

stations are not closing down and power generation is also not being stopped. On the contrary, you will find that power generation has increased which proves the fact that the supply of coal is regular.

**SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :** Sir, it is true that this year power generation has increased by about 56 per cent in the Thermal Power Stations and its credit goes to the Government. Though both the Departments of Energy and Coal are with him and there is a regular supply of coal, but, Sir, I want to raise a fundamental question. The price of coal is the same all over India but there are certain mines under Coal India Ltd. and in this connection, I want to mention Kharia and Amlori in my constituency from where coal is being supplied to the various power stations as per the directions of the Linkage Committee and consequently mines are suffering losses and these power plants are earning profits. Coal India is suffering losses for supplying coal and these power stations are earning profits. I want to give an example of N.T.P.C. here. So far as supply of coal is concerned, will the Hon. Minister issue directions to the Linkage Committee to the effect that no colliery will supply its coal at loss, it may supply, at least, on no profit no loss basis? Apart from that, the Electricity Boards have thousands or crores of rupees as arrears today. I know about Uttar Pradesh. One Electricity Board has an outstanding amount of Rs. 45 crores against it and today Coal India is also having shortage of funds and is suffering losses for supplying coal to the Electricity Boards. In order to solve this problem, will the Linkage Committee be directed to ensure that coal will be supplied at least at the price at which it is mined and there will be no loss to the mines?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** It is not the concern of the Linkage Committee to fix the rates or to recover the arrears. The function of the Linkage Committee is to ensure that coal is available regularly, but we are trapped in such a vicious circle that we have to recover the cost of coal from those to whom we are supplying it and the power stations have to recover their dues of the power supply from those to whom they have supplied power and the parties concerned are not making payment due against them. Thus, this is all a matter of

give and take. We have suggested to the Central Government to take measures to improve present situation of the power stations and to find out ways to solve the problem of recovery of the amount outstanding against them. A sum of Rs. 80 crores is to be recovered from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Now, with whom should we quarrel? It is like piercing your own lips with your own teeth and which will be like shedding your own blood. We cannot stop supply of coal. If it was possible to adopt commercial attitude, we could have said coal will be supplied only when payments are made. But if we stop supplying coal, you know it will create an uproar in the country. Therefore, we cannot adopt such a policy, but some efforts are on to find out ways to recover the outstanding payments. This is a question of loss. The cost of production of coal in certain mines is very high. We take the overall national average. At some places the expenditure is less while at others it is more. In price fixation we take into account the overall average. If separate rates are fixed for separate mines, then many power houses will stop functioning.

[English]

#### Shortfall in Power Generation

\*496. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been some shortfall in power generation during the last few months;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to step up power generation by the existing power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

### Statement

(a) to (c). The total power generated in the last three months from December, 1987 to February, 1988 was about 51.67 billion units as compared with the programme of about 50.61 billion units. In 1987-88, the total generation is expected to be about 202 billion units as against the target of 205 billion units. This gap is mainly due to a shortfall of about 9 billion units in hydro generation on account of low reservoir levels. In order to offset the shortfall in hydel generation, a contingency plan was formulated and implemented to increase thermal generation. As a result, thermal generation in 1987-88 will exceed its target by over 6 billion units.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : He answers about coal and she answers about the electricity. What is this dispute ?

MR. SPEAKER : You often do not see the difference. Shri Bairagi, you are a poet, find out the difference.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : This is not a dispute. This is harmony.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : The Hon. Minister, in her statement has stated that the total generation is expected to be about 202 billion units as against the target of 205 billion units, in the year 1987-88. So, there will be a shortfall. For that it has been stated that to offset the shortfall in hydel generation, a contingency plan was formulated and implemented to increase the thermal generation.

This hydel generation is dependant on the vagaries of the monsoon. So, the Government has to depend upon the thermal generation and also attempt has been made to generate power from the tidal waves and also power is being generated from nuclear source. Under these circumstances, as the Minister stated more than once in this

House, sufficient coal and that too of the best grade is available in Orissa. As such, I would like to know whether the Minister will take steps besides if any steps taken so far in terms of any specific programme or time-bound programme to generate power from the coal which is available at Talcher and Ib Vally and also to generate nuclear power in Ganjam district in Orissa where there is infrastructure.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to say, as one of the Hon. Members mentioned before the question, I would like to assure them that there is no *Jhagada* between the Minister for Coal and Energy and the Minister of Satate for Power. Sir. there is very harmonious working...

MR. SPEAKER : He will supply coal and you will produce energy.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Unless the coal reaches the power station, we will not be able to generate power. We are glad that coal has been reaching in time.

As the hon. Member is aware, this year, because of the vagaries of monsoon, there was 16 per cent shortfall in the hydel generation. But because of the alterness and the contingency plan which was drawn up to generate more on the thermal side, the shortage of 9 billion units, which would have been the result has been lessened by 6 billion units because of the extra production of the thermal generation. So, there will be a total shortfall of only 3 billion units. I think, this contingency plan has solved things to a very great extent.

At the same time, I would like to say that never before has the power generation stood as it stands today in the history of India, i.e. crossing 200 billion units. It may be 202 billion units. So, the shortfall will be only 1.8 percent. As a matter of fact, considering the hydel generation which is below 16 per cent, this is a great step and leap forward.

At the same time, he has mentioned about tidal thing. We have a plan coming up for the tidal generation. We expect the

report by the end of this month and I think, when it comes to us it will be examined in detail. It may be about 900 mega watt but we are not in a position to say precisely when it will take off. The viability will have to be taken into consideration. About the particular part of the coal, our coal has a content of about 35 per cent ash. We are able to live with it and as the Hon. Minister said from time to time we can neither wish it away nor wash it away. We are living with the supply.

MR. SPEAKER : No wishy wash.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : No. As regards Orissa and Ganjam, it is good coal and I think you can check up with the Ministry there.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Do you want us to live with ashes ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Ashes are very important.

MR. SPEAKER : He is a sportsman and he is talking about the other ashes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You will never win ashes.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what is the Contingency Plan and what is the requirement of power in the country and to what extent electricity is being generated and whether the Government has made any short-term and long-term plan to meet the demand. If so, when and how ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Regarding Contingency Plan, it was drawn at the thick of the time when the severest drought of the country was here and three steps we decided immediately that those thermal stations which have to go in for maintenance and have to be closed down should be re-scheduled. They can be taken up later on so that the generation continues and it is because of that there has been higher degree of thermal generation.

Secondly, where there is forced outage we try to bring them back into working

operation so that more generation can be done.

Thirdly, above all, we are also trying to see that they could be commissioned as early as possible so that the stabilisation and commissioning, at that period, the gap is removed. Because of that Contingency Plan has to put in as much alertness and industrial capacity generation. Things were worse earlier. Today we find that they showed satisfactory results.

As regards the potential of the power sector, we have very huge potential and it varies with the requirement of the country and as the demand grows up, we will be able to supply more and we are able to make greater availability. This year we excepted a shortage of 9 per cent but because of the drought, the shortage went up to 11 per cent. But by the end of the Seventh Plan, we hope that the shortage will be of the order of 5.4 per cent.

Regarding the amount of money, this is a priority sector. We have to say that we are getting more money for that. Even for starting the project for the 8th Plan, we have allotted Rs. 11,000 crores more in addition to what we have done so that the Project in the Eighth Plan can be started right now

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : The Hon. Minister has said that there is a decline in the hydro power because of the drought. But there is one area which has the highest potentiality of hydro-power in this country and that is the North-Eastern region where we do not have drought but we have floods. The Brahmaputra Board has prepared at Master Plan which says that the development of hydro-power in the North-Eastern region should be given priority over other regions because it is available in abundance and at much cheaper cost. This Master Plan, I am told, has been forwarded to the Ministry. Therefore, I would like to know whether your Ministry has Master Plan and, if so, what is the reaction to this particular suggestion of the Master Plan and what steps are being taken by the Ministry to develop hydro-power in that region.

**SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI :**

This is a valid question. I am glad we have all the potential of hydel sector. We have a potential of about 84,000 MW of hydel in the country of which about 38 per cent is located in the North-East and we have a Scheme for about 24,000 MW as per the Brahmaputra Board. But it requires colossal amount of funding. So, we are going into it.

**SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH :** You need more funding. You go for huge thermal plants instead of Micro and Minihydel generations.

**SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI :** No. We do not go in for that. We are going for mini and Micro Projects also. We are trying to start many small and micro projects also. We are also going into the viability and the commercial aspect of it. Personally, I feel there is a great potentiality for it and we will try to give it a thrust so that this will be cheaper, this will be pollution-free and this will be a permanent solution.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Brahmaputra is itself a store-house of energy. 21 lakh cusecs is discharged in that quick-flowing big river.

**SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV :** Sir, in Part (b) of the question it has been asked that if there is a shortfall, the extent thereof and the main reasons therefor. I feel that one of the areas is that of transmission losses in the country. That area has not been touched by the Hon. Minister in her reply. Sir, I would like to say that in this very House about one year back, we amended the Electricity Supply Act. There are possibilities of high losses in transmission. The responsibility has been fixed upon the officials concerned and the field staff. I would like to know whether any action has been taken by the State Electricity Board or by the Central Electricity Authority or whether you have fixed up some programme or some modalities as to how to implement those provisions of the Act. Even today, in my State of Rajasthan, the transmission losses are to the extent of 30-35 per cent. This loss is the loss to the nation. How the Ministry is going to avert this loss and what measures have been taken?

**SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI :** This transmission and distribution loss is

very much higher. The average is about 22 per cent for the whole country. Therefore, we started right from the beginning of the last year—I mean this financial year—and we took Zonal meetings of every State. We made it necessary for every State Board—along with the Power Ministers—to realise that the transmission and distribution losses should be made up. They should be reduced. As a matter of fact, reduction of 1 per cent loss is equivalent to about saving of Rs. 450 crores and with this amount we can set up one Super-thermal Power Plant. Therefore, this is a very important aspect and every step has been taken (*Interruptions*). I have already told about it. At the same time, we have also started some incentive prize scheme for reduction of transmission and distribution losses. It pertains not only to the workers from each Electricity Board, the Chairman but anyone from the public, from any profession, can come out with any innovative scheme and they shall be given some special prize for it, I would be very happy if we can reduce this loss. We are conscious of this defect. We want to bring it down.

**SHRI SRIHARI RAO :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister one thing. There is plenty of gas available in the Krishna-Godavari basin and in East and West Godavari. To make use of this gas, is there any proposal to set up higher capacity turbines to generate a power unit East-Godavari? I would like to know the categorical answer.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Sir, I want to say something on the earlier question. I will say it afterwards. But about the first question regarding gas, we are already along the pipeline setting up three gas-based thermal plants at Anta, Kawas and Auraiya. There is a proposal to set up gas-based plant also at Dadri and for the capital region of Delhi. When we have sufficient gas in Godavari basin, one of the users of this is the power generation people. The question is that gas is to be used either for making fertilizers or for generation of power. So, it will depend upon how much gas is available for power generation. It is true that gestation period for gas-based thermal power plant is the lowest and we can produce power at the earliest. So, therefore, if gas

is available, we would definitely like to make use of it for generation of power. Regarding the earlier question, I would like to add that it is true that due to transmission losses, much of our power revenue is lost and utilisation of power purpose is affected. So, transmission and distribution losses, actually, mean—I have stated earlier also—50 per cent of it is theft. Technical loss is only 10 per cent. In Rajasthan, if it is 35 per cent, you easily take it that nearly 20 per cent is due to theft and theft means straightway loss to the revenue because those people have stolen and utilised power without paying for it. That is why we have framed a law—Central legislation and also State legislation. It is necessary that this law should be implemented firmly.

#### Commissioning of Doordarshan transmitters

\*497. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the name of places where low power transmitters or high power transmitters of Doordarshan will be commissioned during 1988-89;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up low power transmitters or high power transmitters in North Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) About 60 new TV transmitters are tentatively scheduled to be commissioned into service during 1988-89. The locations of these transmitters have still to be decided.

(b) and (c). The Seventh Plan of Doordarshan in respect of the State of Bihar includes, inter alia, the establishment of a

high power (10KW) TV transmitter each at Katihar and Daltonganj and a low power (100 W) TV transmitter each at Begusarai, Bokaro, Chaibasa, Forbesganj, Giridih, Gopalganj, Madhubani, Motihari, Saharsa, Sasaram, Siwan and Sitamarhi.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Doordarshan has become a powerful medium of communication through its transmitting centres and national programmes. You have stated in your reply that 60 new transmitters are scheduled to be set up in the whole country. I want to know from the hon. Minister that out of those what will be the number of the low-power and the high power transmitters separately. How is it justified that ignoring the selected locations, you have set up Doordarshan centres at the locations which were not selected for the purpose and what is the number of such locations?

[English]

SHRI S KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, in the remaining two year period of the Seventh Plan, in Bihar, two high-power transmitters will be installed at Katihar and Daltonganj and 12 low-power transmitters as listed out in the answer to the main question. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : The Hon. Member wants a list of high-power and low-power transmitters functioning in the country or proposed to be brought about. I will send her a list.

MR. SPEAKER : We might all like to have it

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Two high-power and 12 low-power transmitters are likely to be installed in Bihar. My constituency—Motihari is also there in this list. Motihari is a border district