

रैली बुलायी थी तो उस वक्त हमारी प्राइम मिनिस्टर, श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी ने श्री भीष्म नारायण सिंह की मार्फत उनको फूल भेजा था और हमें खुशी हुई थी कि वह किसानों की इज्जत कर रही हैं। फिर मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि दोनों पार्टियों में अब इतना अन्तर क्यों है, कैसे है ? इस को निकालने के लिये मंत्री भी क्या कर रहे हैं ?

श्री वसंत साठे : अध्यक्ष जी, जहाँ तक हमारा सवाल है कोई अन्तर नहीं है। और किसी में अन्तर हो तो वह दूर कर लें।

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know why the Government failed to set up T.V. to help the kisans who came to Delhi to see and hear the speech of the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi? Was it not necessary to give the utmost importance to the Kisan Rally as it was the biggest ever held so far?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I agree that it was a very important Rally and, therefore, we covered it fully. It was one of the biggest rallies, in the world, of the kisans. As far as the Doordarshan making any arrangement there is concerned, that question did not arise because the rally organizers had already made their arrangement with the Weston Electronics.

Conference of power Ministers of Southern Region at Hyderabad

*499. **SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:**

SHRI B. V. DESAI :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether on 10th February, 1981, the Union Minister had called the Conference of Southern Region Power Ministers at Hyderabad ;

(b) if so, whether the Union Minister had called for uniform

power policy and uniform pattern of pay scales and service conditions for the power persons throughout the country ; and

(c) what steps have been taken to implement the decisions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN) :

(a) to (c). A Conference of Power Ministers of Southern States was held at Hyderabad on 10th February, 1981.

In the above Conference, the following subjects were mainly discussed :—

1. Power Supply position in each State and the Region and steps for maximisation of generation.
2. Progress in the commissioning of on-going projects in the Region.
3. Power Cuts and efforts taken to minimise their impact.
4. Rural Electrification.

The Union Energy Minister has been maintaining that there should be uniformity in pay-scales and service conditions of the Engineers and technicians of the State Electricity Boards, in the same manner in which there is uniformity of pay-scales for established service officers. The State Governments/States Electricity Boards are fully competent to bring uniformity in pay-scales and service conditions of the Engineers and Technicians of the State Electricity Boards but receive guidance from Central Government as and when necessary.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our power plants are generating not more than 50 per cent of the estimated generation. But we are also losing 20 per cent of the

power through transit and distribution which is the highest in the world. In view of this, I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps Government has taken to maximise the generation and to minimise the loss of power due to transit and distribution.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : The capacity utilisation for example, varies from State to State. The idea is to increase the capacity utilisation and wherever difficulties are there, the State Electricity Boards are telling us and we are sending our technicians and experts to see whether we can identify the defects and can do ways with those defects.

About transmission losses, it is too early to say anything because unless the national grid comes into force, it is very difficult to do away with transmission losses.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY : There is an agreement between the State of Kerala and the State of Karnataka to supply power to the tune of 3.2 million units to Karnataka daily. But political friction arising on the point of Kasargod has reduced the power supply to Karnataka from 3.2 million units to 1.5 million units.

In view of this, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India intervened to solve this crisis and if so, the results thereof.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : These are bilateral agreements between State and the Centre does not come into the picture.... (*Interruptions*) If both the States come to us, we will try to persuade them to come to some sort of an understanding.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : I want the Minister to answer that question

specifically. The question is that the misunderstanding on Kasargod has led to the reduction of electricity supply to Karnataka. It is not correct at all. He should answer that.

SHRI B. V. DESAI : Yes, it is a fact.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : I have categorically said that it is a bilateral agreement and I have no knowledge of anything on this and while the State enters into bilateral agreements, it does not take the approval of the Centre. It is between State and State. The Centre has nothing to do there.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Why are you saying like this? Either you should...

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing. When your turn comes, you can ask him.

SHRI B. V. DESAI : In fact the hon. Minister was saying that the Central Government has nothing to do in certain matters so far as two States are concerned. In fact, the hon. Member there need not be agitated. The Kerala Government has tried to have the friction brought in and they have increased the rate. Anyway, I will ask my question.... (*Interruptions*) It is a fact.

MR. SPEAKER : If he can improve his health by agitating, why not ?

SHRI B. V. DESAI : I want to ask one question regarding one on-going project which is in Karnataka. That is the Kalinadi project. It is a very important project and there is some paucity of funds and there are other things also. Was that discussed in the South Zone Power Ministers' Meeting and what steps would the Government like to take so that the State Government is helped to see that the project comes up in time ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Mostly we discussed things like steel, cement, whether there is a delay on the part of BHEL, etc. About funding, we normally do not discuss because this was done by the Planning Commission.

SHRI K. MALLANNA : There are so many hydel projects which are held up because of inter-State disputes. One such project is the Hongal project which is situated in the Kaveri basin. May I know from the hon. Minister whether one of the Ministers pleaded in the said conference that it should be taken up by the Central Government through the agency of the National Hydro-Electric Projects Construction Corporation? In this context may I know from the hon. Minister how many projects are there which are held up on account of Inter-State disputes, what is the Government's reaction and whether the Government is going to decide the dispute and take up these projects to be implemented by the central agency?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : We have been trying to persuade the State Government is to permit us to construct the projects where Inter-State disputes are involved so that while they keep on quarrelling, we can construct it for them in the meantime. From that angle we had suggested to the Government of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to discuss about this project. The discussions are on. No final decision has been taken so far.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : I would like to know whether Government is aware of any situation where the Kerala Government has reduced power supply to any other state on the basis of a boundary dispute? If at all there is any reduction it is because of the fact that the other Government had not made prompt payment of the electricity charges.

MR. SPEAKER : How does he know?

SHRI K. A. RAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may be very well aware that the wage structure as well as the service conditions of the electricity employees are governed and managed by the respective Electricity Boards. But in reply to this particular question in respect of wages the hon. Minister replied that he had instructed them to remove the disparity and have a uniform policy between technicians and engineers. I would like to know whether it is within the jurisdiction of the Board itself or is it on an all India level?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHARI : Sir, as the hon. Member is aware strike is going on in many places. What we want is that there should be peace on the power front. In that interest we want that a consensus should be evolved on the power front with regard to remunerations and other things and there should be an all India service.

Stagnation in production of coal in E.C.L.

*500. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY** : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been stagnation in production of coal in the Eastern Coalfields since 1977; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to break the stagnation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKARAM MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b). There was a decline in production in Eastern Coalfields Limited from 1977-78. Towards end of September, 78 large number of mines were flooded. Although mines were cleared of water production did not pick up. Production was seriously affected by shortfall in availability