

Therefore, if it is brought to our notice that such persons belonging to RSS have been inducted into Government service, necessary steps will be taken against them. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: This House has often expressed its concern about the way the mass media, particularly the T.V. and the Radio, have been used by different Governments. Even today you have seen that there are charges that the Janata Party Government misused the mass media and there was a time when the allegation was that the All India Radio had become All India Radio.... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order;

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: That proves the point that allegations are there from both sides that, from time to time, Governments have misused the mass media. Therefore, this media, which is a powerful mass media....

MR. SPEAKER: He has quite assured the House now.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Assurances of the Government are never fulfilled!

There is a tendency from the Minister's end. We see that the Minister and the Government have lost faith in autonomous bodies and corporations and we see that even an autonomous body like the Election Commission is being pressurised. (*Interruptions*.) Does it mean that the Government has lost faith in Corporations and autonomous bodies? Through you I would like to appeal to the Minister, will he give second thought before reaching the hasty conclusion that the Government has finally decided to take a decision that there should be no Corporations?

MR. SPEAKER: Yadavji, if you want to make a request, it should be done privately!

Yes, the Minister.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Unlike my Hon. friend, I do not believe in having second thought.

Effect of Shortage of Coal on Power Generation

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*3. **DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH:**

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the country sustained a loss of over 5,000 million units of power during the calendar year 1979 mainly because of coal shortage;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the major power stations were plagued with persistent coal shortages during the whole of 1979;

(c) what is the position now in 1980;

(d) what steps are being considered to improve the working of these power stations and coal supplies to them;

(e) whether the unprecedented increase of power crisis has affected almost all the industries and is causing great economic setback; and

(f) whether from 20th February, 1980 the power crisis has again cropped up in many States?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). As per information reports received in Central Electricity Authority, it is estimated that there has been a loss of about 2600 million

units due to shut down of the generating units from time to time due to shortage of coal (including lignite). There has been some loss of generation on account of reductions in the levels of generation of the generating units also due to shortage of coal but it is difficult to assess such loss.

(c) The supply of coal to thermal power stations has improved from an average of 2.7 million tonnes p.m. for the period April—January to 2.93 million tonnes for February, 1980. Coal supplies to thermal power stations are further expected to improve to 3.2 million tonnes during March, 1980 and still further in coming months.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to improve the working of thermal power stations. Some of these steps are:—

(1) Maximising generation from the existing thermal generating capacity installed in the central sector. State Governments have also been advised to similarly maximise generation from their thermal power stations.

(2) Identification of deficiencies in design, equipments etc. and taking up of project renovation programme for rectification replacement etc. at a number of thermal power stations.

(3) Training of engineers for operation and maintenance of power stations.

(4) Supply of spare parts from indigenous and foreign suppliers is being arranged.

As regards coal supply to these thermal power stations the following steps have been taken to step up coal supplies to power stations:—

(i) Coal companies and Railways have been asked to step up coal supplies to power stations.

(ii) Close liaison is being maintained between the Department of

Coal, Railways and Department of Power and high level inter-ministerial meetings are held periodically to review coal supplies to power stations.

(iii) Monitoring of coal stocks is done at thermal power stations for ensuring availability of coal. A control room has also been set up in the Rail Bhawan to monitor coal supplies to major thermal power stations on daily basis.

(iv) The infrastructure committee of the Cabinet which has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister also keeps a watch on the supplies of coal and movement of wagons to power stations.

(e) Shortage of power does affect industrial production particularly the power intensive industries.

(f) There has not been any further deterioration in power supply position in the States from 20th February, 1980 except in Rajasthan due to failure of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: I have to ask one question. The main and important question I want to ask is this. Our country is facing great shortage of energy, and coal is one of the sources for producing energy. What I would like to ask the Minister very firmly is this: the monsoons will be coming in about two to three months, and I would like to know from the Minister what they have thought about this because the need for coal is more, as more thermal plants are coming up. Has he got enough railway wagons also from the Railway Ministry to transport the coal so that we do not face a crisis when the monsoons are here?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Before we come into power, the power position was hopeless and the coal supply was hopelessly bad. If I can place a chart on

the Table, I can tell you., Mr. Speaker. Sir, that most of the power stations did not have even one day's stock. I can tell you. Mr. Speaker,—I am grateful to the Railway Minister for this—that most of the Stations..... (Interruptions) are now having four or five days stock. Today in thermal we are generating 174 million units. Last year this time we had been generating 162 million units. That means, the increase is 12 million units every day. But unfortunately we are having abnormal drought; the drought is unprecedented. In view of this drought, the shortfall is six million units daily. (Interruptions) Thermal generation has risen by eight per cent, and the present target is 15 per cent.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Was there coal shortage in India? There are enough rivers in India where we can generate power. What I want to know is this. In my own State, Jammu and Kashmir, the Salall Project has been going on for many many years. It has not been completed yet. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why more funds cannot be given to it so that 24-hour work can be begun on this, so that more power can be generated from this river which is just flowing and not producing any power. Will the Minister please tell me what steps he is going to take in this regard?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: This question is about effect of coal shortage on power generation. But the hon. Member has asked about hydro. I will require notice for that.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I am happy to note that the Minister has replied that the power position has improved somehow.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Thermal power.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Yes, thermal power. I want

to know whether it is a fact that all the power stations are running to under-capacity and if so, to what extent they are running to under-capacity. Secondly, the power supply for agricultural pumps goes off frequently and they are not running well. Will the Minister kindly consider reducing the rate of power for them and will he tell us by how much the rate per HP will be reduced. Also, in the case of natural calamities, all the time, Government come forward to help the kisans. But due to power shortage and other things also, crops are damaged. How do Government think of helping the farmers in such cases?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: In the pattern of distribution in power system, we give high priority to agriculture and then to Industry. In industry, you can notice there is a high cut, specially high tension line in various regions; but in agriculture there is no cut. I can tell the hon. Member that all this is not done by us in the Central sector this is done by the State Electricity Boards; they arrange the whole thing; they do it. If the generation of power is all right, then there will be no difficulty in supply. But we have advised them not to make cut; in regard to the agricultural sector.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I would like to know from the Minister whether it is correct the press statement that is attributed to him that to solve this kind of power problem due to coal shortage, the private sector units should be allowed to open their own units and whether he has also seen the statement of the Secretary General of his Party, Shri H. N. Bahuguna, that this suggestion of his is ridiculous. Would he clarify the position?

MR. SPEAKER: This is regarding coal for the present.....

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:
He said power.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I am sorry, but I must say that there has been a lot of over dramatisation about power shortage. Nobody talks about.... (Interruptions) Nobody talks about capacity utilisation.....

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री : समझ में तो आप की कोई बात आती नहीं !

अध्यक्ष महोदय : समझने की कोशिश कीजिए ।

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: It has been mentioned that on 8th of March, 1978....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish his reply.....

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: ...that the average daily shortfall in supply of power was 13.41 per cent. This is because... (Interruptions). You do not understand power. What am I to say?

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked a specific question regarding a statement.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I will just analyse it. The load factor...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to him.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: If there was more utilisation of the capacity, then there would not have been any power shortage in the country. Now we are trying to find a way out. There is no new thing that I have said. For example, the leftist government is there in West Bengal and they are utilising the private sector unit, namely, the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I want an answer, Sir. I need your protection, Mr. Speaker. I asked him a question which is the property of the House. I said, what about the reaction of the Secretary General of his party that his suggestion is ridiculous. Is that Party divided? Is that not a unified Party? What does it mean? Is it a divided Party? The Secretary General says that the Minister's statement is ridiculous.

(Interruptions)

Some hon Members rose.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot call all of you. One by one please. Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: May I respectfully point out to you that this question relates specifically to the relation between coal supply and thermal power generation? The other aspects of thermal power generation are covered by the other questions and not by this question. So, these irrelevancies may be avoided and the Question Hour is not wasted like this.

May I ask, arising out of his statement, among the proposals which are under consideration for improving the supply of coal to thermal power stations, is there any proposal, like, in the case of steel plants which are permitted to have their own so-called captive coal mines and captive oremines attached to each steel plant so that the supply of coal can be ensured? The power plants are not less important to the economy than the steel plants. So, is there any proposal that the major power plant should also have captival coal-mines tied up with them so that there will be no fluctuations in the supply of coal?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There is no proposal like that. I do not think that the suggestion given by the hon. Member will solve the present crisis we are facing in this country.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the outstanding feature of the then Government was that there was an open confrontation between the then Energy Minister, Shri P. Ramachandran and the then Railway Minister, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, the Energy Minister was saying that there was sufficient amount of coal but there was no wagon available.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you trying to make out? This is a question about the supply of coal. You will please pin point your question to that.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: That is precisely what I am doing. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this confrontation between the Railway Minister and the Coal Minister on this issue is over. Can the Minister in Charge of Power and Coal tell us whether there is sufficient number of wagons available to him to carry the coal so that we do not have the problem like this again.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There is a positive improvement. To start with we were getting 2700 wagons per day for power sector. We are now getting 3400 wagons daily. Coal requirements for the next year including the stocks of the level of three weeks have been worked out at 46.6 million tonnes and the Railways have assured me that they will carry the coal. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member should know that we are not working like the Janata but we are working as a cohesive team under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, I am impressed with the Minister's reply

that there is a marginal improvement in the production of thermal power stations. Can the Minister kindly reply as to whether is it the coal movement or lack of power or both which have stopped the Durgapur Steel Plant from working? Since yesterday the plant has stopped rolling any steel at all. 45 M.W. of power is the requirement of Durgapur Steel Plant which belongs to his home State. The supply is 5 M.W. only from the D.V.C. which is directly under the control of the Minister. The power plant is not functioning for generation of power for want of adequate supply of coal. Will the Minister kindly reply this question?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the month of February, the DVC used to generate 450 m.w. of power. The information I am having is that as of to-day it is generating more than 550 m.w. I have every reason to believe that in a day or two, it will generate 600 m.w. The West Bengal Government have assured us to cooperate with us. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that the law and order situation is hopeless in West Bengal. (Interruptions) I can assure you that the D.V.C. power generation will increase.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a specific question about the Durgapur Steel Plant. If the power is increased, then why the Plant has failed?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, without full generation of power by the D.V.C. it is not possible. It all depends upon the D.V.C. If the D.V.C's generation of power is better then we can give power to the steel plant; we can give power to Coal and we can give power to the Railways. But, when there is no generation, we cannot give power to anybody.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not answered his specific question. His

question was: whether the Durgapur Steel Plant was not working due to the default in the supply of power? Have you got any information on this? Or else you may give it tomorrow.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Durgapur Steel Plant is working. The thing is that they are not probably getting the quantum of power they want, and as I have already told the House the DVC power supply is coming up and in no time it will come to 700 MW.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Is it a fact that instead of 45 MW only 5 MW were supplied to Durgapur? Now, is it due to lack of power supply or coal supply to the power plant or both? (Interruptions).

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that from the day the Lok Dal government has resigned the coal production, power generation and coal stocks have gone up all over the country?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I would like to assure the House that coal stocks have gone up. The supply of railway wagons is now 3,400. So, it has improved to a considerable extent. Power generation has improved. In respect of hydro power where we do not have any control because of the drought. We are facing unprecedented drought through out the country.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष जी, बिजली कारखाना या खान या कोई भी उद्योग घन्घा हो, जब कोयला पहुंचाने की बात कही जाती है तो कोयला विभाग वाले कहते हैं कि हमारे पास रेल का डिब्बा नहीं है और रेल विभाग वाले कहते हैं कि... (अवधान) मैं खड़ा रहूंगा, जब तक आप हस्ता करते रहेंगे (अवधान)... इन्दिरा जी को बोलने नहीं देंगे, यह आप मानकर चलिये (अवधान)... मैं यह झूठ रहा हूं कि क्या हमारे देश में कोयले की कमी है या हमारे देश में

रेल के डिब्बों :... (अवधान)... बल्लो लड़ाई करो, हम भी बोलने नहीं देंगे... (अवधान)... अध्यक्ष जी, हम भी इन्दिरा गांधी को बोलने नहीं देंगे, यह बात हाउस सोच कर लें... (अवधान)....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, these mini speakers should be controlled.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kamal Nath, this is not the way. You should not interrupt. Please, take your seat. Everybody will have his say. I have permitted him to ask the question.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैं तो यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस विद्युत् संकट का कारण क्या कोयले की कमी की वजह से है या रेल गाड़ियों के डिब्बों की कमी की वजह से कारखानों में कोयला नहीं पंच रहा है, दोनों में कौन सही है या दोनों कारण सही है ***

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the crises deliberately created by the Janata party. This did not exist in the country.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : कोयले की कमी है या डिब्बों की कमी है या दोनों कमिया है ?

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: His remarks should be expunged. (Interruption) Sir, I request that, his remarks should be expunged.

MR. SPEAKER: I will go through the proceedings and if something is objectionable, it will be done.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The observations which you have made is out of context. The rule says (Interruption). He has said something off hand.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not decided anything.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : "बुद्धि की कमी" कहना कोई अन-पार्लियामेन्ट्री बात नहीं है ।

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: If he does not think that is what he meant, then, what is his stand? What is his real stand?

MR. SPEAKER: I will see to it.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: There is constant break-down of thermal power stations throughout the country. According to the engineers one of the main reasons for this constant break-down is due to high ash content in the coal. There are some proposals for washing the coal before supplying to the generators to improve the power generation. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps he is taking to improve the supply of quality coal to the power generators and thereby improve the power generation.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: None at all.

AN HON MEMBER: You are not a Minister.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There have been some complaints about the quality of coal which is required for the power stations. There is the Coal Department and the Energy Department and they go into the matter and take such measures as are considered necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question. It is quite a good question. We have only 3 or 4 minutes.

Mr. Satish Prasad Singh.

Price of Coal

*4. **SHRI SATISH PRASAD SINGH:** Will the Minister of ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the price of coal is much higher for a common man;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to bring down the price of coal used by common man; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) The pithead price of soft coke, used by the common man, is fixed by the Central Government and is Rs. 110/- per tonne. In some States the sale price of soft coke has been fixed by the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act after allowing for transport and other incidental charges.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. With a view improving availability of soft coke so as to bring down its price, the Department of Coal, in consultation with the Ministry of Railways, have drawn up a programme to increase the despatch of soft coke to various States. The State Governments have also been requested to streamline their distribution system. Close liaison is being maintained by Coal India with the State Governments for this purpose.

श्री सतीश प्रसाद सिंह : जो कोयला लोगों के खाना पकाने के काम में आता है या ईंट पकाने के काम में आता है, उस की प्राइम प्यादा है, उस को कम करने के लिए क्या मंत्री जी सोच रहे हैं ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, the distribution system is done by the State Governments. We have no hand there. We supply coal to them. We feel if enough availability is there, obviously coal price will go down. That is why we are increasing the quota and we are trying to reach with coal and soft coke to different States. We think the price will go down as soon as the soft coke reaches different States. Now, most of the transportation of coal is done by the Railways except to Eastern regions.