

hon. Member has stated, if it is correct, then, naturally other steps will be taken for the completion of the project.

DR. RANEN SEN : He neither agrees nor denies. That is my information. I want to know whether that is correct or not.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Is it not a fact that the Government of India has recently informed us that the Haldia project will go on working from 1973 ? In that context may I know why the Government is making delay in asking industrialists to come and provide them with all facilities in the area ? I would like to know whether this area is going to be regarded as free trade zone.

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : As far as the free trade zone, as far as I am aware, no decision has been taken. As to the other two points; two steps have been taken in this direction. One is that a cell has been created in the Home Ministry to look into West Bengal's problem including Haldia. Another is that the West Bengal Reconstruction Corporation has been set up and they will look into the financial aspects of West Bengal including Haldia.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Supply of Power from Korba Thermal Plant to Uttar Pradesh

SN Q. 2. SHRI N. N. PANDEY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government have discontinued the supply of Power from Korba Thermal Plant to Uttar Pradesh from the 8th June, 1971;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Central Government are proposing to resolve this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER DR. K. L. RAO : (a) Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board discontinued the bulk power supply to Uttar Pradesh from midnight of 8th June, 1971.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board had agreed to supply about 35 to 55 MW of bulk power to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board from their Korba power system on a mutually agreed basis. The power supply was commenced with effect from 24th August, 1970, and a tariff rate which worked out to an average of 8 paise per kwh was agreed to. However, the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board had, by stages, increased the rate to an average of about 12 paise per kwh between the period of August, 1970 to May, 1971. The Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board had been making payments on the basis of average rate of 8 paise per kwh plus coal surcharge as indicated by Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board from time to time. On the other hand, according to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board the arrears of payment were of the order of about Rs. 1.23 crores in line with various increases intimated by them to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board.

(c) The power supply has been resumed with effect from 6 P. M. on 12th June, 1971, as a result of the discussions between the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

श्री एन. एन. पांडे : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब सेंट्रल वाटर एंड पावर कमीशन की इन्टरवैन्सन से 8 पैसे पर यूनिट का एक रेट तय हो गया, तो फिर प्रकायक रेट को 70 परसेंट बढ़ाने और हर साल बढ़ाते रहने का क्या कारण था और क्या सेंट्रल वाटर एंड पावर कमीशन ने कोई पैसा स्टेप लिया, जिस से यह डिस्पूट रिजाल्ट किया जा सके।

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true there is some rise in the charges. But the MP Electricity Board contend that they have to get coal from a longer distance and therefore they have increased the rate. But this was not discussed between them. It is regrettable that power was cut off suddenly.

Apart from this, the Government of India has got an organisation, the Central Electricity Authority which acts as arbitrator in these disputes. Unfortunately, this case was not referred to them. I think now it will be taken up by the Central Electricity Authority.

श्री एस. एन. पांडे : इस बात को देखते हुए कि उत्तर प्रदेश में इलैक्ट्रिसिटी की कमी है, क्या मंत्री महोदय एक सेंट्रल पावर प्राजेक्ट बनाने पर विचार कर रहे हैं, जिस से इस कमी को दूर किया जा सके ?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true there is a heavy shortage of power in UP. It is as much as 5 million units a day. We are fully aware that we should try to make it up as early as possible. We are trying to get power from DVC; we are also trying to see whether some more projects could be set up to produce power.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Is the hon. Minister aware that the Irrigation and Power Minister of UP repeatedly approached the Central Government and apprised them of the serious power crisis in UP resulting in closure and partial closure of many textile and engineering units and even defence units? If so, what steps have been taken by Government to see that the Central Government comes to the rescue of the UP Government in the matter of supplying power from other States? Also, is it a fact that the agreement signed with the Birlas regarding power supply from the Rihand Dam to their Aluminium Corporation is for 25 years? Is this not

a humiliating agreement by which they are bound to supply power at the cheapest rate to Birlas at the expense of the peasants and small industrialists? Will this agreement be scrapped and power supplied to other units?

DR. K. L. RAO : I have already said there is a heavy shortage of power in UP by as much as 5 million units a day. We are trying to get it from DVC as also from Madhya Pradesh and partly from Delhi. Bhakra is just picking up and there will be some surplus in Delhi which can be sent to UP. We are requesting Badarpur to come up in the next year. If it does, the shortage will be less. Still I would submit that for two or three years the power position in Uttar Pradesh will be difficult.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : What about scrapping the agreement with Birla? It seems the Rihand Dam was constructed spending a huge amount only to supply to Birla's Aluminium Corporation as seen by the 25-year agreement of which there are still ten more years to run. The UP Government is ready to scrap the agreement. What about the Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not connected with this question.

श्री शशि भूषण : माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब जानते हैं कि मध्य प्रदेश में भी पावर शॉर्टेज बहुत ज्यादा है। मध्य प्रदेश में जो देश में सब से बड़ी और सब से तेज बहने वाली नदी नर्मदा है, अभी तक सरकार ने उस पर कोई बिजली उत्पादक बांध नहीं बनाया है। उत्तर प्रदेश को बिजली देने का क्या फायदा है जब वहाँ पर बिजली को वह बिजली तीन पैसा प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से खरी जाये? पहले उत्तर प्रदेश यह व्यवस्था करे कि बिजली को सही जगह

पिछड़े इलाके की तरक्की को इस्तेमाल किया जायेगा, वर्ना मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने यह बहुत अच्छा फैसला किया है। क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बारे में कोई उत्तर देंगे ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is a suggestion for action.

श्री शशि भूषण : उत्तरप्रदेश में, सस्ती बिजली से बिड़ला एलुमिनियम बनाते हैं और दूसरे इलाकों में, प्रांतों में ले जाता है। उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी जिलों में एक भी इंडस्ट्री नहीं बनाई गई है। एमोनियम द्वारा सिर्फ वह एक्सप्लायट कर रहा है। सरकार ने नव्वदा पर भी कोई बांध नहीं बनाया है। बिजली कहां से पैदा होगी ?

SHRI R. V. BADE : The MP Government stopped supply of power to UP because the UP Government refused to pay arrears outstanding against them. Is this a fact ? If so, what is the total of arrears outstanding ?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is an agreement for transfer of power temporarily, for a few months. The agreement was entered into between UP and MP. Madhya Pradesh contend that in terms of agreement, they are entitled to further charges regarding duty and so on, UP contend that under the agreement that is not entertainable. So there is a dispute between the two and this can be settled by an arbitration body like the Central Electricity Authority.

SHRI D. N. TIWARI : The Minister said he will make up the deficit of power for UP from DVC. Have the requirements of power of Bengal and Bihar being met from DVC or is there any shortage of electricity in North Bihar and there is no supply from DVC ?

DR. K. L. RAO : There is no shortage as such in the eastern sector. By and large, the position is satisfactory. The hon. member is asking an entirely different question about Northern Bihar. In Northern Bihar, there is no power system.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : Why not set up one ?

DR. K. L. RAO : We have got to establish it. This power we are also trying to get from Gaya, but there are no transmission lines. We have to establish large power stations in North Bihar. We are trying to do that.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA : The Minister said the other day that there is nothing like Telengana power or Andhra power. So also there should be nothing like Madhya Pradesh power, U.P. power or Madras power. May I know whether the Minister knows that Madras has been reluctant to give Kalpakkam power to Andhra Pradesh, and if so, whether the Centre will intervene and see that power is supplied to the deficit areas of Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not relevant.

SHRI PARIPOORNAND PAINULI : The other day hon. Minister was pleased to state on the floor of the House that he would go to Tehri and examine the feasibility of the Tehri dam. Would he be good enough to explain here what his final decision is about the construction of the dam at Tehri ?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is going to be taken up. I have examined the site. I visited the Tehri dam site. We are expecting to put up a power station. But unfortunately it is a big work, and it will take ten years before the power is commissioned.