

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total power shortage in the State of Orissa; and

(b) the steps being taken to supplement the power supply of Orissa to meet its existing needs, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) During the period from April to July, 1987, Orissa had a power shortage of about 13.6%.

(b) To supplement the power availability in Orissa, assistance is being provided from the Farakka and Chukha power stations and from the neighbouring systems.

Completion of Power Projects in Eastern Region

*217. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gestation period of power projects completion in the eastern region is longer as compared to other regions in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to reduce the gestation period and expedite the early completion of power projects in the eastern region; and

(d) 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) The gestation period for completion of thermal projects in the Eastern Region is

longer as compared with other Regions. The period of completion of hydroelectric power projects is, by and large, the same as in the other Regions.

(b) The main reasons for the longer time taken in the completion of thermal projects in the Eastern Region include delays in regard to acquisition of land, finalisation of design and engineering, execution of civil works, and delays in the supply and erection of plant and equipment; paucity of funds; problems of industrial relations; and weak project management.

(c) and (d) The progress of on-going power projects is being closely monitored by the Department of Power and the Central Electricity Authority. Joint coordination meetings are held regularly with project authorities and other organisations concerned to identify and overcome the problems. Senior officers of Central Electricity Authority and the Department of Power also visit project sites to assess the progress and advise the project authorities in regard to the corrective measures required. The need for effective project management is also emphasised.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Sir, on 31st March, 1987, in this Lok Sabha the Minister had, in reply to a question, answered that the anticipated shortage of power in Orissa would be around 30.1 per cent, and this is the highest in the country. Now, in Orissa, there is a power-cut of 75 per cent so far as power industries are concerned and there is a power cut of 50 per cent so far as large industries are concerned. Orissa is importing power from Madhya Pradesh and Eastern Region Electricity Board, at a very high cost. So, the entire economy has been almost paralysed. I wanted a specific answer to my question. I would like to know as to what is the total extent of power available from Farakka and what is the cost and so also of Chukha power station. What is the extent of power we are getting i.e. Orissa is getting and what is the cost of it? In answer to another question, the hon. Minister has replied that the question of external assistance for the implementation of the proposed IB valley power project in Orissa

would be considered further. May I know from the hon. Minister as to how many external assistance proposals have been received by the Government in this regard and the reason as to why consideration has been withheld. I would like to have a detailed reply from the hon. Minister about these things.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: Sir, there are a number of questions, five questions in one supplementary. Anyhow, I would like to answer whatever is possible.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: These are various facets of the same question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do any one of the five.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: Sir, Orissa depends largely on the storages at the reservoirs like Hirakund and Balimela and the performance of the Talcher Thermal Power Station. Now, the hydel reservoirs in Orissa are not in a very satisfactory position. The water level has not been there in Balimela and Machkund, during the last two years.

Therefore, we find that, while the demand had been going up, because of this, there is a gap in supply and, therefore, there is some shortage. As a result, the State had to impose a power cut of 75 per cent, as the Hon. Member said, on heavy and power intensive industries and 50 per cent on large industries. Therefore, there are restrictions on peak-hours and the rural supply is restricted to night time only.

As we go through the pages, we find that the thermal generation has been actually more or less the same. The Hydel had gone down because of the low water level. The total came to 91 per cent. This is the figure for the period from April 1986 to March 1987.

We find that, in spite of the help given from Farakka and Chukha, this is the picture. From Farakka the share was 59 million units and the actual given was 64.52 million units. Therefore, greater share had been given from the Farakka Unit. For 1987-88, the share is 32.7 million units and the actual provided is 36.7 million units. Therefore, what has been given to it has been more. About Chukha also we find that the actual is more than the share. In 1986-87 the actual was 43.09 MU as against the share of 41.51 MU.

Here we find that the neighbouring State has also been giving assistance. From April to July, 432 million units have been given by the neighbouring State.

We find that the operation of the thermal plant has not been good and it is much below the national average. This has to be improved. This is the totality of the power situation today.

The second part is, he wanted details for the various years about performance. That too, I can give...

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: I would like to say that last year there was a slight progress in the PLF, thanks to the mediation by the various Ministers and the State Electricity Board Chairman from time to time; some efforts have been made by the Orissa State Electricity Board. So, there has been a slight improvement of five per cent last year in the PLF.

About IB valley project, it will be coming up in some form or the other. The letter of intent has been placed on BHEL by the State authorities. The Planning Commission has accepted the feasibility of the project subject to funds being located, which is a very big factor. The offer of external assistance had been received by the State authorities. However, now the State authorities have issued a letter of intent to BHEL. This is the latest position.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: This is not the latest. The latest is this. I am quoting from the answer given to an Unstarred Question on 28.7.87:

"Offers of external assistance for implementation of the proposed IB Valley thermal power project in Orissa could be considered further with due regard to utilisation of the available indigenous capacity..."

This is more confusing. Therefore, I wanted clarification.

Another question, along with this, that could be answered is this. Perhaps it will be most appropriate for the hon. Minister Shri Sathe to answer this. Two Committees were set up: one, the Kaul Committee, an official committee; and another Committee set up under the Development Council for Heavy Electricals and Allied Industries. The first Committee recommended that the country's industrial policy should be changed to allow private entrepreneurs to enter into the areas of power generation, transmission and distribution; besides, the policy of reservation for small scale sector should be relaxed so as to de-reserve some more electrical equipment now earmarked for exclusive production by the small scale units. The other Committee has recommended that the I.D.R. Act should be suitably amended to permit the private sector...

MR. SPEAKER: How am I going to allow this, Mr. Mohanty?

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: I am only putting the question. It is only a part of the question.

MR. SPEAKER: How long can a question be? A supplementary has only to be a supplementary. It cannot be a diatribe.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: You have taken more than half an hour for one question. This is also equally an important question.

MR. SPEAKER: This is something which must be within some reasonable limit.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: I want to draw the attention of the Government. So far as recommendation for amendment of the I.D.R. Act is concerned...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. This is a question.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: This is very much a question. What is the reaction of the Government? So far as Minister is concerned, he believes...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is re-action.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: He also believes that unless the private sector and the foreign assistance is introduced, the power shortage problem cannot be solved.

I would like to know the reaction of the Government regarding this. This is the most important part of the question.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): The most important thing is to get power. We are doing our best in having Talcher Super Thermal Power Station with World Bank assistance which will be of 1,000 Megawatt and IB Valley which is a State unit also has been cleared. The Letter of Intent has been placed on BHEL. Even we are accepting offer of NRI for this collaboration.

As far as general policy is concerned, I would want power to be inducted. Whosoever has the capacity and the resources to bring it for generation of power. We have put all public resources available and we are still going to be short of 10,000 MW. So, if private resource from Indian side comes, as there is, for example, in Bengal for

Bakeshwar, that is welcome. There is an offer from American company Kujjian for 680 MW. There is also an offer from Russian side. Whosoever is willing to offer, we are ready for that. We want more power to be inducted. This is our policy.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: About amendment of the IDR Act.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It can be done within the Industrial Policy Resolution.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: The Minister has said that the gestation period for completion of the thermal power project in the Eastern region is longer. He has already admitted this. The reason for inordinate delay is the inadequate funding for the project. The Minister has just now replied about the Super Thermal Power Project in Talcher. We are really having doubts with the present provision of funds in 1987-88, whether the project will go ahead with the objective of completion in the schedule time.

I am coming to the IB Valley Project. In the IB Valley Project, State Government will bear 200 crores and the BHEL has offered a credit package including foreign credit to be made available by them.

Secondly, Sir, in order to have the project at a reduced cost, there was a report that inputs like steel and other thing to BHEL should be supplied at a reduced cost by exempting the Excise Duty and other duties. Whether the Minister will consider this, and will expedite this, by impressing upon the Finance Department and the Economic Affairs Department?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I have already said that as far as both these projects are concerned, Talcher is already underway, it is cleared. There is no resource constraint or anything that cannot hold it. It was only land acquisition and environment clearance etc., which had delayed the things. There is no likelihood of any more delay now. Talcher will be completed. Work will

be started in the Seventh Plan and it will be completed in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

As far as IB is concerned, we have already said, State Government has limited resources. That is why external assistance was sought. It has come. They have placed a letter of Intent on BHEL. There is a collaboration. I have no doubt that IB Valley Project also will be completed in due time.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: My second question is regarding the Farakka and Chukha projects. What does the recent review made by the Power Department of the Union Ministry of Energy point out? The Chandil-Santalidih 225 KVS line necessary for wheeling over power from Farakka and Chukha to the power starved States like Orissa and Bihar systems which is held up. How is the Government going to help the power starved States to get their share by removing bottlenecks?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I do not know which line she is referring to. Is it Orissa line?

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: It will go to Orissa line.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, I can only coordinate. I will take up the matter both with West Bengal Government and Bihar Government to see that these lines are completed so that Orissa can get its share.

SHRI ANIL BASU : While replying to the question, the Minister mentioned about setting up of Bakreshwar thermal power project in West Bengal. The proposal has been given by both American and the Soviet side. The West Bengal Government has forwarded its proposal to the Union Government. It has been pending in the Ministry since long. I would like to know categorically from the Minister when are they going to take decision on this project?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As far as Bakreshwar is concerned the proposal has been sent to us. Its financial viability has to be examined. After all it is the Government

of India which will have to under-write the liability. So we have to examine the financial feasibility. We are already in discussion with these parties. You will agree that whichever is in the best interest of our country that should be accepted and that will be done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: How long will it take?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I cannot give up a concrete date. I can only say that it will be as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: It is okay now. Please sit down. Q. No. 204.

Sugar Consumption, Production and Export

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*204. **SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:**
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar required for consumption including buffer stock w.e.f. 1st April, 1987 to 31st March, 1988;

(b) the estimated production of sugar by March 1988 and how much is likely to be imported from 1 April, 1987 to 31 March, 1988;

(c) the time by which the country is going to become self-sufficient;

(d) the details of the programme in this regard; and

(e) whether sugar was exported during previous years and if so, the reasons for stoppage of the export of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT):
(a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Sugar year is reckoned from 1st October to 30th September and as such the information received from the factories in respect of production, consumption etc. is maintained on the above basis. The production of sugar and internal consumption during the sugar year 1986-87 is estimated at about 85 lakh tonnes and 87 lakh tonnes respectively. The estimates for the next crushing season are yet to be formulated. The quantum of consumption/import during the period from 1st April, 1987 to 31st March, 1988 will depend upon the trend of sugar production during the next sugar season 1987-88. As a result of increased sugar production during 1986-87 season and also taking into account the imports, there is sufficient availability of sugar stocks to meet the domestic requirement.

The new sugar policy for the 7th Plan period announced by the Government in December, 1986 envisages various measures which would benefit the sugarcane growers, consumers and increase the viability of the sugar industry leading to greater sugar production and early attainment of self-sufficiency. However, sugar being an agro-based industry, its improved performance depends on agro-climatic factors i.e. drought conditions, excess rains etc. Given favourable weather conditions, it would be possible to maintain sugar production at higher levels. Due to limited availability of sugar in the country, decline in sugar production and increase in domestic consumption, the import of sugar was resorted to and export of sugar had been restricted to meet the preferential EEC and US quotas, besides, small quantities to Nepal and Maldives.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present the production of sugar is at a higher level in almost all the states of the country, but the production of sugar in Bihar is going down. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has ascertained the reasons thereof? If so, what action is being taken in this regard?

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[English]

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: The hon.