

this ground or will the power plant be taken up by the Central Government?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: It is entirely within the ambit of the State Electricity Board. No request has, so far come to us.

श्री एम० सत्यनारायण राव : मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जबाब में कहा है कि 1978 में एकट में संशोधन कर के इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड को कामशल बेसिस पर रत करने को पावर दी गई है। उन्हें मालूम है कि आज इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड में क्या हो रहा है। पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में करोड़ों रुपयों का लॉस हो रहा है। वे फ्रिजूलखर्ची कर रहे हैं और इसका बोझ किसानों पर डाल रहे हैं, उनसे ज्यादा चार्ज कर रहे हैं। उनका मैनेजमेंट ठीक नहीं है और जरा भी एफिशेंसी नहीं है। वे किसानों को लूट रहे हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात की व्यवस्था करेंगे कि जहां तक किसानों का संबंध है, उनको बिजली देने के संबंध में कोई कामशल बेसिस न हो ?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: Electricity is given to the rural sector at a concessional rate. In fact, most of the State Electricity Boards are running at a loss partly because of that. The Central Government gives assistance to the State Electricity Boards to cover up the loss. After all, we supply them power at a much lower cost.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Knowing the financial as well as consumption constraints on the State Electricity Boards, will the hon. Minister assure the House that instead of concentrating only on traditional methods of electricity production, they will also pay some attention towards solar technology in the form of, for instance, solar thermal station and photo voltaic system by which there could be additional power generation, rather than depending upon the traditional sources of electricity?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: We are trying to find alternative sources of energy. In fact, as the Prime Minister also mentioned the other day, the Science Division has already started experimenting on 10 kw. solar power station. We are also searching all over the world if any country has developed a commercial solar power sta-

tion. But, so far no country has commercialised the solar system. We are making a thorough research on new sources of energy like tidal, solar geothermal and so on and so forth.

Amount of Provident Fund due against Coal India Ltd.

*843. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any amount of employers' contribution to provident funds outstanding against the Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries as on the 31st March, 1979; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government have taken to ensure the payment of the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: May I know from the hon. Minister whether Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries pay any contribution to the provident fund deposited by the employees and, if so, what is the rate of contribution they pay and when they release it?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: The employees have compulsorily to pay 8 per cent to the annual emolument and a matching contribution is made by the employers.

Storage Problem of Petroleum Products

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*846. **SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK:**

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

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

(a) whether the continued problem of storage of petroleum products in

the important consuming centres has been adversely affecting the wagon movement especially in the areas served by the South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, whether due to the agitation in Assam and suspension of crude oil from there Railways have been asked by the Centre to take special steps for increasing loading from other refineries so that areas served by the Assam crude do not suffer;

(c) if so, whether the increased movement has led to storage problem in the key consuming centres; and

(d) whether in this way Railways had to suffer and much of the petroleum products were also spoiled?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (d). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The overall availability of rail tank wagons for the movement of petroleum products, for the country as a whole, is much less than the requirement and, in order to bridge the gap, additional road movement of these products in tank lorries is being organised. The stocks of petroleum products in the depots served by the South Eastern Railway are currently at a high level and the demands are somewhat depressed in view of the onset of the monsoon. As a result, it is possible that some idling of tank wagons for short durations may have taken place in the South Eastern Railway.

(b) Following the agitation in Assam, the availability of petroleum products from the Assam-based refineries has been reduced. In order to meet the situation, it became necessary to re-adjust the schedules of rail movement of petroleum products so that the areas originally supplied products from these refineries would get the

same, to the extent possible, from alternate locations with longer leads.

(c) No, Sir. As a matter of fact, there is at present substantial storage capacity still left in number of upcountry depots, and tanks will be filled up to the extent possible during the next two months when demands are expected to be low.

(d) No, Sir.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK: Mr. Speaker, the statement is full of distortion of facts. So, liberty may be allowed to bring out the truth before this House.

I would submit that the storage problem of the petroleum products is not the present problem, but it is a continuing problem and the hon. Minister has even denied that there is such a problem existing in India. During the Assam agitation, steps were taken by the Government of India to take enough of crude oil from other refineries than Assam, and Railways were asked to have the movements much more in other refineries so that the country does not face the crisis or too much crisis is not felt by the nation. Now, during this crisis what happened is, hundreds of tanks, the petroleum wagons, were employed by the Government of India, by the Railway Department, but the result of this was that when they reached those places, either there was inadequacy of petroleum products or the wagons did not get sufficient quantities to be utilised properly.

The second point is, huge losses were suffered....

MR. SPEAKER: You have to put your Supplementary.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK: I have to bring out the truth. I will put the question.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the way to put a question.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK: Because that has become a problem that was not only talked over in the papers, but by the other side also.

Now, I will put the specific question. The hon. Minister said, there might have been losses suffered. But I would ask: How much of losses were suffered? Secondly, if losses were suffered, would the Government not take it upon itself that the losses were suffered because of the irresponsibility and the lapses committed by them? I would also like to ask the hon. Minister for information, what is the total number of wagons that are used for the movement of petroleum products and what is the total product per day....

MR. SPEAKER: You are putting a question like you are doing in a Call Attention motion.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK: That would give us an eye-opener.

MR. SPEAKER: No, that is not the way.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK: Let the Government say what was the loss suffered.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: What is to reply? He did not clarify anything. *(Interruptions)*. Sir, the hon. Member has not put a question, but he has made a speech.

MR. SPEAKER: A statement.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: He is under that impression. I do not know, but he is misinformed. He is under the impression that in the up-country or in the country, we do not have storage capacity. That is not a fact. We have sufficient storage capacity. On the other hand, in order to see that whatever storage capacity is there, that capacity is full, we want more tank wagons, railway wagons,

but we are not getting sufficient railway wagons. That is our problem. But I have said that only in the months of June and July, not because of the storage capacity, but because in some of our fertiliser factories, the demand went down, therefore, somewhere in Vizag and Haldia the demand of the wagons was not there, it was there only for two months. So, that was the only problem, during these two months, but in the entire country we want to move more quantities to our depots, but we are not getting sufficient wagons, to the extent that we require.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: It is admitted that shortage of storage facilities at the consuming centres is also one of the reasons which compel tanker wagons and tanker lorries to be idle. In view of this fact I want to know from the Minister whether Government has conducted any survey. If so, what is the actual shortage of storage capacity, and how do Government propose to meet the situation?

MR. SPEAKER: Why is there so much noise in the Lobby?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: The hon. Member is under the impression that the storage capacity is not adequate. I have not accepted that.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: At the, consuming centres.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: At the consuming centres we have got enough storage capacity. We want to move more and more petroleum products, and I want to assure the hon. Member that we have storage capacity. Wherever we find that the storage capacity is not adequate, we are prepared to build up more capacity.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The foreign companies which were taken over had their own tanker service, not on a contract basis. Why don't you resort to tanker service in order to make up for the shortage of wagons?

Secondly, why have you agreed to the continuation of the oil blockade in Assam? It is for you to answer because you are the Minister. Have you agreed to it? If not, what is the reason for its continuing? Did you take it up with the Government or not? Did you insist on it in the course of the negotiations, because it is within your Ministry?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I agree with the hon. Member. Since we are not getting sufficient number of tanker wagons, we are moving petroleum by road also. We are already moving them, though I do not have the figures just now.

The hon. Member has put a question why we have agreed to the continuance of the oil blockade in Assam. This is a very delicate question. It is not for me to answer that.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Mr Speaker, I seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: No.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Why not? Under what rule are you not giving me protection? (*Interruptions*).

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**Notice of termination of service
Served to staff of nationalised oil
undertakings**

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*847. **SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:**
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the management staff of the nationalised Oil Undertakings have been served notice of termination of service with offer of re-employment on lower terms and conditions;

(b) whether this decision is in disregard of assurances given by Government at the time of nationalisation;

(c) whether senior management personnel of the Company are retaining perks and benefits including palatial houses, fabulous entertainment allowances and free use of cars and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) action proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a). Those members of the management staff of Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC), who were in position at the time of the take over of Burmah Shell Company, have been served with service termination notices, with simultaneous offer of re-employment on revised terms and conditions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). The perquisites and other allowances of the management personnel of BPC will be by and large similar to those enjoyed in Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) after the present scheme of rationalisation is implemented fully. However, a small group of senior officers have been allowed to retain cars with reduced mileage in lieu of the conveyance allowance permitted in IOC.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: The hon. Minister has given information only with regard to one company while there are several companies which have been taken over like Caltex and Hindustan Petroleum Co. I would like to know what action Government have taken about the staff of the other companies. What is the total number of staff of all these companies put together? How does the Government propose to deal with them and give them re-employment?