

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 14, 1972/Kartika 23,
1894 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shortage of Power in the Country

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*21. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY :
SHRI SEZHIYAN:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION
AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of power shortage in the
various parts of the country at present,
state-wise;

(b) the reasons for the power short-
age; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the crisis
and to maintain minimum supply of
power to industry and agriculture?

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

STATEMENT

(a) A statement giving the extent of
power shortage in the various States is
placed below at ANNEXURE.

2379 LS-1.

(b) The reasons for the power short-
age are:

(i) Reduced power generation from
hydro stations due to shortage
of water in hydel reservoirs;

(ii) shortfall in power from atomic
power stations;

(iii) continued growth in demand for
power; and

(iv) shortfall in the addition to the
generating capacity.

(c) Discussions were held with the
Chief Ministers of the States in the
Western, Northern, Southern and Eastern
Regions to review the power supply posi-
tion, and for taking immediate remedial
measures for mitigating the power short-
age conditions.

The following steps are being taken in
this regard:

(i) Available surplus power is to be
used fully to meet the shortage
in the deficit States.

(ii) Repairs to some of the thermal
generating units which are out
of service are to be expedited so
that the units could be brought
back into commission.

(iii) Arranging better quality of coal
to the thermal power stations
in the Eastern Region where
units are getting damaged due
to use of inferior quality of coal
till such time as the three-stage
washeries are set up.

(iv) Power generation projects under construction and important transmission lines are being expedited to yield benefits as quickly as possible. In furtherance of this objective, the States have been requested to set up IMPLEMENTATION CELLS to

monitor the progress of projects and overcome the bottlenecks.

(v) Steps are being taken to initiate advance action on projects intended for commissioning in the Fifth Plan, now itself.

Statement showing Power Supply Position in the Various States—Power Shortage

1	Power availability MU/day	Power require- ment MU/day	Surplus or deficit MU/day
1	2	3	4
<i>Northern Region</i>			
Uttar Pradesh	21.00	24.00	—3.30
Punjab	4.84	7.05	—2.21
Haryana	3.43	5.40	—1.97
Rajasthan	3.77	4.97	—1.20
Delhi	5.16	4.50	0.66 Relief of 0.6MU
Himachal Pradesh	0.84	0.58	+0.26 available to region from Satpura
Jammu & Kashmir	0.73	0.73	
Chandigarh	0.19	0.30	—0.11
Nangal Fertilizer	2.35	2.35	
<i>Western Region</i>			
Gujarat	15.30	15.30	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	9.30	8.20	1.10*
Maharashtra	27.90	31.60	—3.70
Goa, Diu and Daman	0.22	0.52	—0.30
*Relief of 0.5 MU/day is available for Madhya Pradesh to the region.			
<i>Southern Region</i>			
Andhra Pradesh	7.50	10.10	—2.50
Kerala	6.85	6.55	+0.30
Mysore	10.95	13.90	—2.95
Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	16.50	22.00	—5.50

1	2	3	4
<i>Eastern Region</i>			
Bihar	5.56	6.12	—0.56
West Bengal	11.18	12.18	—1.00
D.V.C. Power System	10.60	11.60	—1.00
Orissa	5.70	6.80	—1.10
<i>North Eastern Region</i>			
	1.60	1.60	
<i>All India</i>	171.47	196.65	—25.18

श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : इस स्टेटमेंट से पता चलता है कि देश में जितनी विद्युत की आवश्यकता है, उस के अनुपात से वह नहीं मिल रही है। इस में बताया गया है कि बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, राजस्थान और पंजाब में विशेषकर विद्युत की कमी है। रूस और पूर्वी यूरोप के देशों से जो विद्युत जेनरेटर मंगाये गये हैं, वे अभी तक अच्छा काम नहीं कर पा रहे हैं और कुछ बेकार हैं। विद्युत की कमी के कारण ही हम सूखे की स्थिति का सामना नहीं कर सके हैं, जिस के कारण लाखों मजदूर बेकार हैं और करोड़ों रुपयों का नुकसान हो रहा है। गत सत्र में इसी हाउस में बताया गया था कि देश में बिजली की जो कमी है, वह जल्दी पूरी कर ली जायेगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन सा ऐसा दिन होगा, जब हम बिजली के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर हो जायेंगे ताकि सूखा पड़ने पर हम डट कर उस का मुकद्दमा कर सकें।

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (MR. K. L. RAO): It is true that in some parts of the country

Punjab, Haryana and U.P., there is shortage of power. I placed a statement yesterday before the House giving complete details about the power position, explaining how the shortage has arisen. The main reason for the shortage is the reservoirs not having been filled. The position today in Bhakra is that the level is less than half of what it was last year; that is the main reason. I only hope that during the next monsoon there will be better rainfall and the reservoirs will get filled up. This has never occurred during the last 25 years. We hope that the position will be much easier and better next year.

श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : ऐसा महसूस किया गया है कि जलाशयों की कमी के कारण विद्युत की कमी है। अगर हम कहें कि बिजली के मामले में नुकस्ती की जा रही है, तो कोई भत्यक्ति नहीं होगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन प्रदेशों में बिजली की कमी है, उन को सरकार कितना धन देगी और सरकार बिजली के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर बनने के लिए कितना धन खर्च करने जा रही है।

DR. K. L. RAO: I presume the hon. member is asking about the provision in the fifth plan. It is realised that power generation in this country will have to be much more accelerated than what has been done in the past and the ministry has asked for a considerable amount of money. This has got to be discussed and the House will have an opportunity to discuss it.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Keeping in view the very bad situation in Punjab, may I know what steps he is taking—long-term as well as short-term—to meet the shortage? Secondly, may I know why the Thien dam has taken so long to be cleared by the Centre? For the last eight years we are trying but there has been no clearance from the Centre.

DR. K. L. RAO: There is a shortage of 2.2 million KW hours of power daily in Punjab. We are hoping to make it up partly by getting $\frac{1}{2}$ million KWh. from Himachal Pradesh and another $\frac{1}{2}$ million KWh. from Satpura, making a total of about 1 million KWh. Also, as he previous hon. member said, the diesel sets we imported last year from various countries for power generation were not set up. They are now being set up and I hope it will be possible to narrow down this gap by January. But still there will be a shortage of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 million KW. About the Thien dam, it will take considerable time for construction. It has got some inter-State aspects. A large amount of land in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh will be submerged and we are trying to have a meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss this problem. This meeting has been postponed from time to time. I have got a meeting fixed on the 25th of this month at Jammu and I hope it will be resolved there. After that, we will take up the Thjen dam.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: There is tremendous potentiality of power generation in Assam. In view of this, may I know whether the Government has taken up any integrated scheme of power generation in the north-east region and if so, what are the

salient features thereof?

DR. K. L. RAO: In the north-east region and position is quite satisfactory and there is no shortfall there. I quite appreciate there is a large amount of suppressed demand in places like Manipur and Tripura, which we are not able to meet because there is no cheap power. In the north-east region, Loktak and Gumti projects are under construction and on the completion of these projects, it will be possible to have much more power in that area. About Assam, we have been planning to put up a much bigger project at Kameng. It is still to be finalised.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या यह सच है कि बंगाल, बिहार और उड़ीसा में बिजली की कमी को दूर करने के सिलसिले में, अभी हाल में तीनों राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्रियों ने सरकार से मांग की है—इस अवसर पर स्वयं मंत्री महोदय मौजूद थे—कि पूर्वी क्षेत्र में एटामिक पावर स्टेशन बनाया जाये; और अगर हां तो इस के बारे में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

DR. K. L. RAO: We are now concerned with generating sufficient amount of power immediately, in the next five years. Atomic power generation always takes a long time. It will take 10 years at least. The power position in this country has to improve vastly. We are at the moment having $17\frac{1}{2}$ million KW. We hope by the end of the fifth plan, we will take it to 40 million KW of power.

Even that would be highly insufficient for the size of our country. At the end of the century I expect it should be 200 million KW. When we are able to come up to that limit naturally atomic energy stations will have to be set up all round the country, and eastern sector will have its share at that time.