mind, at any rate till the next rainfall, till the next monsoon. There may be some difficulty on that account. In fact, there will be some reduction in power production. But I am afraid there is no escape from that.

He wanted a National Power Commission to be set up. I do not want to go into the details just now. But we are considering reorganisation of the electric supply industry and whether or not some kind of a Central organisation is necessary in that context. I

(Shri K. C. Pant)
would request him not to try to get specific answers from me just now because I would like to discuss this idea with the States first.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Jainagar):
The statement made by the hon. Minister makes a dismal reading. There is no hope for the immediate future also because there also he is entirely dependent on the weather, whether there will be rains or not. But in respect of whatever slight satisfactory results have been mentioned here, I have certain misgivings and I have certain doubts also about the facts and therefore I would request the hon. Minister to be more objective and check up the facts. Recently the Indalco management had informed the Minister of Steel and Mines to the effect that they have shortage of power and that is why they are going to cut down production, reduce the shifts or even remove some employees. He told his Joint Secretary to enquire and the Joint Secretary enquired from the Electricity Board and now the position is that the Indalco management had discharged several employees and dismissed them. So many have been arrested. I want to know whether there had been any planned sabotage etc. to reduce production. He has mentioned Bihar in the category of those States where there is no shortage of power. I know that hundreds of tubewells are there which are lying idle for want of power. They could not be worked because of lack of power connection. The REC has stopped grants and rural electrification is almost at a stop. Small-scale industries are to remain idle because of this reason. So, I would like the hon. Minister to tell us how he can say that there is no shortage of power in Bihar.

Sir, I am definitely putting all these questions based on my own knowledge. I have got personal information about it. Hundreds of tube-wells are lying idle because of lack of power connection.

The Minister himself says that the DVC is in trouble. The whole of South Bihar, Central Bihar etc. is fed by the D.V.C. In such a situation, when DVC cannot supply adequate power how can anybody say that Bihar will be in a satisfactory position. Sir, to me it appears this is a contradiction in the statement of the hon. Minister given to the House.

I would like to know in this context whether it is also not a fact that the people are demanding more and more power, people have become power-oriented, both in agriculture and in industry. The present situation is such that more and more demands are there for power, in agriculture, in industry and also in house connections.

In such a situation, I want to know whether it is a fact that the Soviet offer of 500 MW of power plant has been rejected and that was rejected in the hope that we will be able to do it ourselves. Does it mean that we have reached the saturation point, that we don't require extra plants? I don't know why this has been rejected. No foreign exchange is required; that belongs to the rupee payment area.

I would also like to ask one thing. During the British days when Lord Wavell was here, a survey was made with the help of UK, experts of U.K. U.S.A. etc. They went into this question of having hydel project over the river Kosi and that one single project would have fed the whole of Bengal, Bihar, whole of U.P., besides Nepal, Sikkim, etc.

The Government of India have left it over. When there is a shortfall in rains and when there is power supply available from the Himalayan nose, I would like to know whether the Government will consider or at least examine such a proposal again, re-examine it to ensure that there is permanent supply of power and that there is no dearth of it at least in U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Bengal and other areas.

The hon. Minister has given us assurances that he is trying to ensure that power availability is going to be maximised from the existing power plants. I would like to know the break-up plantwise, to which extent and during what period of time, is he going to increase the power availability from a particular plant? Also I want to know whether it is a fact that our thermal projects are using or have used the second-rate coal. Because of that, certain defects developed in their plants. I may give you the example of D.V.C. power project. That has rejected the coal supplied by the N.C.D.C. as of inferior quality of coal. But, that coal was later auctioned by the N.C.D.C., purchased by some private contractor and the D.V.C. management accepted that coal from the contractor. If that is the situation, especially when the coal industry has been nationalised and on behalf of the public sectors when the officers are managing the thermal power projects will be probe into the affairs as to why is it that the NCDC accepted the coal from the contractors or ex-colliery owners which was a second-rate coal and the same was supplied to Barauni, D.V.C. and other places for their power generating machines. Another thing that I would like to know is this. The minister has assured the House that a new generating unit is going to be commissioned. I would like to know from the minister the exact break-up figures for this unit. In such a situation, there is a necessity of setting up a commission to inquire into the whole affairs—not only to go into the past history but also to inquire into such failures in future. When the second rate coal is being accepted by the N.C.D.C. and the same was being supplied to other projects, their plants got damaged and, as a result, the production of power also was affected. That is why I say the whole affair is to be gone into by a Commission as stated by my hon. Friend, Shri Banerjee, so that in future, the availability of good quality of coal may be ensured to these power projects for

generation of adequate power. What steps is the Minister going to take in this regard?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I think the first question was with regard to the Hindalco Plant. As far as I have been able to see it, the power supply Hindalco plant has been stopped by the U.P. Government. That has been cut off by them. This is one of the measures taken.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Whether this is the information supplied by the Electricity Board or from the Hindalco Plant authorities.

SHRI K. C. PANT: We always get information from the State Government and this applies to UP as well. The information we have with regard to Bihar is also obtained from the Bihar Government as a result of our discussions we had with them before, in regard to the availability and requirements of power. According to the figures with me, they are no where near the kinds of problems posed by the hon. Member.

If he has seen anything with his own eyes, who am I to dispute it? The point that I am making is that 6.5 million kwh is the requirement of power in Bihar per day, and the availability is 6.1 million kwh. per day. Therefore, the availability is fairly close to the requirement. There is a much more comfortable position in most of the other States.

He talked of the DVC. I have already discussed that.

He has also wanted to know the increase in production plant-wise. Without going into all the plants in the country, I think the House has already got tired of the length of this question. I would only like to point out that in the DVC where the production had fallen at one stage to almost somewhere around 350 MW, it has come up and as I had indicated elsewhere, it is between 500 and 550MW. There has been a definite improvement in the

DVC generation. That is one of the areas which I can mention.

I am not aware of any Soviet offer of a 500 MW unit. I cannot, therefore, make any comment on this. But we are thinking of doing the basic technological work on a 500 MW unit in the Sixth Plan. It cannot come up now, as such a big unit will also require preparation of transmission lines etc. for taking the power from that unit.

He referred to some project in the British days which seemed to have caught his imagination. I am not very certain about that project. If he sends the information to me, I shall certainly look into it, but I am not aware of it.

On the supply of coal to thermal power projects, I have received complaints from some of the DVC units about the quality of coal supplied to them, and whenever I receive such complaints, I got in touch with the concerned Ministry and they do try to help. They have their own limitations, and at this moment when there are difficulties in the supply of coal to all consumers, I do not want to make an issue of the quality of coal being supplied to power plants.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: It is bad quality.

SHRI K. C. PANT: This is what I am talking about.

About the new generating units, if he refers to the answer to starred question No. 536 answered today, he will get a complete list of the projects.

12.58 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

IMPORT TRADE CONTROL POLICY

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be Laid. Prof. Chattopadhyaya.

SHRI SEZHIYAN: May I make a submission?...

MR. SPEAKER: This is some other item.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Import Trade Control Policy for the year 1974-75—Vols. I & II. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-6599/74).

RE: PRESIDENT'S ORDER IN REGARD TO AUTHORISATION OF EXPENDITURE OUT OF CONSOLIDATED FUND OF PONDICHERRY

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): I have tabled an adjournment motion and that should have been taken up before any other business was taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjournment motion on what?

SHRI SEZHIYAN: On the unconstitutionality involved in passing the Presidential order regarding withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of the Pondicherry Union Territory.

MR. SPEAKER: If an objection is being raised on constitutional issues, there is no necessity for an adjournment motion; we can discuss it otherwise also; of course, hon. Members can have an immediate discussion even on constitutional issues. An adjournment motion is necessary when something has happened and where the Speaker thinks that there is something on which a certain number of Members are required to rise and ask for a discussion. I do think that this could be discussed. If you like an adjournment motion, I do not mind. But I do not think it is necessary. We can discuss it otherwise.

13 hrs.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Bagusarai): All right.