

CALLING ATTENTION TO A
 MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
 IMPORTANCE

INADEQUATE POWER SUPPLY FROM DVC
 TO THE CALCUTTA AREA

Shri Muhammed Elias (Howrah): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The inadequate supply of power from the Damodar Valley Corporation to the Calcutta area.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim): The present shortage of power in the Calcutta area is not due to any inadequate supply of power from the Damodar Valley Corporation; but due to a breakdown, on the 9th February, 1961, of a 50 MW generating set of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.

An Hon. Member: He is not audible.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may resume his seat. There is too much of noise in the House. Those hon. Members who want to go away may leave in silence. Those other hon. Members who want to talk, sitting together, may kindly go to the lobbies. We will carry on with other hon. Members who are interested in the work here.

श्री ए० ए० तारिक (जम्मू तथा काश्मीर): बोलिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप क्यों बोलते हैं ।

Why should Shri Tariq ask the hon. Minister?

Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim: Up to the 9th February, 1961, the Damodar Valley Corporation was supplying to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation 55 MVA during off-peak and 65 MVA during peak period. But, after the breakdown of the 50 MW generat-

ing set of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, the Damodar Valley Corporation raised the supply to 75/85 MVA during off-peak and 85/95 during peak period. This helped the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation to meet the shortage to the extent of about 50 per cent. From the 17th March, 1961, the Damodar Valley Corporation had, however, to reduce the supply to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation to 80 MVA during off-peak and peak period due to a breakdown in their plant at Bokaro.

2. The Government of West Bengal have reported that the shortage of power experienced is of the order of 35 MW and that certain bulk consumers of power have voluntarily reduced their off-take by 50 per cent during peak load period, i.e., between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. No statutory restrictions have yet been imposed by the State Government on the consumers.

3. The Damodar Valley Corporation expect to step up the supply of power to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation in the course of the next few days, with the commissioning of the second unit of 75 MW of the Durgapur Thermal Power Station.

Shri Muhammed Elias: May I ask one or two questions?

Recently, due to the sudden power cut in the Calcutta area, a number of factories had to stop work, and thousands of workers have been thrown out of employment. I want to know how long this power shortage will continue. The hon. Minister has just now said that within a few days, normal power will be supplied, but newspaper reports say that it will take nearly up to 1963 to give normal power supply to the Calcutta area, that up to this period there will be no new connections to new industries, while at the same time normalcy will not return to the other industries which are stopping work now. The newspaper reports say that the shortage during this period will be nearly 125 MW. So, I wish to know whether

the DVC has kept in view the sudden shortage of power supply to the Calcutta area, and how long it will take the DVC and Government to give normal supply of power to the Calcutta area.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: May I point out to the hon. Member through you that the information furnished by me is more reliable than any information published in the papers? Why should he rely on that, and not only on me?

12.35 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: MID-TERM
ELECTION IN ORISSA

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Mr. Speaker, the House will recall that in the course of the debate on the Resolution approving of the President's Proclamation under article 356 in relation to the State of Orissa, I had occasion to observe that Government in consultation with the Election Commission were considering the question when the next elections to the Orissa Legislative Assembly should take place. It has now been decided that these elections should be held early in June 1961.

Whenever a Proclamation under article 356 is brought into force, the Government's aim is always to restrict the period of the President's Rule in the State to the minimum duration possible. In the climatic conditions of Orissa, general elections during the period of the monsoon would be extremely difficult as during that period considerable areas are inundated and communications are disrupted. If the elections cannot be held before the onset of the monsoon, they can only be held some time in December, 1961, that is to say, about two or three months before the general elections, which would hardly be justified. The choice, therefore, is limited to having elections early in June or at the time

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of general elections in February/March, next year. The Chief Election Commissioner is satisfied that administrative steps to be taken can be completed within the time for an election to be held in the early part of June. As I have already indicated, Government do not desire to prolong the period of the President's rule to about 14 months until the next general elections. This appears particularly undesirable this year when the Third Five Year Plan is being launched and when it would be far better for a popular Government to implement the new Plan in the first year.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Hear, hear.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Government have, therefore, decided that in the balance it would be desirable to hold elections to the State Legislative Assembly in the early part of June, 1961.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Is it the proposal of the Government to extend the life of this newly elected Assembly for the next five years, or will they have to undergo another general election?

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): They will have this election and then have parliamentary election next March.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There is no question of proposal of Government. There is the Constitution. This will last for five years.

Shri Tyagi: Well, then, will it mean that elections to Parliament will be separately held every time, for all time to come, because their five years will be separate from the five years of the Members of this Parliament?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That may well happen, because that is a thing which may anyhow happen. It has so happened by an odd chance that the full period....

Mr. Speaker: It happened in Andhra.