

## LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 10, 1987/  
Kartika 19, 1909 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of  
the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharya, how is it that you are sitting all alone ?

AN HON. MEMBER : They have come.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : You heard the cry for help...?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 41—  
Shri Prakash Chandra—Missing...? Shri  
Subhash Yadav.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

#### Shortage of Power in Hydel Generation

\*41. †SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :  
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there will be a considerable shortfall of power in the Seventh Five Year Plan target ;

(b) whether thermal power generation target has by and large been achieved but hydel generation has been lower ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken by Government to meet the situation and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI  
SUSHILA ROHTAGI : (a) to (d). A  
Statement is given below :

#### Statement

(a) to (d). During April to October, 1987 thermal generation was 82.65 billion units as compared with a programme of 81.57 billion units. Hydel generation was 29.93 billion units while the programme was 34.44 billion units. The measures which are being taken to augment the availability of power include optimisation of thermal generation, expediting commissioning of new capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, reduction of transmission and distribution losses, and implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures. Power generation during April to October, 1987 has shown an increase of 8.4% over the corresponding period of last year. All efforts are being made to achieve the programme of power generation by the end of the Seventh Plan to the extent possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the hon. Minister tell that...

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : If you have a question, then ask.

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : I have a question.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : The hon. Member was not aware that he will have to ask a Supplementary Question.

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : I was not aware that I will have to consult Shri Bairagi.

MR. SPEAKER : Why did not you tell me before hand about your difficulty ?

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : I want to know as to what is the demand and the

generating capacity during the Seventh Five Year Plan? This is my first Question. My second Question is that...

MR. SPEAKER : Will you ask both the questions simultaneously or one by one? I will give you another chance.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, during the Seventh Five Year Plan period there will be shortage of 10 per cent in power generation. The availability will be less by 10 per cent as compared to the demand.

[English]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister is aware of the complaints by a large number of Electricity Boards that there has been a long delay in the clearance of projects at the Central level.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Today the job has been done automatically.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : There was an urgency.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : When the Speaker is silent, the consent is implicit. (Interruptions)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : I did not want to waste the time of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : It is like the bride!

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Sir, there has been a consistent complaint that the projects sent for clearance by the State Electricity Boards are being delayed at the Central level. For instance, Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board has sent for clearance of Muddanur thermal power project and it has been pending for a long time. They have been putting unnecessary queries. They have raised queries with regard to the coal linkages and all these things.

All those matters could expeditiously be settled by calling for the meeting of the concerned authorities from the Electricity Board and the State Authorities. Will the hon. Minister assure that there will not be any

delay in giving clearances to these State projects and will the hon. Minister see that the Muddanur thermal power project in Andhra Pradesh is given clearance.

MR. SPEAKER : Then there will be no shortfall.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, how far this particular question is directly concerned or otherwise with the first point, I do not know. But all the same—...

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is relevant. The Speaker has to decide that.

MR. SPEAKER : She is just only appealing.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : As far as I am aware, I think, this particular project that he has mentioned, has been given coal linkage and the rest of the things are under consideration because I feel it is coming up in one of these sessions.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from Madam Minister that during this Seventh Five Year Plan how many hydel projects are lying pending for sanction by the Energy Ministry and for clearance by the Department of Environment? Is there any possibility of early sanction of the proposed Bodh Ghat project of Madhya Pradesh among those projects?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : It will be difficult at the moment to tell the number of pending projects and stage of their consideration.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, Kerala is faced with a severe power crisis. We are solely dependent on hydel projects for our power generation.

MR. SPEAKER : You will be saving Kerala from pollution!

SHRI SURESH KURUP : But the problem is, now there is 7 hours power-cut per day.



AN HON. MEMBER : 5 hours.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It is reduced to 5 hours. All these years we have been demanding for a thermal power plant and at one stage honourable Shri Vasant Satheji gave assurances that the technical clearance will be given very soon, but nothing has come about. I would like to know from the Minister when this thermal power plant will be cleared and whether the Union Government intends to help Kerala to face this severe power shortage.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, as far as this thermal power plant is concerned, the Minister for Energy and also the Chief Minister met me during the last Session and I pointed out to them that the ball was in their court. We had already sent certain queries, or asked for certain information about the financial projections etc. that were required and that information was yet to come for the CEA to study the projects. That is yet to come even today. So, if the hon. Member takes up the matter and reminds his Chief Minister—well, the problem is not with the Centre.

SHRI C.P.N. SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister that in part (b) of the question it is clear that there is a shortfall in the hydel generation. Now, it is a well-known fact that with regard to hydel generation when large projects have to be sanctioned, there is a terrible amount of environmental disturbance. Mini hydel is the source of power generation in the Western and European countries today. Why doesn't India take it up because the potential of our river systems in the North-East, the entire Gangetic plain and the country is tremendous. It has also technologically been proven that a 4 ft. to 5 ft. drop can generate power. So, as the gestation period of large projects is there naturally the mini hydel plants would solve our power problems to a great extent. Does the Government consider this as an important thrust area or not.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I absolutely appreciate and I think it is a very very good question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Not appreciate only, but react also.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : React also and favourably too Sir.

The fact is that we have a large potential of water, about 5000 MW, which should be tapped, which should be harnessed. Recently we have had a discussion with the Planning Commission in this connection. As a demonstration and as a model, NHPC has taken up 4 projects. Though the number is only 4, we want to see whether they work on them successfully. After that, they will be given to the State Governments and they will take up in their own States. At the same time, a study has been instituted recently. I took it up personally with the Planning Commission. They are preparing a paper, how we can make a thrust to the small, mini and micro projects and utilise the potentials to the maximum extent possible. We do find that with little standardisation of all the equipment—we have the technology—we would be able to succeed in the direction.

But at the same time, other bigger projects also have to go ahead. I think, hon. Members will agree to that also.

MR. SPEAKER : Next. Shrimati Kishori Sinha. That is all.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, I was always trying to catch your eye.

MR. SPEAKER : Try next time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The complaint is, your eyes are very slippery !

MR. SPEAKER : They have to be. Otherwise they will get quite fixed up !

#### Fixation of Drug Prices

\*42. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian drug manufacturers have submitted the data needed to refix the prices of their products under the new drug price policy before October 1, this year ;

(b) if so, whether the new prices have been fixed ;

(c) if so, whether these prices are higher than existing prices of these drugs ; and

(d) what steps Government intend to take in case the manufacturers have not submitted their data ?