

(c) when and how many bicycles will be supplied to the U.S.A.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) to (c): No agreement has been signed between Government of India and U.S.A. for supply of Indian bicycles to U.S.A. However, some Indian cycle manufacturers have secured orders from U.S. firms for supply of 2,40,000 nos. of Racing Models of bicycles fitted with 3 speed hubs for delivery by March, 1974.

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

POWER CRISIS IN DELHI

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

“Power crisis in Delhi.”

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): The total installed generating capacity including diesel power in Delhi is 270 MW, after deduction of the capacity of one machine of 62.5 MW the power from which is earmarked for Haryana as it was financed by Haryana and after making allowance for the loss in performance of the very old machines. DESU gets also 80 MW of power from Bhakra as its entitlement. Thus the total availability for Delhi is 350 MW, while the present peak load is about 250 MW. The peak load this year varied from 230 MW in the month of March to 365 MW in the months of January and June. Further, power demand in Delhi is growing at a rate of about 12 per cent per year. In this situation, supply and demand are close to each other and there is hardly any standby for maintenance and repair.

During the power shortage period from October 1972 to middle of May 1973, Delhi Power System was running to its full capacity and this enabled

supply of surplus power to Haryana and to a limited extent to U.P.

The present crisis started on the 10th August and lasted till 14th August. During this period the power supply from ‘C’ Station varied between Nil and 45 MW.

Three machines were re-started on 14th morning and full supply of power was restored in the city by evening. There was no shedding of load thereafter. Now all the four machines of ‘C’ Station are running and generating adequate power which, together with the Bhakra supply are meeting the city needs besides exporting 40 to 60 MW of power to U.P. where there is acute power shortage.

The House would like to know the circumstances under which the power supply from ‘C’ Station was interrupted affecting more than a third of the city from 10th to 13th August. It is a regrettable fact that there have been differences between the then General Manager, Technical staff and Electricity workers. The first manifestation of this was on 24th April. Since then a few incidents occurred now and then bringing to the surface the differences.

Sivashankar's Committee recommended increase of salaries for Engineers and Supervisory staff and this was accepted by the concerned authorities. Meanwhile electricity workers wanted that their scales of pay also should be increased. The grievances of electricity workers were brought to the notice of the Home Minister and this matter was settled satisfactorily. Differences arose between the General Manager and technical staff with regard to the Shivashankar's recommendations and they gave a notice on the 9th August intimating that they would resort to direct action from the midnight of 10th August. This brought about a tense situation in which all the personnel working in the power station were highly agitated resulting in distraction from the performance of the normal duty. Machines in the Power Station ‘C’ came to a complete halt on the 13th evening.

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

A question has been raised whether the shut down of the machines was the result of any sabotage. The Delhi Electric Supply Committee have requested the Lt. Governor to appoint a high powered Committee to enquire into the causes of breakdown of the generating units and connected matters including the lapses, if any, on the part of the personnel of the Undertaking contributing to the breakdown. We should await their report. However, one important reason that contributed to shut down was the loss of vacuum in the condensers due to deposition of silt and debris carried by the cooling water. Yamuna River, which supplies cooling water, not only has been in floods carrying heavy silt but also conveys the debris and sullage waters from city drainage falling into the river upstream of intake headworks. This necessitates cleaning the condensers every few hours instead of days or even weeks during other periods and when this was not timely attended to due to distraction of the workers, the machines perforce stopped working.

Deputy Minister, Chairman of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking and myself had discussions on 13th evening about the serious situation and then we met the Home Minister, who very kindly intervened and discussed the matter in all its aspects with the electricity workers and technical staff. This resulted in an understanding. From 14th August, all the electricity employees are working wholeheartedly, thereby restoring adequate power supply to the city.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You must have experienced this power crisis when there was no electricity in your house. I am sure every one of us had a taste of it, at least for one hour or two hours. The majority of the people of Delhi suffered for 24 hours, and 48 hours in certain cases. Not a drop of water and no sight of electricity. This is a sad commentary on the working of this particular organisation called DESU.

I do not know if there is something basically wrong with this DESU or with the Minister. I have got high regard for Dr. K. L. Rao, who is fully efficient in his own job, who is fully qualified. At the same time, he thinks that he is more qualified than he is able to manage the whole thing. He may be very efficient, he may be a very practical person also. But what is needed is a proper person to manage the whole affairs. When there is power crisis throughout the country—all the States were affected by it—Delhi was out of it. But Delhi was plunged in darkness on that day. I know, I was just in Connaught Place. I saw shrieking girls coming out of restaurants because there was darkness. There was no power. No taxi-wala no scooterwala would take them home. No warning was given to the people of Delhi. Nothing of that sort. There was no power, no water for a whole day. Probably, Rashtrapati Bhavan and the Prime Minister's house and perhaps the houses of Ministers of Cabinet rank did not suffer, and they might have been having electricity and water.

So, I want to know from the hon. Minister, when the entire discontent was known and was brewing for some time past about the engineers and other employees, what he was doing. What was the Chairman of DESU doing? It was said that the trouble arose over the non-implementation of a committee's report which was called Shivasankar committee. Its recommendations were not implemented. There were differences between the General Manager and the technical staff and ultimately, they gave a notice of 12 hours or 24 hours on 9th August 1973 and they resorted to direct action. I do not for one moment support such direct action undertaken after 24 hours. Proper notice should be given. But in this particular case they patiently waited for so many days, and until the Minister intervened and until he had a talk with them and until Mr. Uma Shankar Dixit also came into the picture, this matter was not settled. Even to-day their representa-

tive, the *Akhil Bharat Vidyuth Mahasangh* is here and they are having discussions with the hon. Minister at 6 p.m. on the question of having a need-based minimum wage for electricity workers throughout the country. But why was no action taken beforehand? I want a clearcut answer from the hon. Minister.

Again, it has been stated that the question has been raised whether the shut-down of the machines was due to sabotage. This story of sabotage was repeated earlier also and several engineers and workers were arrested and there was almost termination of their service, but ultimately it was found that the charges against them were false. I do not know whether any Indian citizen would sabotage a power house. These engineers do not belong to Black September organisation. They will never do it. It is all a question of not understanding their problems, not talking to them beforehand. The Minister goes and spends hours and hours. It is surprising. The Chairman of the DESU is equally responsible. The overall responsibility must be his. What was he doing? Why is no action taken against him? If it is a question of sabotage, this must have come from the top. The other day we discussed the question of power shortage. Assurances were given in this House that steps will be taken to see that the power crisis is over. We were told, more units will be installed. What happened in Gujarat, what happened in Porbandar? The Thermal plant worth Rs. 9 crores was sold to the Birlas at a cost of Rs. 2.75 crores. This was done in the presence of Dr. Rao. If this is the way of doing things, those who offer the lowest tender must be given charge of this Government. Why was this power station given to the Birlas, Sir? I was told that the engineers wanted to meet the Chairman, it was refused; they wanted to meet the G. M. It was refused. I want to know as to why the Shiv Shankar Committee report has not been implemented. The Committee made certain recommendations and

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they were accepted by the Government. But why have they not been implemented? I would like to have a reply from the hon. Minister about this. Is he ready to meet the representatives of the All India Organisation and devise methods whereby minimum wage could be fixed which will give them satisfaction? It has been stated that the Lieut. Governor has been asked to appoint a commission. I request that a Committee of the House should be appointed to go into this question. I don't mean the entire country, but for Delhi, I understand, we can go into it and there are many technicians here and many architects too, who are able people here in this House, who can possibly go into this question. What is he going to do in the case of U.P. which is under President's rule? I would like him to take a broad view of things. He should take necessary action against the Chairman and high officials, so that the confidence may be restored among the people in the State. About Delhi, I would like to say this. It has suffered more. The people here were agitated. Even the Members had to suffer for four hours or so because of water and power failure. I should say that for 48 hours they suffered.

I would say that nobody is going to forgive us if this thing persists next time. When there was no power for the residents here why should the P.M.'s house and Rashtrapathi Bhavan have the power? In the capital, it has happened. What has happened to the capital may as well happen to the whole country.

I want a reply from the hon. Minister to all my questions.

DR. K. L. RAO: Sir, with regard to Sivasankar Committee, I would say that this Committee was appointed at the request of the Delhi Electric Supply Committee in January 1971. They have submitted their final Report in January 1973. Then, it was passed on to the Delhi Electric Supply Committee for taking necessary action. Then, it had to be processed by them, and later on the Municipal Cor-

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

poration, when it went to them, wanted that should be translated into Hindi before they could consider the matter. Like that, one month was lost. Anyway, at the same time, the report was finally accepted and when it came to the question of payment, there was a difference of opinion between the General Manager and the working staff. When the payments were not made, then the trouble started. We have got to Cooperate in the management of the generation of electricity which is a very delicate matter in which anybody can do any harm within a short time. In Delhi, I have studied the matter very closely—I should not express my opinion very fully on this because a Committee has been appointed. All the same I must press my opinion; there was no question of any sabotage. What happened is this. These machines are very sensitive. For example there is a condenser which gets the deposit of silt from the cooling water as it is taken from the river directly. In this process some mud gets deposited in the condenser and as a result the machine stops functioning. As given in the statement, in the flood season, then water is not clear, this is happening. Every year this is happening. The people there clear this up by opening up the condenser. They do this every few hours. This time it happened because the people were not there to attend to this. Therefore, the condenser got all the clogged matter and as a result the machine stopped. That is how this has happened. I can even now take the hon. Members to the place if they want to see it. You will find that even to-day the people there clear the condenser every few hours. First they shut down the condenser and take out the clogged material. In these three or four days, there were no people. It was not attended to. As a result the condenser got clogged. This was my opinion. Anyway the Committee appointed for the purpose will be looking into this.

The hon. Member has put some more questions. I want to submit one thing.

On the generation side—this is a specialised sort of operation though it may not be highly specialised—some people are to be trained just like the driver of a car who must have experience to do the driving of a car—the people should have some experience to do it. A few people on the generation side can hold the whole society to ransom I have been thinking of undertaking a scheme by which we should be able to overcome the difficulties. Operators must do the work faithfully on the generation side on all occasions.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Sir, he has not replied as to whether he is convening a meeting of the All India Organisation to discuss the question of scales I repeated this question twice.

DR K. L. RAO: There is a meeting to-day of all the organisations not only the All India Federation is called but all the other organisations too have been called—and actually the Labour Minister is meeting them and they are going to discuss the wages of various categories of the people.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): This is not the first time that this question of failure of Delhi's power supply has come up. Last year also when a similar thing occurred, the Minister was at pains to explain the technical difficulties that were there. He said then that they were doing their best to see that adequate arrangements were made to see that this did not recur. This year again when the whole city was plunged into darkness and the matter was first raised in the other House—I will not quote what took place there but a report has appeared in the newspapers—the hon. Minister was at pains to defend them and say that this was not a case of sabotage. Now, sabotage does not mean only somebody going and putting a spanner into the machine. If normal working which requires the cleaning of condensers is also not attended to by those whose duty it is to attend to it, it is nothing less than sabotage. What other word can you use for it?

SHRI PILOO MODY (Gedhra):
Dereliction of duty.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: That is also part of sabotage.

Technically you may say that somebody going out and picking out a fishplate from the railway track is an act of sabotage. But when a train is moving and you jump off the train and do not mind your duty, do you say it is not sabotage? Do not draw such thin lines.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
(Gwalior): That will be suicide.

SHRI PILOO MODY: If you do it, it will be murder.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Therefore, he was at pains to explain that it was an act of God, *force majeure*, silt came up and clogged the machine. It is not a case of silt. Do not cover up the guilt of some of your officers by this story of silt.

Ultimately, the matter went to the Home Minister. First, when it came up, the hon Minister stated that his Ministry had nothing to do with it and it concerned only the Home Ministry. It is stated in the report Shri Rao disowned responsibility for the power crisis; he pointed out that the power house was run by DESU and the Home Ministry was concerned with it; the Irrigation and Power Ministry only tendered technical advice'. Ultimately, you went to the Home Minister in this crisis and asked him to intervene. He intervened and that is how a settlement was brought about. My question is why was it not done before? Why do you pass the buck on, the responsibility from one Ministry to another thus holding the entire city and its people to ransom, as it were. Have you calculated the damage done by the loss of water supply and electric supply to Hospitals and to all other places? Is this a matter to be taken lightly? When you got the notice on the 9th August, why was it not possible for you and the Home Ministry to sort it out with the technical officers or

supervisors and settle it? If the Sivasa-
sankar Committee had recommended an improvement of 80 per cent and if the workers have got the benett and the engineers and officers did not get it, how do you blame the engineers? They had patiently waited in the hope that justice would be done to them. Now you have tried to do something.

In the matter of train services, we saw the other day the same sort of attitude. This is something basically wrong: why do you allow a matter to be precipitated and then hang on and drag on with negotiations and settle the matter by doing something which you could have done right at the beginning?

Therefore, I ask: how are you going to find a permanent solution to this? By having a dialogue between you and the officers, by creating a sense of confidence and not a crisis of confidence which exists today. What steps are you going to take now? There is already a report 'Another Power Crisis Likely in the Capital'. It appeared in yesterday's newspapers. There is already a dispute as to the definition of 'workmen', who are considered to be workmen, who is to be recognised and all that. Are you going to wait till again it matures into a crisis and there is a crisis again when the city will be plunged into darkness again? Or, are you going to take some positive steps to solve the problem? Don't tell me that the Home Ministry are to blame etc. So far as we are concerned, Government is one and the Cabinet is responsible. You sit together and sort it out amongst yourselves to see what steps should be taken so that this kind of thing does not occur again. This is the assurance we want from you.

DR. K. L. RAO: The hon. member is correct in saying that it is a joint responsibility. I am not saying that I am not to be blamed and somebody else is to be blamed. On technical matters, We do come in immediately. If it is a matter of management, a certain procedure has to be followed. DESU people,

[Dr. K. L. Rao]
Corporation of Delhi, Ltd. Governor—
all of them are involved and we cannot rush. If it is Badarpur power station, I take the entire responsibility for it. But here various organisations are involved. Still, I entirely agree within that we have to act together. We are acting together and trying to do our best. Management of machines is much easier than management of men. We have to find a way out. It is a continuous process. All the time we are trying to do justice to all classes of people engaged in the work. We must study these things carefully. We cannot rush in. So far as Delhi is concerned, we are fully aware of the difficulties the people are put to when there is a power crisis. We only hope that a similar situation will not come again. We are having another Badarpur power station. Unless simultaneously all of them fail, Delhi should not have any difficulty. Still, we cannot say it very positively. The whole thing depends on the cooperative effort of the workers, engineers, supervisory staff, etc.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी अखेर में डबी हट्ट भारत की राजधानी शायद उस अखेर में प्रविश्य की और संकेत कर रही थी जिस में आज देश अपने को धीरे-धीरे जकड़ा हुआ पाता है।

SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR (Patiala).
Negative approach.

श्री इयाजनम्बन मिश्र (बेगूसराय) : मगर नायाग मगर नारा तो क्या था इंदिरा गांधी आई हैं नई रोजनी लाई हैं।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : हम ने देखा कि अखेर में नई रोजनी से काम नहीं चला, जनसंघ के दीपक से काम चला।

(अवधान)

अध्यक्ष जी, यदि किसी व्यक्ति को दिल्ली के विद्युत संकट के लिये दोषी ठहराया जा सकता है तो केन्द्रीय मंत्री डा० राव नहीं हैं, न उ-मंत्री महोदय हैं, वह है जनरल मनेजर श्री करियप्पा। यह विवाद कई महीनों से चल रहा है। तीन महीनों से कर्मचारी, ईन्जीनियर्स, सुपरवाइजरी स्टाफ, वर्क-ट-

वस का प्रबलम्ब कर रहा था। शिव संकर कमेटी की सिफारिशों को लेकर कर्मचारियों में असंतोष है- यह बात सर्वविदित थी। कारपोरेशन की स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने यह बात स्वीकृत कर ली कि 60 परसेंट बेजोब में, मजदूरी में बढ़ोतरी होनी चाहिए लेकिन करियप्पा ने उसको कार्यान्वित नहीं किया। मान्यता देने के सवाल पर भी जोटे विनकल सुपरवाइजरी स्टाफ एसोसिएशन है वह मान्यता के लिए लड़ रहा था, उसे मान्यता मिलनी चाहिए थी, कारपोरेशन की कमेटी उसे मान्यता देने के पक्ष में थी, लेकिन जनरल मनेजर महोदय ए क प्रलय यूनियन का पक्ष ले रहे थे, उन्होंने मान्यता नहीं दी और स्थिति यहां तक बिगड़ी कि काम बन्द हो गया, दिल्ली अखेर में डब गई। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ जनरल मनेजर महोदय के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की गई ?

पहले भी दिल्ली एनेक्टिक मण्डल अन्डरटेकिंग में उन्ही महोदय की वजह से कठिनाई पैदा हुई थी डा० राव वहा 24 घंटे खड़े रहे, कर्मचारियों को काम करने के लिए प्रेरित करते रहे लेकिन जनरल मनेजर के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही नहीं की गई। अब खबर छपी है वे छुट्टी पर चले गए हैं। वे जहां से आये वहां उन्हें वापिस भेज देना चाहिए। ऐसा व्यक्ति जो कर्मचारियों में भेद भाव पैदा करता है, जो एक यूनियन की कीमत पर दूसरी यूनियन को बढ़ावा देना चाहता है, जो सभी को साथ लेकर नहीं चल सकता है वह इस तरह की अन्डरटेकिंग को सफल नहीं बना सकता है। जनरल मनेजर ने अपनी अयोग्यता पूरी तरह से सिद्ध कर दी है।
(अवधान)

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ डा० राव ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है कि वहा सैबटाज हुआ था नहीं, उसकी जांच के लिए ले० गवर्नर एक कमेटी बना रहे हैं। फिर मंत्री महोदय यह भी कहते हैं कि जहां तक उनका ध्यान है सैबटाज नहीं हुआ। फिर कमेटी बनाने की जरूरत है ?

उन्होंने दूसरी बात भी कही कि यमना का जो पानी बिजली बनाने वाले धर्रों को ठंडा करता है उस पानी में कचरा इकट्ठा हो जाता है, वहाँ कूड़ा इकट्ठा हो जाता है और इससे कठिनाई पैदा होती है। यह ध्राज का नहीं है मैं ने स्वयं घटना स्वल पर जाकर देखा हूँ मन्दी वाले वहा पर गिरते हैं जहाँ पर पीने के लिए पानी लिया जाता है, जहाँ पर ताप-धर्रों को शीत करने के लिए पानी लिया जाता है। यदि ध्राप कमेटी बनाना चाहते हैं तो वह इस बात के लिए बने कि सिल्ट को कैसे रोका जाये, यमना के कड़े को जो ठंडा करने वाले पानी के साथ मिलता है और ताप-धर्रों को बिभाइएट है उसे कैसे रोका जायेगा। यह समस्या ध्राज की नहीं है, वर्षों से चल रही है और यदि ध्रापने कोई दीर्घकालीन तथा ध्रन्यकालीन योजना नहीं बनाई तो यह समस्या फिर पैदा होगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ इस सम्बन्ध में कौन सी कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ?

इसी में जुड़ा हुआ एक तीसरा प्रश्न है। केवल दिल्ली में ही विद्युत कर्मचारी और इंजीनियर असंतुष्ट नहीं हैं, उनका ध्रमंतोष एक सार्वदेशिक स्वरूप धारण कर रहा है। पंजाब से खबर आई है कि वहा के जो चेंबरमैन थे उनको नौकरी में हटा दिया गया और उत्तर प्रदेश के इंजीनियर हड़ताल पर जाने वाले हैं। (ध्रयबखान) दिल्ली ध्रभी-ध्रभीएक विद्युत संकट से निकली है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ जब संकट पैदा हो जाता है क्या उसी के बाद उसको हल करने का उपाय ध्रपनाना जरूरी है ? क्या तीन महीने से चलने वाले बर्क-डु-कूल ध्रान्दोलन सरकार के लिए सूचना और चेतावनी नहीं थी ? क्या पहले से उनको बुलाकर रिकग्निशन देने का मामला 60 परसेंट बेजुड़ देने का मामला हल नहीं किया जा सकता था ? क्या गृह मन्त्री की मध्यस्थता से पहले यह सबाल सुल-झाया नहीं जा सकता था ? मामला लटकाया जाता है, परिस्थिति बिगड़ती है, तब दिल्ली के देखता जागते हैं और तब तक ध्रंधेरा हो चुका होता है।

ध्रःध्रल जहीध्रय : इस संकट के ध्रल होने से दिया तो नहीं बन्द कर देंगे ?

ध्रो ध्रदल बिहारो बाजध्रयो : ध्राप धंदी न बजाइये तो सब ठीक रहेगा।

मैं चाहता हूँ मन्त्री महोदय इन सबालों का उत्तर दें। जनरल मैनेजर के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ? ध्रविष्य में कूड़े और गन्बनी को रोकने के लिए कौन से कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं और सारे देश में विद्युत इंजीनियर और कर्मचारी जो असंतुष्ट हैं उनको संतुष्ट करने के लिए कौन से उपाय और योजना बनाई जा रही है ?

DR. K. L. RAO: The then General Manager, Mr. Cariapa, has been granted leave and has been relieved yesterday.

I agree with most of the things that the hon. Member has said. There is some truth in what he has said. Regarding Yamuna river, it is a very sacred river but, unfortunately, is very heavily polluted in the limits of Delhi. The result is that even for bathing, it is becoming very difficult indeed and the drainage that comes from the Rajghat area is directly causing trouble with the condenser. I inspected that on the 15th afternoon for 2½ hours. I went round the whole area. One can see how the sullage consisting of all types of debris, a very black stuff, is directly going into the intake of cooling water. We will have to put some people to try to remove it manually, as much as they can.

So far as the trouble with the condenser is concerned, I have already instructed that we should design a sedimentation tank separately and see that this trouble does not arise at least so far as the thermal station is concerned. Beyond that, I also feel that the matter should be taken up with the Mayor and the Council authorities to see that Yamuna flowing into Delhi city must be cleaned.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAIYEE: What about discontent amongst the employees?

Dr. K. L. RAO: I will not call it 'discontent'. In regard to some of the grievances of workers, we are going to have a meeting today. With regard to grievances of the Engineers, it is a separate thing that has got to be looked into. Unfortunately, in this country, we do not have one organisation. We have got about 20 organisations which are looking after generation and distribution of power. Therefore, it takes time before we can sort out these matters. But every effort will be made to see that justice is done to various classes of people engaged in the electricity supply.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir, I am rather surprised that in the statement considering the hardship that the people of Delhi have suffered, there seems to be not one word of regret at all. I find, the statement is even apologetic for action. But there is no regret for the inconvenience caused.

Another thing that surprises me is that in the course of the statement several things that have been said are not the subject-matter of discussion at all. To quote just one, it says:

"A question has been raised whether the shut-down of the machines was the result of any sabotage."

I think, this is merely a red herring. You talk about sabotage and the people's attention gets diverted. One begins to feel that may be there was some element of sabotage. To inject something into explanations such as this and then to go on to say that you have appointed a committee, etc. to look into it is, I think, drawing the attention of the people away from main facts.

The main thing that I can see in this entire episode is that the personnel relations of DSESU are bad. This has now become, not an international phenomenon, as this Government says, but certainly, a national phenomenon. The personnel relations in all Government departments, in all governmental undertakings, are bad and they are bad because there

are structural defects in the manner in which the Government operates.

To-day, for instance, the Minister is going to meet the representatives of the workers. Obviously, they are going to meet and exchange grievances. The Minister will give his grievances about the *dhandra* he got in the Parliament as a result of the shortage, and the workers will give their grievances about the shortage of pay and working conditions that they have been suffering from all this time. I would like to know what the purpose of such a meeting is. Is the Minister in a position to sanction additional salaries? Is the Minister in a position to order elimination of certain discomforts or other shortcomings in the service conditions of these people? Obviously, he is not.

Not only he is not capable of doing it but if he takes his elder and senior colleague, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshitji, along, he may still not be in a position to satisfy the demands of the workers. Then, what is the point of this meeting? This is something that I ask you. I am sure these workers are coming to this meeting with high hopes and expectations that something will come out of this meeting. You will say, 'Yes, we will consider it, we will consider it.' Their hopes will again be broken because weeks and weeks will pass without any sort of relief or remedy to their problems, because it will go into the inscrutable corridors of the Government where it will be lost between the Finance Ministry and the Works & Housing Ministry, this Ministry and that Ministry and his own Ministry and many other Ministries as also the Home Ministry and then the local secretariat of the Metropolitan Council and the Lt Governor and what not. Therefore, I think that personnel relations will continue to be bad in all the Government undertakings till you bring in structural changes. It should be possible, therefore, for the Minister before he goes to the meeting to say, 'I shall sanction this, I sanction that.' For that, he should have the prior authority of

the Finance Ministry to go and negotiate a settlement of this problem once and for all. But this is not likely to happen under the Congress regime.

The other thing is sloppy maintenance. Arising out of the discontent of the workers comes is sloppy maintenance. It is an *ipso facto* result of bad personnel relations. Therefore, I think that something should be done drastically to alter this.

There are some technical matters, I would like to raise. The statement says, "Thus, the total availability for Delhi is 350 MW while the present peak load is about 250 MW." This, according to me, gives you an excess capacity of 40 per cent. But the last sentence in the same para says, "supply and demand are close to each other and there is hardly any standby for maintenance and repair." As a technical man and an engineer and a scientist, to make such a statement is, I think, against the ethical code of engineers and scientists.

DR. K. L. RAO: I will explain it.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You should have done it in the statement itself. Normally what is required is 20 per cent standby capacity. That is the normal planning need. Therefore, when you get 40 per cent to say that this is close to demand is not right. Then he says, "The present crisis started on the 10th August and lasted till 14th August. During this period the power supply from C Station varied from nil to 45 MW." Then I would like to know why he talks about the differences between the General Manager and the technicians. Why should there be differences? They are both working for the same purpose, to produce electricity and to provide service. "The grievances of the electricity workers were brought to the notice of the Home Minister and this matter was settled satisfactorily." Why only the Home Minister can settle the matter satisfactorily.

Now coming to the main problem, the Minister says, 'I have gone and

closely inspected it. The condenser is clogged with silt and all manner of impurities of the river—the sacred Jamuna. There is a simple method by which this can be eliminated and this is by providing a natural bed filtration plant. It costs only a few thousands rupees. It goes through various strata of large rocks to fine sand and this will eliminate the impurities in water very easily and very cheaply. By reversing the pumping process you can very easily clean the filtration bed. You certainly don't have to allow engineers and other technical personnel of the plant to go and clean the condensers etc. You don't clean the end product. You clean the original thing and it is always much cheaper to do that. Therefore we have got to instal this natural bed filtration plant. It is a very simple method which can be very easily built. I have only two other points to raise.

Then I come to the entire question of recognition of unions. This is so faulty and politically invested that I do not know why after so many years we have not been able to adopt a simple enough procedure of having a secret ballot to recognise the unions as per the result of secret ballot.

Then you come to essential services. Essential services must to maintained and nobody should be excused for not maintaining essential services. Those who maintain essential services must be put in a very special category. We have said this in the past. During the time of the all-India strike we said this. So far as these essential services are concerned, you must have a very special sort of responsibility in dealing with their grievances. If you take one month or 2 months or 10 months to deal with ordinary workers you must deal with these essential services in the matter of a week or in the matter of 10 days. This is your special responsibility because of the special work you are asking them to do.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. I have told this to you a number of times. This was discussed in the

[Mr. Speaker]

Committee a number of times. In the House it was decided that this is not meant for speeches. This is just an opportunity to ask for clarification. We have considered this a number of times. The leaders have been asking me not to give more than five minutes. I do not know why you do it every day I have been waiting for your question since the last 15 minutes. .

SHRI PILOO MODY: Why should he answer? I have not asked a question....

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply if he had not asked a question.

DR. K. L. RAO: I would like to clarify in regard to certain points which the hon. Member has made. I would like to submit that I am extremely sorry and I offer my apology to the entire nation, to my hon. friend Shri Piloo Mody and the House and the citizens of Delhi for this strike and the consequent absence of electricity. I really regret on behalf of the whole organisation that such a thing has happened, and we are very sorry for it. We are fully conscious of the responsibility. But when things go beyond our control, you cannot help it. The point which he raised was about sabotage. I referred to the sabotage question because in the other House the question was raised and I thought hon. Members would be interested to know about that. That is why I mentioned about it.

Regarding the other point which he raised, the power consumed in the month of January is 305 MW. It is given in the statement. Also, every year the power demand is increasing by 12 per cent. By next January the power demand will be 341 MW and this figure is very close to the figure of 350 MW which is our installed capacity. That is why I said, supply and demand are very close, and there is no margin. Actually we have to depend by next year, for meeting the

power load, on Badarpur power station.

I fully agree with the hon. Member that maintenance of essential services is very important. I quite agree with him. I am very thankful for the suggestion made by him, that is also what I am thinking of.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very unpleasant duty to ring the bell when such a good speech was made by Shri Piloo Mody. It is a very unpleasant duty, I know; at the same time, I have to do it.

श्री सतपाल कपूर (पटियाला): वाजपेयी जी हम बात में विश्वास नहीं रखते कि उनके दीपक से उनका काम चल सकता है। अगर बिल्ली में एक दिन बिजली बन्द हो तो उनका काम नहीं चल सकता है। उनको 24 घंटे इदिरा गांधी की रोगनी मिलती रहनी चाहिए तभी उनकी जिल्दनी मुन्नी रह सकती है। अगर कुछ देर भी इदिरा गांधी की रोगनी उन को न मिले तो वह परटब हो जाते हैं। वह चीज चाहिए हो गई है और उन्होंने इसको कबूम भी कर लिया है।

सब प्वाइंट्स आ चुके हैं। एक ही बात मैं पूछता हूँ जब प्राबलैम खड़ी होती है चाहे ट्रेड यूनियन की हो या मिलिटिंग जमा होने की हो, तभी प्राप हल निकालने की कोशिश करते हैं। हर साल प्राप इस प्राबलैम को फेंस करते हैं। बो साल पहले भी किया था और पिछले साल भी किया था। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इरि-नेशन एंड पावर मिनिस्ट्री और होम मिनिस्ट्री प्राबलैम पैदा हो क्यों होने देते हैं? पहले ही उसका साल्यूशन क्यों नहीं निकाल लेते हैं? प्राबलैम पैदा हो तब उसको साल्व करें, यह एटीट्यूड ठीक नहीं है। कर्मचारियों को यह इम्प्रीजन देना कि जब तक स्ट्राइक बंद न करें, जब तक डैमन्टेशन न करें, जब तक प्रशासन के लिए प्राबलैम क्रियेट न करें उनकी बात मानी नहीं जाएगी, मैं समझता हूँ बिल्कुल गलत एटीट्यूड है। इस एटीट्यूड को चेंज करना चाहिए। ताकि कर्मचारी भी तसल्लीबखा इंच से काम

कर सकें। मैं इसके बारे में गारंटी चाहता हूँ। आप बताएं कि आने वाले सालों में यह पैदा नहीं होगा और सालाना, मंथली या क्वार्टरली फीचर यह रहेगा तब भी आप बता दें। कोई स्कीम है या नहीं या जब प्राबलम पैदा होगी तभी आप सोचेंगे ?

. DR. K. L. RAO: This is a continuing problem and it goes on. We have got to solve the problem. At Idikki we were paying to the unskilled labour Rs. 2-50 and due to constant demand this was raised to Rs. 5—50. There is a demand now for even further rise. This goes on. Such demands go on taking place from time to time according to the circumstances. We have to solve the problems as they arise before violence is restored to.

12.50 Hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER DELIMITATION ACT, 1972

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S.O. 367(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1973 containing Order No. 3 of the Delimitation Commission determining the number of seats in the House of the People allocated to the State of Manipur and the total number of seats assigned to the Legislative Assembly of the State, under sub-section (3) of section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 1972. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5415/73].

Notification under Customs Act, 1962

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): On behalf of Shri K. R. Ganesh, I beg to

lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 385(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 1973, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5416/73]

AIRCRAFT (4TH AMDT.) RULES UNDER AIRCRAFT ACT, 1934

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Aircraft (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 718 in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 1973, under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 together with an explanatory Note. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5417/73].

Staple Fibre Distribution Order under Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a statement and Notification under Spirituous Preparation Conerol Act, 1955

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)(i) A copy, of the Staple Fibre Distribution Order, 1972 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 5356 in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1972, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying above Notification.

[Placed in library. See No. LT-5418/73].

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Spirituous Prepara-