

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Tuesday, June 17, 1980 *Jayaistha* 27,
1902 (*Saka*).

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Captive Generators for medium sized Industries

*122. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued general permission for the construction of captive generators for the medium sized industries;

(b) whether the proposal would enable authorities to minimise the power shortage;

(c) whether any industry has taken advantage of this permission; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (d). The Government have not issued general permission for the construction of captive generators for the medium sized industries. In accordance with the existing policy on captive power plants, in industries where process

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steam is required or where waste heat is available, captive generating capacity would be encouraged in accordance with the 'Total Energy Concept'. However cases falling outside the total energy concept would be selectively considered favourably on merits by the Government of India.

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the hon. Minister kindly state how many cases have come to the notice of the Government which fall outside the total energy concept and would be selectively considered favourably on merits by the Government of India? Secondly, in view of the power crisis, would the Government make suitable changes in the norms so as to include small industries like agro-industries and power-looms for considering favourably their applications?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: After January, 1980, so far, to our knowledge, we have not declined permission to any unit for captive plants and we are liberal in our approach. So far as critical sectors are concerned, recently steel, cement and aluminium industries have been accorded permission. If the hon. Member brings any case to our notice, we will look into it.

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: As the cost of power generation through plants by individual units is four to five times the cost of power from the grid, would the Government offer relief to the medium-sized plants in respect of excise duty on light diesel oil, high speed diesel oil and electricity duty? Secondly, would the Government encourage the medium-sized industries to possess captive plants by providing subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): I want to make the whole thing clear. According to the present provision of section 44 of the Electricity Supply Act, the State Electricity Boards are quite competent to deal with the matter. But if it is beyond 25 megawatts, they have to come to the Central Electricity Authority to get the clearance. If the captive plants are very small, they become very expensive, whether it is in coal or diesel. So, normally we do not encourage small captive plants. Here we do not have any fixed policy, as I said. We are trying to have a fixed policy on this. We have called a Conference of all Power Ministers which will be presided over by the Prime Minister, and there we are going to decide on certain norms on this.

श्री राजेश प्रसाद शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बिजली की कमी के कारण जो पड़े लिखे नौजवान छोटे उद्योग लगाते हैं उन की बुरी हालत हो रही है क्यों कि बिजली की कमी के कारण उत्पादन नहीं होता । दूसरे जो बैंक सरकार से लेकर उद्योग लगाते हैं उस पर कर्ज बढ़ता जाता है । मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि जब तक बिजली की कमी के कारण उन का उत्पादन नहीं होता तब तक के लिए उन का कर्ज माफ किया जा सके ?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this Question. It does not relate to this.

Next Question.

Foreign collaboration for setting up Hydro-Electric Power Stations

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*123. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

SHRI NAVIN RAVANI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to seek foreign collaboration for setting up hydro-electric power stations within a short period; and

(b) if so, the names of the foreign countries from which technical "know-how" has been sought for this purpose and which are the projects approved by Government for foreign collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). For exploiting the large hydro potential available in the country to the maximum extent and with a view to ensuring that these projects are completed in the shortest possible time, it has been decided to take such measures as are necessary to improve the capability of the organisations involved in the execution of hydro-electric projects in the country. This may involve upgrading of the technology used in the construction methods, improvement in investigation techniques and hydro-electric planning, etc. To the extent necessary, and in areas where know-how is not available within the country, foreign expertise will be inducted with a view to securing this objective.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: It was reported in the *Business Standard* of 27th May, 1980 that a high level meeting was convened by the Electricity Authority and a decision has been taken to seek foreign collaboration for hydel power generation.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister. Where is the necessity to go in for foreign collaboration when the prestigious BHEL is there which is very well-versed in this field and possesses the necessary technical know-how. If it is a question of long gestation period, why not the Government of India just see that the BHEL would avoid this long gestation period and give us the technical know-how without going in for foreign collaboration?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: With the passage of time, new surveys have been conducted and we have found that there are certain projects which are feasible but where the technical