

but all the material inside the wagon goes out of that hole and ultimately the wagon reaches its destination empty. Are such holes to be regarded as minor or major ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : The hon. Member is referring to a loophole; all loopholes will be plugged.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Is it a fact one of the reasons for the shortage of wagons is that the capacity of production of wagons, particularly in the Kancharpara factory, is not being fully utilised and if so, is the Government taking steps to fully utilise that capacity ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : The Ministry has appointed a small committee to review the question of availability of wagons and this committee is expected to submit its report within a few months.

Shortage of Power

*255. **SHRI RANA BAHADUR SINGH :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of industrial establishments are not working to their full capacity due to shortage of power and they have lodged complaints with Government in this regard; and

(b) the action Government propose to take to meet the shortage of power ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Due to tight power supply position in some States such as Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal arising from inadequate generating capacity, forced outages of plants, poor storage position in hydro reservoirs such as at Machkund and Koyana, rostering of feeders and restriction on peak demand and consumption of energy have been imposed by

the respective State Governments. As a result, power supply to industrial establishments have been affected to some extent. The Nangal Fertilizer Unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India whose offtake of power has been reduced from 164 MW to 98 MW have represented to Centre for the restoration of power supply to the full extent. The Spokesmen of Industries in some of the States have represented to this Ministry the difficulties of the Industrial Undertakings in regard to meeting their full requirements of power and the need for augmentation of existing power generation facilities liberally.

The basic solution for power shortage is the augmentation of power generation and transmission capacities in the country. As power generation schemes take at least five years to fructify, a long-term decade plan and a five-year power development programme have been drawn up by this Ministry and is being followed up.

The project works under execution are being expedited. The programme of construction of inter-State links has been stepped up to enable inter-connected operation of adjacent power systems so as to enable maximum utilisation of the available generating capacity in the region and also to enable sending power from surplus pockets to deficit areas.

SHRI RANA BAHADUR SINGH : May I know if a demand has been received by his Ministry from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to have a large thermal power plant in the Singrauli coalfield areas, and if so, what is the stage at which that demand is resting with his Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has written to say that he wants to develop a high power thermal power station in Madhya Pradesh, and send the power on to the other zones. We have prepared a scheme of power for the whole of the country, and in that context we have allotted 800 MW to Madhya Pradesh. So, we have said that they can proceed with the investigation and planning of this project for 800 MW of thermal power. When that is finished, further action can be considered.

SHRI RANA BAHADUR SINGH : May I know if the financial aspects of this thermal power station have been studied, and if so, what would be the implication if it is decided that it should be set up ?

DR. K. L. RAO : The power stations will all be constructed, except for a few ones, by the state Governments themselves. What exactly the policy of the Fifth Plan is to be has yet to be decided. The present policy is that except for a few power stations to be built by the Centre, the State Governments have to find the finances.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : It is found from the statement that there is acute power shortage in many States, including Andhra Pradesh. Recently the State Government has imposed severe restrictions on power which are hampering agricultural and industrial production. May I know whether any arrangements have been made by the neighbouring State Governments, for instance the Kerala Government which has got surplus power, to supply electricity to Andhra Pradesh so as to overcome this acute shortage of power which is retarding the progress of industrial and agricultural production ?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true that there is power shortage in the country. In fact, this year it is occurring very badly in many States of the country. It is because firstly the load has been growing much more than anticipated. We expected about 12 per cent increase in power demand, but it is going up by 25 to 30 per cent in some States. Secondly, this year the reservoirs in South India were not filled up, including the Sharavati reservoir. So the water available has been much less than what it used to be every year. In that context, one of the States which has suffered very badly is Andhra Pradesh, and, as the hon. Member has said, there is heavy shortage of power, unless we can make it up by getting power from the neighbouring States. Mysore has been helping to some extent, whatever it can. It is true that Kerala power is available, and it can be supplied. They are already supplying to Tamil Nadu. So, I took it up with the Minister of Power, Kerala, the other day, and we are discussing how best the surplus power in Kerala can be used in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : May I know whether there is any proposal to undertake a survey as to the causes of the recurrent power shortage in Calcutta and neighbouring areas, especially industrial establishments; if not, what are the steps that the Government are going to take to meet this power shortage ?

DR. K. L. RAO : The shortage in the Calcutta region is mainly due to the fact that many power stations are out of order either due to defects in the machines or some trouble in labour, and we are trying to overcome both these factors. Also, there is some surplus power in the DVC area which can be used in Calcutta, but there are inadequate lines. So, we are trying to put transmission lines also. Many of these things are being expedited. So, while the position in Calcutta is not very bad, it can be improved, it is going to be improved considerably when we get the transmission lines and some of the power stations go into commission.

श्री भान सिंह भौरा : क्या आपको पता है कि पंजाब में बिजली के लिए हजारों दरखास्तें पड़ी हुई हैं और बिजली नहीं मिल रही है। पंजाब सरकार बहुत दिनों से धींग डैम के लिए किलयरेंस माँग रही है, ताकि वह बन सके और बिजली की शार्टेज दूर हो सके, लेकिन आपने अभी तक उसकी किलयरेंस नहीं दी है—इसकी क्या वजह है ?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true that in Punjab a very large number of applications are pending for electrification and connection for tube-wells. There are as many as 98,000 applications pending. We do not have enough power. Thien dam is not the solution for the shortage of power. Though I agree that it is very important and essential and it should be sanctioned as early as possible, that is not the solution. That dam will take ten years whereas we want power much quicker. We are trying to expedite the Bhatinda and neighbouring power stations. We hope that the power problem in that State this year would not be as bad as last year because Bhakra has filled up earlier.

SHRI JAGANATHA RAO : In view of the shortage of power in the country because

we are depending entirely on hydel projects, is there any proposal with the Ministry to set up huge thermal power stations all over the country so that power will be available in plenty all over the country by using coal for the thermal stations.

DR. K. L. RAO : We are developing thermal power, hydel power and nuclear power. All the three sectors are being tapped. For the next plan we have to depend on thermal stations. For the next one or two decades, we can depend on hydel power. We are exploring all avenues so that as much power can be tapped as early as possible.

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पांडे : मान्यवर, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने बिजली की कमी को पूरा करने के लिए कई योजनाएं केन्द्रीय सरकार के पाम भेजी है। मैं खानना चाहता हूँ कि उन योजनाओं के संबंध में सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

DR. K. L. RAO : The shortage of power is the largest in UP, about 5 million units a day, and we are very much concerned about this shortage of power in UP. We have sanctioned, not one scheme but a number of schemes. Our problem is how to generate power as quickly as possible. We are considering whether any particular project could be taken up and expedited, if necessary, even at the cost of some other project, so that this power shortage in UP can be met. In fact, that is one of our chief problems.

Some hon. Members rose —

MR. SPEAKER : I want to give chance to those hon. Members who do not ask questions frequently.

SHRI DHAMANKAR : Chemical industry requires continuous heating. So, I want to know whether government have issued instructions not to enforce this power cut on the chemical industry.

DR. K. L. RAO : Maharashtra State is short of power to the extent of 3 million units a day. The shortage is being partly met by over drawing from the hydro-power station, which cannot be allowed for a long time. Therefore, we have requested Mysore whether they could also help them to some

extent. Tarapore power station could also help. When there is shortage of power, everyone has to share the suffering or sacrifice. That cannot be helped. In fact, if the position does not improve there will be further cuts.

SHRI DHAMANKAR : Sir, that was not my question.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister must understand the question before replying. His question was different.

SHRI PILOO MODY : It is not necessary for Ministers.

SHRI DHAMANKAR : The chemical industry requires continuous heating process. May I know whether the government have issued instructions not to impose this cut on chemical industry as it will result in heavy losses ?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true that furnaces cannot be shut down. So, power for such industries should not be cut down. But it is for the Maharashtra Government to issue the necessary instructions and enforce the cut elsewhere.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : The hon. Minister Dr. K. L. Rao has said that there will be a super thermal station to serve North Bihar and North Bengal. Would he kindly tell us what progress he has made towards constructing that super thermal power station somewhere between North Bengal and North Bihar ?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is not really a super thermal station. A thermal power station of the size 240 MW, which we want to set up, is not really a super thermal power station now-a-days, in the present stage of development of power. We are very anxious about that unit. It is being processed and I hope it will be sanctioned very shortly.

श्री राम सुरत प्रसाद : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि उत्तर प्रदेश में विद्युत की कमी पूरी करने के लिए बहुत सी योजनाएँ आई हैं। आज उत्तर प्रदेश में विद्युत की कमी होने के कारण वहाँ पर जो योजनाएँ चल रही हैं, उनकी

प्रगति बहुत धीमी है। मे जानना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश से कौन-कौन सी प्रमुख योजनायें विद्युत की कमी की पूर्ति के लिए भेजी गई है ?

DR. K. L. RAO : I did not quite follow the question. I think he asked about the supply of electricity to the rural areas of UP. The Electricity Supply Corporation have a very large number of projects under consideration for rural electrification. That is one of the sectors where there is great activity in UP.

छोटे व्यापारियों को आयात लाइसेंस

*256. श्री मूलचन्द डागा : क्या बिदेश व्यापार मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या आयातित कच्चा माल प्राप्त करने के लिए राज्य व्यापार निगम और खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम छोटे व्यापारियों को लाइसेंस जारी करता है, और यदि हाँ, तो किन शर्तों पर; और

(ख) क्या सरकार को पता है कि कुछ छोटे व्यापारी कच्चे माल को काले बाजार में बेचते हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) The State Trading Corporation have set up Industrial Raw Materials Assistance Centre which imports certain raw materials for supply to the small scale industrial units against import licences held by them. Only valid licences are accepted and to the extent the goods are supplied by the IRMAC, the licence ceases to be valid for direct imports. The scheme is voluntary.

(b) Government are aware of such malpractices. Necessary action is taken on complaints of alleged misuse of imported materials.

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : आपने कहा कि हमको मालूम है लेकिन हम कोई कदम नहीं उठा सकते। कच्चे माल के लाइसेंस मिलते हैं और फिर उसको काले बाजार में बेचा जाता है . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप प्रश्न करिए ।

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : मेरा प्रश्न यह था कि सरकार इसके लिए क्या कदम उठाती है ? प्रश्न के उत्तर में आपने कहा कि आपने लाइसेंस लेकर लोग माल मंगाने हैं, कच्चे माल का आयात करने है लेकिन उसका उत्पादन नहीं होता है तो उसके लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करती है ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : माननीय सदस्य ने सुना नहीं, मैंने प्रश्न के दूसरे हिस्से के उत्तर में कहा कि जिम शर्त पर लाइसेंस लेते हैं उसी के मुताबिक अगर उसका इस्तेमाल नहीं करते हैं तो उनके खिलाफ कानूनी कार्यवाही की जाती है। यदि माननीय सदस्य को दिलचस्पी हो तो मैं एक फेहरिस्त रख दूँ जिममें मान मौ, आठ मौ आदमियों के नाम हैं जिनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही की गई है। इस प्रकार से लोगों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जाती है, लोगों पर जुर्माने होते हैं और लोग जेल जाते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त हम और क्या कर सकते हैं।

SHRI S. N. MISRA : What is the overcharge on the landed cost that is charged by the STC for the imported material ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : It differs from material to material. The STC makes some profit and that profit goes to the public exchequer.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : There are many small-scale units which, after getting licences from the concerned authorities, are waiting at the doors of the STC and the MMTC for years together without getting the material. What is the Government going to do to supply the material to those units immediately ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Licences are issued to them and they are marked against the MMTC and the STC only when the goods or the material is available with them. If the material is not available, we do not issue the licence; but if the material is likely to come in six or eight weeks' time, we extend the period of the licence. They are bound to