

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, November 25, 1986/Agrahayana,  
4, 1908 [Saka]*

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock.*

MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER Questions: Shri Basavaraju.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, first we must congratulate our Deputy Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER : I did it personally on behalf of all of you but if you still like to do it once more you can do it

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I thank all the members and also the Prime Minister and the Speaker who had attended my marriage. I thank all others also.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : But 'At-Home' should be in Delhi.

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : We are having a reception. I request all of you to please attend my marriage reception in Delhi.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : We wish you a happy married life.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to provide energy, Sir, now?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I can provide.....  
(Interruptions).

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Why don't you allow him some vacation?

MR. SPEAKER : I am sending him on a honeymoon trip.

[Translation]

Bairagiji, do you want to say something?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I want to say that.....

MR. SPEAKER : Say it in poetry then.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : All these good wishes will not take formal shape unless we are served with food cooked by the madam.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, it is correct. It appeals somewhat.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : If it appeals you, then get it fulfilled

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I can only say to our Deputy Speaker, in his married life we will provide all the energy he needs.

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : Thank you very much.

SHRI MADHU DANDAVATE : It should not be misunderstood

MR. SPEAKER : For lighting the House, he means

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We begin with the solar energy first

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Solar Energy Society Of India

\*306. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :  
SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Solar Energy Society of India has urged the Union Government to come out with clear-cut policy on the development and use of the non-conventional sources of energy; and

(b) if so, the suggestions made by the Society and the reaction of Union Government thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE):** (a) and (b). The National Solar Energy Convention 1986 of the Solar Energy Society of India was held at the Madurai Kamraj University from 13-15 September, 1986. The Convention appreciated the work done in this area by the Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources and called for a clear policy of greater overall support and investments for the development and use of non-conventional energy sources. It also called for increased financial allocations for this purpose, particularly in view of their potential to bring substantial benefits to the rural areas.

The suggestions made at the Convention have just been received from the Society and are being looked into.

**SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:** Is it a fact that four day convention in which several experts on solar and other non-conventional sources of energy participated and urged the Centre to consult the expert group of the Society before going on in a large scale import of technology on the non-conventional sources of energy to prevent import of obsolete and unsuitable technologies? If so, whether the Government has examined the suggestion and also other various suggestions?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** It is our very clear cut policy that whenever any technology is to be imported, that technology must be such—

(a) which is not available in this country:

(b) which is capable of being absorbed in our own technological system.

It must be in a sense in national interest and the Society also has recommended that by and large demonstration projects should be taken up for indigenously developed technology. In case of import of technologies there should be clear policy of accelerating their absorption and for indigenous production.

We are entirely in agreement with this suggestion and our policy is also in keeping with this.

**SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :** Is it also a fact that the suggestions of the Committee have been examined by the Government and also whether rural areas could not be benefited on a large scale and in a systematic manner for lack of clear cut policy and guidelines for use of non-conventional sources of energy?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** As I said it is a fact that up till now non-conventional sources of energy, because of the economic non-viability generally have been looked at as a sort of non-conventional thing as a fad. But it is my humble submission that in keeping with our needs and what we can do and what we have already demonstrated and achieved in the last three, four years in the field of bio gas, biomass, solar energy, particularly solar and wind for which there is tremendous scope, India can give a lead to the entire world in the non-conventional energy sources. We want to give a thrust. You, as a great scholar, already knew that our entire spiritual philosophy is based on worship of the God Sun—

*Om Bhoor bhawah swaha  
Tatswiturvarenyam  
Bhargodevasaya dhimahi  
Dhiyoyonah prachodyat.*

We pray in the morning Gaitri Mantra. We pray everyday that let us get that enlightenment. I believe, Sir, if we get the support from the entire House for this enlightenment to give thrust to the solar and wind energy.

*Surya urja, saur urja, pawan urja  
Pawan-putra Hanuman*

Sir, I think India can achieve great miracles in this field. We are determined to do that.

**SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :** Sir, the Minister has stated that the suggestions made at the Convention have just been received from the society. But the Government did establish a Commission for Additional Sources of Energy during 1981 and also entrusted the work of formulating the policy to that Commission. I would like to know the recommendations of that Commission and the work done by the Commission and the reaction of the Government. Also, the Government is having the Advisory Board on Energy. What is this Board and what are its recommendations in this regard? There is also one Kapoor Commission which made recommendations. What are the recommendations of the Kapoor Commission and what is the reaction of the Government?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** The other Boards and Commissions to which the hon. Member is referring deal with energy as a whole and generally the concentration is on the conventional sources of energy, thermal, hydel etc. Non-conventional sources of energy is the specific field in which this Society, the high level Society in India, is working, particularly for solar and non-thermal and it has 500 members from various walks of life and this Society which is a professional body, this Convention, which meets every year, annually, has made a detailed study and made recommendations. If you like, some of them I can mention. For example, the key things are: Greater support should be given for development and increased investment made in non-conventional energy programme as in the case for large centralised energy development and supply, flexible guidelines for funding and subsidies should be evolved to take into account both quantitative as well as performance related criteria and courses on non-conventional energy should be run in IITs/Universities.

These are some of the key suggestions, and we are favourably looking at them.

[Translation]

**MR. SPEAKER :** You may go ahead. The House is with you on this matter.

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to submit to the hon. Minister that by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, we will be facing shortage of 10000 MW of electricity, as has been mentioned here. The first part of my question is as to what percentage of this shortage will be covered by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan through solar energy and will the Government circulate any paper on its potentialities?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have repeatedly stated in the House that today it costs us at least one crore rupees to generate one MW of electricity whereas the nuclear energy costs something between Rs. 1.75 crores to Rs. 2 crores. The provision made by us in the entire five year plan is Rs. 35000 crores and it has been made in these areas. We have already started getting 3.5 lakh units of energy from the wind mills established in the 4 wind farms under the Non-Conventional Sources of Energy Schemes. Visibility has been established. The question is that of the resources. In all, if Rs. 500 crores have been allocated in the Five Year Plan for non-conventional sources of energy, you can very well imagine as to how much electricity we can generate to cover the shortage of 10000 MW.

Therefore, the question is that of the resources. We are thinking that if the Integrated Energy Development Programme is formulated as part of the Rural Development Programmes like IRDP then we can pool the resources available to us and I am of the view that if these are properly utilised, particularly our villages can become self-reliant in the matter of energy.

[English]

**SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM :** Sir, the utilisation of non-conventional energy, the instrumentation part of it, it is stated, has become more costly than the utilisation of the conventional energy. If it is true, what is the research that is being done to take the cost very low

**MR. SPEAKER :** Is it correct?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Sir, actually it is not correct. May I submit that if you take the total cost of even non-conventional energy like thermal, the infrastructure required is normally not taken into consideration—railway, transportation, coal, for example, coal mining and then setting up thermal power plants, then the recurring cost and then transmission lines to be drawn. If all this is taken into consideration, even today as delivery cost, it will be high. In the case of solar energy, if solar energy is set up or if wind energy is set up, it is locally available straightaway, and other multiplier benefits like pollution free and other benefits are many. Therefore, if you take this total cost even today, solar energy or wind energy or localised biomass energy is economically competitive.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Minister has thrown light on the utility of the non-conventional source of energy. Being a member of the Energy Committee, I have seen its success at several places. The hon. Minister has also stated that the Parliament should sanction more funds to meet the shortage of electricity. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take action to adjust the amounts meant for the programmes of rural development, with the sanction of the cabinet, to avoid shortage of funds?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is supreme and if it feels that provision should be made, the Finance Minister and the Cabinet will have to.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I award you the degree of 'Vidya Maartanda' today.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : What else can I say? I cannot make this provision by a magic wand but if I get the funds, then I am of the humble view that we will be able to make progress, particularly in the villages.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : You are evading this issue. What will the House do?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It should support.  
(Interruptions)

[English]

**Modernisation of Telecommunications  
System of Calcutta**

\*307 SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the plan to modernise the telecommunications system of Calcutta metropolitan city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI  
SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): A statement is  
given below.

**Statement**

*Plans to modernize the telecommunication  
system of Calcutta Metropolitan City*

- (1) As on 30.9.1986, the position of Calcutta telephones was as follows:  
Telephone Exchange Capacity :241,700  
Working Lines :205,213  
Waiting List :33,402
- (2) During 7th Plan it is planned to add 45,000 lines of exchange capacity out of which 10,300 lines has already been added.
- (3) During the 7th plan it is planned to replace 91,800 lines of old/worn out exchanges out of which 30,000 lines have been replaced so far.
- (4) It is proposed to construct a total of 100 Km. of ducts by 1990, out of which 56 Kms. have so far been completed.
- (5) It is proposed to replace majority of the

junction cables by radio relay and optical fibre systems.

9 radio links have been installed. 60 more are likely to be installed during the 7th plan.

37 optical fibre cable systems have been planned.

- (6) PCM systems are proposed to be installed on various junction cables. 338 systems have so far been commissioned. Another 700 have been planned.
- (7) Electronic Trunk Automatic Exchanges (TAX) have been planned. 4000 lines SPC electronic TAX has been installed in 1983. A 4000 lines digital electronic exchange has been planned to replace the 4000 lines Penta TAX. Another 8000 lines digital TAX is planned.
- (8) A 3000 lines Digital Electronic Telex has been installed in 1983. Expansion by 4600 lines has been planned out of which 2500 lines will be used to replace the existing strowger telex.
- (9) Computerization of Telephone Directory updating and enquiry service: Computer has been installed. Software and data work is in progress

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Sir, the condition of the Calcutta Telephones is known to everybody. We have discussed the matter here several times. The Telephone Department has taken some routine steps here and there in the Calcutta metropolitan town also. But that has produced no effective benefits to the consumers.

The hon. Minister in his statement has stated that the capacity of the telephone exchange is 241,700 and working lines are 205,213. The number of waiting list is 33,402. However, the hon. Minister has not stated why the waiting list consumers were not provided with the lines though the capacity was there. In his statement, the cost factor was not also mentioned.

In my opinion, a comprehensive study about the whole matter was necessary before undertaking the modernisation programme. May I know from the hon. Minister that before undertaking modernisation programme whether a comprehensive study would be made as to how to make the telecommunication system in Calcutta Metropolitan City into an effective system and the consumers would be guaranteed with a very good service?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the