

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** Sir, I would like to know from the Minister that in negotiating with foreign firms, specially with the foreign private firms, whether the Government is using the services of Commission agent and whether the government has agreed to pay commission in the event such a contract is signed. And if so, what is the percentage of the commission?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** Sir, we are having no commission agents in these negotiations. The negotiations are being held directly with the company.

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):** So, he need not apply for one.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** I will apply for omission agent, not commission agent.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** There is a committee consisting of Secretary (Petroleum), Secretary (Expenditure), Secretary (Economic Affairs), Secretary (External Affairs) and Chairman of ONGC. This Committee would discuss this directly with the companies and their representatives.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** Sir, I did not ask that. I asked whether you are using commission agents and will the commission be allowed in the contracts?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** Sir, as far as we are concerned, no commission is involved in this.

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** डा० स्वामी, आप कुछ कमीशन चाहते हैं ?

**डा० सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी :** अभी नहीं चुनाव आने दीजिये, फिर आप से बात करेंगे

**श्री राम मंगीना सिन्हा :** मैं आप के माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो तेलकी खोज हो रही है और गैस की खोज हो रही है, तो क्या उत्तर प्रदेश, हरियाणा और पंजाब में इन के काफी संसार होने का बात चर्चा है ?

**श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी :** अभी तो पता नहीं चला है मगर पता लगाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं ।

**SHRI JAGANNATH RAO:** Sir, the hon. Minister has said twentyfive companies have shown interest. Of these, do any of them insist in the share of the oil produced apart from the remuneration they get for the services rendered and what is the reaction of the government thereto?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** Sir, this Committee after having an initial round of talks with these companies came to the conclusion that sharing of oil will probably be demanded by all the companies which have come. Now, the percentage may vary. But broadly, this is the view taken by the Government, viz. that even if a percentage of oil share has to be given to them, it should not be in the form of oil. But whatever is their share of profit oil, they can take money to that extent and bring the oil here or sell the Oil to India, so that India becomes self-sufficient.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now question 123. Mr. Vikne Patil is not here.

#### Inter-State power transmission lines

\*124. **SHRI B. V. DESAI:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of inter-State power transmission lines under the Central scheme is being considered by the Ministry for speedy development of the proposed National Power Grid;

(b) if so, whether the Centre is not satisfied with the progress of laying inter-State and regional power transmission lines by the States;

(c) if so, whether in spite of the fact that 100 per cent loan was provided as assistance to the States they have not been able to utilise the aid provided so far in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action Union Government have taken against the States and what steps are proposed to be taken to see that inter-State power lines are set up at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House:

#### Statement

(a) to (d). Government of India has been extending loan assistance to State Governments for construction of inter-State transmission lines by the respective State Electricity Boards in order to facilitate transfer of power from one area to another and eventually to develop a National Power Grid. There, have, however, been shortfalls in the utilisation of funds by the States; out of Rs. 93.50 crores allocated for this programme between 1975-76 and 1980-81, the utilisation has only been Rs. 64.28 crores. Besides the provision of funds, assistance is provided by the Government of India in making available essential inputs such as aluminium conductors, Steel, etc and by providing technical advice where necessary.

In order to evacuate power from Centrally owned power stations, several inter-State lines are being constructed by National Thermal Power Corporation and National Hydro-electric Power Corporation. The question whether the Central role in inter-State transmission of power should be enlarged, is receiving attention.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: It is agreed on all sides—by the States as well as the Centre—that for the maximum utilization of generated power and optimum use of the power so generated, the regional grids and Central grids are supposed to be essential. And Government of India is taking steps in this regard. In the same way, the National Load Despatch Centre also is essential. In the case of

regional grid also, they are taking steps. May I know what effective steps is Government taking in this regard, so as to establish the National Power Grid as well as the National Load Despatch Centre?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): The Conference of State Power Ministers held at New Delhi on 20th and 21st June 1980 recognized the role of the Central Government in transmission projects; and it was generally agreed by all States that the concept of Centrally-owned national grid would be useful. A Committee on Power headed by Mr. V. G. Rajadhyaksha in its report submitted to Government in September 1980 has also recommended integrated operation of transmission lines, and to achieve this, the Committee has recommended ownership and control of the lines by the Centre. The National Grid is an evolutionary process, requiring appropriate inter connection and strengthening of various State systems.

We are now trying to get the consensus of all the States to have this. Unless we get the consensus on this, it is very difficult to operate because, in law, all the transmission is owned by the State Governments. Now, when we are thinking of a national grid system which will be operated by the Central sector, naturally the State Government has to agree to this. For this purpose, we are thinking of having another round of talks with the Power Ministers, and just after the Parliament session, we are thinking to have a Power Ministers' Conference and to get a consensus on the National Grid System.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: What about the National Load Despatch Centre also—which is supplementary to this?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There also the position is the same as in this. That also will have to have the consensus

of the State Governments. Otherwise, we cannot operate it.

**SHRI B. V. DESAI:** The statement laid on the Table of the House says that the question whether the Central role in inter-State transmission of power should be enlarged, is receiving attention. I would like to know from the Minister whether Government is seriously thinking in terms of enlarging the Central control over the National Power Grid, and National Load Despatch Centre.

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** We must have the concurrence of the State Government. Otherwise, we cannot operate.

**SHRI B. R. NAHATA:** It has been said in answer to part (c) of the question that in spite of the fact that the Central Government has given 100 per cent. assistance, there have been short-fall in utilization by the States. Which are the States concerned, and to what extent have they not utilized the assistance. And, against the States which have not utilized it, what steps is the Central Government going to take to ensure the implementation of the scheme?

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** There are shippages I do not have the names of the States with me, but there are always shippages. It is a national disease. With regard to construction of transmission lines, construction of power stations, whenever you examine them you will find that the each plan there are 30 to 40 per cent of shippages.

#### Post Offices in Idukki District, Kerala

\*125. **SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many post offices are there in Idukki district of Kerala;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to open more post offices

this ~~step~~ to obviate the difficulty experienced by the people of that area; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation in this regard?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL):** (a) There are 254 post offices in Idukki district of Kerala.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 30 representations have been received by the Postmaster-General, Kerala Circle, Trivandrum.

**SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE:** Will the hon. Minister tell the names of the places from which representations have been received? Will the hon. Minister also let us know the time limit for opening of these post offices in those places? As there is no sorting office in this area, much delay is caused in the delivery of letters and other materials. Will the Government consider opening up a sorting office in Idukki or in the vicinity of that area?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):** This Idukki District is a very small District. This is a hilly and forest area. I would say that it has got a very good network of post offices. As I have already explained, it has got 250 post offices. There are 42 villages out of which 40 are G.P. Villages and all of them have post offices. Again there are 12 branch post offices in the rural area served by mobile post offices. The District has 963 letter boxes of which 983 are in the rural areas. The population and area served by each post office in this Idukki District is 3014 and 20.02 sq. kms. respectively. As against this, in the neighbouring district, Kottayam has got an area of 15.78 sq. kms. and a