

conclusion was that Netaji died of air-crash at the Taihouku airport. (Interruptions.)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I myself believe the House will be very happy if Dr. Guha would let us know where Netaji is. We would all welcome him here.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Be prepared for this; at the heart of your hearts. z

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, it is not only Prof. Samar Guha who is suffering from this illusion, but, there are some other people also in this country who are suffering from the same illusion. I remember distinctly that in 1964 when Panditji died. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: You better ask your question.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: I am coming to my question. When Panditji died, one gentleman from my home district Muzaffarpur came to me with a picture and asked me 'Look, do you recognise this gentleman who is standing by the pyre of Panditji?' I said 'I do not recognise'. He said 'He is Netaji' therefore, I would humbly request the Home Minister, through you, Sir to get all the necessary information from Prof. Samar Guha and find out where Netaji is, because he is a great son of India and would like to have the benefit of his presence here amongst us.

MR. SPEAKER: You will start abusing me also.

Delay in Execution of Power Projects

*419. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North India Engineers' Forum has blamed bureaucrats for scuttling and delaying the power projects;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether in view of acute power shortage, Government are going to consider power projects as priority number one in the Fifth Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESWAR PRASAD): (a) The Ministry of Energy has no information in the matter.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Power has been recognised as a component of the basic infrastructure for industrial and agricultural growth and accordingly a high priority has been accorded to Power Projects in the Fifth Plan.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, I am surprised to hear that Government has no knowledge of this report regarding the Conference of the North India Engineers' Forum. May I draw their attention to the fact that the report of their Conference, of this Forum, which was held in Chandigarh on the 26th September appeared in the Press? It says, I am quoting from the Press report:

"The Conference blamed bureaucrats for scuttling and delaying power projects as a result of which the entire country was facing an unprecedented crisis. They pointed out that IAS Generalists in order to show their supremacy over the technocrats turned down technically sound projects."

There is much more. I am not reading the whole thing. In any case, since the Government seems to be ignorant of this occurrence, May I ask them, whether or not it is a fact that in spite of the feelings which were expressed very strongly last year by power engineers all over the country regarding this issue of their not being given their status which their qualifications call for in the handling of these power projects as compared

with the bureaucrats, those grievances have not been removed at all—nothing has been done so far—and therefore, this kind of feeling we may call it an agitation or an expression of discontent, is continuing to be voiced. Surely, the Minister knows that only last week, demonstrations by power engineers have been held in West Bengal, Bihar and other places also. I would like to know from them, even if they do not know anything in regard to this particular meeting to which I referred in the question, are they prepared to tell the House what steps they have taken since last year to see that these power engineers get their proper status and rights and priority over the generalists in the formulation and handling of power projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): Sir, the excerpts which my hon. friend read out from some reported news item are very very sweeping. There may be cases where some schemes might have been held up by IAS Officers. There may be cases where schemes might not have been properly implemented by engineers. It is very difficult to make sweeping statements in this regard. My point is, we do need both the generalists and the engineers. In many cases, their functions are complementary. In some cases, the same person combines the quality of both. That, of course, is ideal and in that case, the engineer can be placed in many important positions in administration also. Therefore, the question relates more to individuals' capacities than to a general question.

So far as the general attitude of Government to technical people is concerned, if he will look even at the number of Secretaries in the Central Government, he will find that in the last few years the number of technical people who have been made Secretaries is certainly much larger than it used to be in the past.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Please give us the figures.

SHRI K. C. PANT: It is easy; it can be got.

So far as the States are concerned, I know that in some States, engineers have been made Secretaries to Departments also, like Irrigation, Power and Technical Education. Now, some of them have done well; some have not done so well. So it is not merely the placing of an engineer that is important. I agree that engineers also have done well in many of our important works such as the Beas-Sutlej project which I saw. They must get their due place in the sun.

In regard to the recent Pay Commission recommendations when we were finalising that matter, we tried to do our best to see that engineers also got their due. So, we are conscious of the sentiments of the engineers..

SHRI PILOO MODY: He is filibustering the question hour.

SHRI K. C. PANT: This is an important question and the sentiments of engineers all over the country are involved. I want to make it clear that is whatever we do, we do not allow a caste feeling to come into the services.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Is the Minister aware of the fact—I do not think he was in charge of this portfolio at that time—that certain specific assurances or promises one may call them, were given by the Prime Minister and other Ministers at the time of the countrywide strike last year by the power engineers and it was on the basis of these assurances that the power engineers called off their agitation? Their grievance now is that these promises and assurances have not been fulfilled in the main and that is the cause for this continuing friction and conflict which none of us desire should continue because it is

a very unhealthy thing (*Interruption*) Power shortage, of course, is there. Could he tell the House which of those specific assurances or promises have been fulfilled, which have not been fulfilled or are in the process of being fulfilled and which have been withdrawn?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I am not aware of any specific assurance given by the Prime Minister....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: On what basis was the strike called off?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I will have to go into those things. But tried to express the broad approach of Government and said that the policy of representation of technical people should be there in the services and the proper status due to them should be given to them. Even when you put an engineer in charge of a Ministry like Irrigation and Power, then also difficulties come up between various kinds of engineers, irrigation engineers, power engineers, civil engineers and other types of engineers. So this kind of fragmentation is not the best way to get the best out of the whole system. I think our approach should be get the best out of the system as a whole. I would appeal to power engineers all over the country; whether in West Bengal or elsewhere, that in view of the present power shortage in many parts of the country, this is not the time to have any agitation. It will curtail the production of power, it is affecting the production pattern.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : नार्थ इंडिया में बिहार भी आता है। प्रधान मंत्री जी को बहुत से लोगों ने पत्र लिखे हैं—श्री राजदेव सिंह ने भी उन को पत्र लिखा है—कि पावर इंजीनियरिंग ने इंजीनियरिंग विभाग में बहुत सी गड़बड़ी की है, ट्रांसफार्मिंग की चोरी की है। सारे हिन्दुस्तान में बिहार पर कंपिटिटा पावर कम मिलती है। इन सारी बातों को देखते हुए क्या सरकार बिहार की तरफ खास तवाज्जुह देगी ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र वर्मा : बिहार के हर पहलू की तरफ सारे देश का ध्यान है।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : श्री राजदेव सिंह ने प्रधान मंत्री जी को पत्र लिखा है। प्रधान मंत्री जी सदन में बैठे हुए हैं। मैं उन से जवाब चाहता हूँ।

प्रधान मंत्री, परमाणु ऊर्जा मंत्री, इलेक्ट्रॉनिकस मंत्री तथा अंतरिक्ष मंत्री (श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी) : इस में तो कोई शक नहीं है कि किसी भी प्रकार का संबोटेज करना तो बहुत ही गलत है विशेषकर जहाँ पावर की इतनी कमी है।

MR. SPEAKER: The question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Overhauling of Tarapur Atomic Power Station

*416. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA:** Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat State has asked the Union Government to overhaul the Tarapur Power Plant as this plant has frequently been going out of order; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Central Government thereon?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Export-Oriented Texturised Vegetable Protein Plant at Bulandshahr

*420. **SHRI N. E. HORO:**
SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state: