

report (then Adviser to Education Ministry at the Centre) on primary education and especially to the deplorable state of Primary Education in Calcutta described in the report; and

(d) if so, the steps recommended by the Central Government to implement this report and the action taken by the Government of West Bengal thereon?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) and (b). Information has been called for from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Report was sent to the Government of West Bengal for necessary action. The latest report received from them indicates that the Corporation has been requested to prepare a scheme for extending primary education facilities in Calcutta under which it should either bear 50 per cent of the expenditure or levy education cess on municipal properties in Calcutta and the State Government would be prepared to extend financial assistance for this scheme. They are pursuing the matter with the Corporation.

While "free primary education" is the ultimate goal of the State Government, for the present they are striving to provide sufficient educational facilities both free and fee-paying for all children.

The State Government has been requested to send a detailed report on the subject.

CORRECTION OF ANSWERS

UPGRADATION OF PADNE BRANCH POST OFFICE IN KERALA

[U.S. Q. No. 1330]

The Minister of State in the Departments of Communications and Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Jaganatha Rao): In the reply given to the Lok Sabha to the Unstarred question No. 1330 on 2-3-1966 by Shri Mohammed Koya it was stated that no representation

had been received to upgrade the Padne Branch post office in Kerala. It is now reported that a representation was received in April, 1964. On examination of the proposal, however, it has been found that upgradation of Padne Branch Office is not justified as financial and work-load standards are not satisfied.

The reply to the question may kindly be read as follows:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Padne Branch Office could not be upgraded since it did not satisfy the standards laid down for upgradation of Branch Offices.

EXPENDITURE ON OFFSHORE DRILLING IN IRAN

[U.S. Q. No. 3064]

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): In reply to part (c) of the Unstarred Question No. 3064 on 30th March, 1966, regarding expenditure on offshore drilling in Iran, I had stated that the expenditure incurred was "Rs. 6.84 crores upto 31st December, 1965, out of which the share of ONGC is one-third." The correct position is that the whole amount of Rs. 6.84 crores represents ONGC's share of expenditure incurred on oil exploration in Iran's off-shore areas.

12.14 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

POWER FAILURE IN DELHI

Shri Yashpal Singh (Kairana): I call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Power failure in Delhi!"

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): The

Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has a number of generating units with the total derated capacity of 101 M.W. . . .

Shri Yashpal Singh: We have already got the copies.

Mr. Speaker: Have copies of the statement already been supplied?

Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed: Yes, they have been given.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): There is no need to read it out now.

Mr. Speaker: Let hon. Members put their questions now.

Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed: I lay the statement on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6275/66].

Shri Yashpal Singh: Why should the capital be left at the mercy of the Bhakra Dam or the Punjab Government? Why should Delhi not have its own big-power generating house?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): The Delhi power is met by two sources, one from the thermal station in Delhi itself, and the other from Bhakra hydro-power. Hydro-power is much cheaper, and the Delhi people will get electricity much cheaper if it comes from Bhakra.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): These power failures have become the rule in Delhi and not the exception. May I ask the hon. Minister whether Delhi will be made self-sufficient in power supply during the first year of the Fourth Five Year Plan?

Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed: We are taking steps to increase the power capacity so far as Delhi is concerned. Even with regard to the thermal power, there is already a programme under which three units are being put up under the Indraprastha Extension Scheme, and by the end of this year, we shall get three more units of 50 M.W. each, and there is

already a proposal to put up a fourth unit in a few months' time.

Apart from this, as has been explained by my colleague, we are trying to get this hydel power because it is cheaper for the Delhi people to get this power from Nangal. Unfortunately, due to the failure of rains last year, that is, in 1965, it has not been possible for us to get the average power from Nangal as we used to get before. Formerly, we used to get about 60 MW. but now it has been reduced to 25 to 30 M.W. But I hope that with the improvement of water supply position at Nangal after this better weather, we may be able to get a better supply of power.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): What I would like to know is whether any overall assessment has made, as was promised to be made last year,—because these power failures are chronic—about the requirements of Delhi, and whether arrangements could not have been made in advance to avoid the power failure which has been occasioned. May I know the reasons for this power failure?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The power failure has entirely been due to lightning having struck one of the sub-stations at Panipat. So, nobody can say anything against this. It is just an accident. There are three lightning arrestors on one line and three lightning arrestors on the other line. There are actually two circuits; in order to safeguard the interests of Delhi, we have laid two circuits. It is just unfortunate that this has happened like this. If two lightning arrestors on the same circuit had been affected, then there would have been no trouble. But, unfortunately, one on each circuit has gone due to the very heavy discharge of the lightning that struck that sub-station.

Shri S. M. Bamerjee (Kanpur): May I know whether it is a fact that there is a power shortage in Delhi practically every year? Either there is a power shortage or there is no water or there is scarcity of water practi-

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

cally every year in Delhi, and this has become a regular feature. The hon. Minister has assured us many times in this House that the situation is likely to improve and they are going to have a permanent solution. May I know what the permanent solution is and when there is going to be self-sufficiency in Delhi?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I must say that there is no power shortage in Delhi. While the rest of the country suffers, there is no power shortage here. What happened in this case was that there was a power failure accidentally. I may also submit that Delhi probably will be the only place in India which will have a large amount of surplus power, after the introduction of the completion of the three units which the hon. Minister has referred to, and we are also going to get 44 M.W. from Bhakra Canal (Right Bank).

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर) :
दिल्ली भारत की राजधानी है, और यहां प्रति वर्ष ही गर्मियों में बिजली और बरसात में पानी का अभाव हो जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब सरकार अपनी ओर से राजधानी के लिये पानी और बिजली की पूरी व्यवस्था नहीं कर पाती है तो क्या किन्हीं औद्योगिक संगठनों ने सरकार को इस प्रकार के प्रावधान पक्ष दिये हैं, या अपनी सेवायें प्रेषित की हैं, कि अगर उन को बिजली तैयार करने की सुविधा दी जाये तो वे सस्ते रेट पर भी दे सकते हैं और साथ ही दिल्ली में बिजली की कमी न हो। यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: As I have already submitted, there is no shortage of power in Delhi. There is plenty of power in Delhi and it will be there in the next few months also. But it must be known that Delhi is expanding in a very large way so that I acknowledge that there is a certain

shortage of drinking water. That is because of other reasons, not that the quantum of water is insufficient but the distribution system is not able to cope with the rapid expansion that is occurring in Delhi City.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय (सलेमपुर) :
राजधानी में बिजली का अभावपूर्व संकट उपभोक्ताओं ने महसूस किया है, तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार क्या कोई कमेटी नियुक्त करना चाहती है जो कि इसके ऊपर विस्तारपूर्वक विचार करे और अपने विचार प्रवृत्त करे ताकि इस तरीके का वाक्या फिर भविष्य में न होने पावे ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The power failure occurred due to lightning. There is no necessity to appoint a committee to go into it. Unfortunately, it took some time to locate it; the party went searching for it right up to Delhi and it could locate it only after nearly 16 hours. That was the trouble. Otherwise, there is no necessity for a committee to go into it. It is a very simple case of an accident that occurred.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Since for 40 per cent of the power supply in this city we have to depend on Punjab, and then there are vagaries also, may I know whether Government are in a position to assure us that Delhi is going to be made self-sufficient and the dependence on Punjab is going to be done away with?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Delhi will have a lot of power. We are going to set up four more units, of which three are in an advanced stage, of 50 M.W. Actually, we are going to supply power to Punjab; out of the three units, one will be going to Punjab. Besides these, we are also going to construct another station, the Badarpur station, which has been sanctioned, which will have 300 M.W. So Delhi will have a large amount power.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो नंगल से बिजली नहीं मिली, वह क्या पानी की कमी के कारण नहीं मिली या कोई मशीनरी खराब थी, उसके कारण नहीं मिली ? यदि मशीनरी खराब थी तो उसके कारण क्या थे और जैसा अभी आपने बताया कि कुछ कारखाने आप और चलाने वाले हैं यहां पर बिजली की कमी के कारण तो एक ओर तो कहते हैं कि कमी नहीं है और एक ओर कहते हैं कि कमी के कारण कारखाने चला रहे हैं, तो दोनों में कौन सी बात सही है ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The new units will naturally have to cope with an increasing load. The accident occurred due to lightning arresters having been affected. There is an instrument called lightning arrester, a device which will save the machinery from being spoiled. When it was subjected to a heavy discharge of lightning, two of them gave way.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पहला भाग यह पूछा था कि नंगल से बिजली न मिलने के कारण क्या हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वहां कोई खराबी नहीं हुई। वह तो कहते हैं कि यहां जो एक इन्स्ट्रूमेंट था वह खराब हो गया....

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : पंजाब और दिल्ली में दोनों जगह बिजली की कमी हुई..

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो एक इन्स्ट्रूमेंट था जो लाइटनिंग गिरने के कारण खराब हुआ, जहां तक मैं समझा वह यही कि बिजली गिरने से खराब हुआ.....

श्री कश्मीर अहमद : मैं बता देता हूँ। एक बीज है लाइटनिंग प्रोटेक्टर। जब बिजली चमकती है और बिजली पड़ती है तो एक इन्स्ट्रूमेंट होता है जो उस बिजली को रोकता है। वह खराब होने की वजह से बिजली जो है वह नंगल ने यहां नहीं आ सकी.....

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : और पंजाब में भी नहीं आयी।

श्री कश्मीर अहमद : पानीपत में लाइटनिंग प्रोटेक्टर खराब हुआ, उसके कारण यह कमी हुई और यहां 21 घंटे बिजली नहीं आयी। उसका कारण यह नहीं था कि बिजली नहीं थी बल्कि उस इन्स्ट्रूमेंट के खराब होने के कारण बिजली नहीं आयी।

श्री मधु लिखड़े (मुंगेर) : जब कभी दिल्ली में बिजली और पानी के वितरण का इन्तजाम हट जाता है और बिजली और पानी में कटौती की जाती है तो क्या यह बात सही है कि कटौती केवल जहां घनी आबादी है गरीब आदिमियों की, वहीं की जाती है और जो शमीर इलाके हैं उनके बारे में दूसरा रख रखाया जाता है ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: In the case of electricity, there is no such distinction made or is possible. As I submitted already, there is no shortage as such of power in Delhi. There was power failure—that is quite true—for a few hours.

श्री मधु लिखड़े : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप जरा मेरा प्रश्न उनको समझा दीजिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह कहते हैं कि कोई डिस्क्रिमिनेशन नहीं है कि उन्हीं हिस्सों में कटौती की जाय।

श्री मधु लिखड़े : क्या उनके पास ऐसी शिकायतें आयी हैं ?

12.24 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ACCOUNTS AND OTHER PAPERS RE: OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Iqbal Singh): On behalf of Shri Ala-