

**AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA):** (a) Government have received a large number of representations from various quarters including members of the public for abolition of licence fee. Only a few individual requests have been received for reduction in the rates of radio licence fee.

(b) No, Sir, but abolition of licence fees is being considered.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

श्री मूल सवाल डाला : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब आप रेडियो को शिक्षा का एक माध्यम मानते हैं और रेडियो के द्वारा सारे देश में शिक्षा का प्रचार और प्रसार होता है तब आप एडल्ट एजुकेशन पर कम खर्चा करके रेडियो लाइसेंस के द्वारा जो वार्षिक आमदनी होती है उस को आप छोड़ना पसन्द नहीं करते ?

सूचना और प्रसारण तथा पूति और पुनर्वासि मंत्री (श्री बसन्त साठ) : अध्यक्ष जी, जैसा कि जवाब में कहा गया है, रेडियो लाइसेंस फी केवल कम करने का सवाल नहीं है बल्कि एक और दो बेंच रेडियो सेट्स पर पूरी तरह से लाइसेंस फी हटा देने का प्रस्ताव है जोकि अर्थ मंत्रालय के समाने रखा गया है उस पर विचार हो रहा है और हमें आशा है उसकी सम्मति मिल जायेगी। कारण यह है कि टोटल लाइसेंस फी जो रेडियो से आती है वह अधिकतर बड़े बेंच और तीन बेंच रेडियो सेट्स से आती है। कुल रेडियो लाइसेंस फी जो आ रही है वह लगभग 20-22 करोड़ है जिसमें एक और दो बेंच रेडियो सेट्स से 3-4 करोड़ रुपया आता है इसलिए अर्थ मंत्रालय के पास यह प्रस्ताव भेजा गया है कि इन रेडियो सेट्स पर लाइसेंस भी माफ कर दी जाए ताकि बड़े पैमाने पर उनका उत्पादन हो सके और जगह जगह देहातों में भी यह रेडियो और ट्रांजिस्टर उपलब्ध हो सकें इस प्रकार की हमारी कल्पना है। साथ ही इससे जो घाटा होगा वह ज्यादा उत्पादन हाने पर एम्पाइज और सेल्स टैक्स से पूरा हो जायेगा। वरना में नुकसान भी नहीं होगा। तो यह हमारी भूमिका है।

श्री मूल सवाल डाला : सरकार किगनी अवधि में यह निर्णय ले लेगी ?

श्री बसन्त साठ : जितनी जल्दी अर्थ मंत्रालय अपनी सम्मति दे दे।

### Shortage of Power in North-Western Region

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\*138. PROF NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE SHARMA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious shortage of power in the North-Western region of the country comprising the States of J.&K., Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana and the Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh resulting in frequent load shedding and suspension of electric supply; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken for over-coming this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) There are no power shortages in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Chandigarh. Haryana also has no overall energy shortages. However, some times due to outages of thermal units and inadequate coal supply load shedding has to be resorted in Delhi and Haryana. Position would improve with the onset of monsoons and when the newly commissioned units stabilise. Punjab is having marginal shortages. Position in Rajasthan is normally comfortable but shortages take place whenever Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (Nuclear) trips out.

(b) The reasons for power shortages are the failure of monsoon during last year, frequent break-down of thermal sets, inadequate coal supplies to thermal stations and longer time taken for the new thermal sets

to stabilise. The coal supplies to thermal stations in Punjab, Haryana has improved recently with the result that the thermal generation has shown a steady increase. Continuous high level monitoring along with steps to improve maintenance which include betterment programme have been initiated.

**PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** From the statement, it appears that there is no shortage or there is only marginal shortage. But in practice, in Punjab even the industries and factories have to be closed down. In the case of Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab the shortage has been admitted. I would like to know what are the specific steps which have been taken by way of installation of new projects for generation of power in Himachal Pradesh, and other States like Jammu and Kashmir where Hyder Power is available in abundance.

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:** We are proposing new projects which will increase the capacity in Haryana by 312, Himachal Pradesh 38, Punjab 484, Rajasthan 360, and U.P. 1755. There are common projects which will add to the capacity by over 2000.

**PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** What is the first project to be installed immediately and within which period will it be installed?

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:** In 1980-81 Haryana will add 60, Himachal Pradesh will add 15, Rajasthan will add about 200 and U.P. will add over 272. Similarly common projects will add another 200. Similarly, there are nuclear projects and so forth.

**PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** What is the earliest date for the commissioning of the first project?

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:** 1980-81.

**SHRI R. L. BHATIA:** At what capacity the Punjab power plants are

running? If they are not running to full capacity, what are the reasons? What steps the Government are taking to see that they run to full capacity?

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:** The Punjab power plants are running at 235 capacity. These plants are mainly based on hydro. Because of shortage of monsoon last year the plants are not running to full capacity. If the coming monsoons are good, they will run to full capacity.

श्री मूल चन्द्र शापा : मध्यम महोदय, राजस्थान में जो चम्बल में हाइडल पावर पैदा होती है, उसमें मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार द्वारा जगह-जगह पर इरिगेशन के बान्ध बनाने कारण कमी आ रही है, उसको रोकने के लिए सरकार इस बारे में कुछ सोचती है या नहीं सोचती है ?

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:** Rajasthan is a surplus State.

श्री मलिक एम० एम० ए० झाँ : मध्यम महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश के बर्मल पावर स्टेशन का कर्पसिटी युटिलाइजेशन कितना है ?

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:** In 1975-76, the utilisation was good. But in the next three years, it has gone down to less than 40 per cent. We are trying to improve it.

**SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE:** Considering the electricity shortage in the country, will the Government give sanction to the Silent Valley Project?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next question.

#### Curtailment of output of Formulations by Drug Companies

140. **SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:**

**SHRI K. MALLANNA:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several drug companies have curtailed their output of formulations;