

श्री शरी बलबीर सिंह : मैं कोई सख्त अलफाज इस्तेमाल नहीं करता। लेकिन अगर कहानी बयान कर दी जाए तो मेरे खयाल में ठीक हो होगा। कहानी यह है कि एक आदमी... (व्यवधान)... होम मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा है कि सुना दी जाए... (व्यवधान)... मैं सवाल करता हूँ।

मेरा सवाल यह है कि मोहसिन साहब ने सवाल उठाया है और इसमें जितनी उनकी जिम्मेदारी है क्या उसके बारे में इस हाउस की कमेटी मुकर्रर करके उसमें मोहसिन साहब के खिलाफ जो जो चीजें हैं रखी जायेंगी और हाउस की कमेटी उसके बारे में फैसला करे क्या सरकार इसके लिए तैयार है ?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not allow this question.

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI: Sir, I would like to know whether government will initiate proceedings on the basis of this Fact Finding Committee's report or after the Shah Commission has submitted its report?

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: I can't say that yet. It may be we may send some findings of this Committee to the Commission and on others after deliberation we may decide to take action directly.

श्री शिव नारायण : मैं होम मिनिस्टर साहब से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह कमेटी जो मुकर्रर हुई है इसके कितने मेम्बर हैं और कौन कौन मेम्बर हैं... (व्यवधान)... इस तरह से हाउस चल नहीं सकेगा। जनता पार्टी के लोगों को तो आप कंट्रोल करें।

तुर्कमान गेट में जो कुछ हुआ उसकी पूरी डिटेल्स आप हाउस को बता दें ताकि हाउस उन से अवगत हो जाए। क्या आप ऐसा करेंगे ?

श्री चरण सिंह : मुझ को पूरा वृत्तान्त मालूम होता तो इस कमेटी की नियुक्ति की आवश्यकता ही नहीं होती।

श्री चन्द्रशेखर सिंह : माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, माननीय मोहसिन साहब ने इस सदन का और इस देश का इस सवाल के जरिये एक बार फिर उपकार किया है। हां, एक बार पहले किया था जब तुर्कमान गेट पर एक भूतपूर्व जंगली सरकार के जंगलीपन के पैशाचिक कृत्य किये गये थे। श्रीमन्, तुर्कमान गेट की घटना भूतपूर्व तानाशाही के आतंक और तनाव को इस मुल्क में हमेशा के लिए कायम रखने के लिये की गई थी, और क्या इसलिये भी की गई कि जो अल्पसंख्यक इस देश में हैं उनको इस तरह से डरवा दिया जाये कि वह कभी भी तानाशाही के खिलाफ सर न उठा सकें ?

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: This is a question of opinion.

Super Thermal Power Station in North Bengal

*651 **SHRI SAUGATA ROY:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the acute power shortage obtaining in North Bengal impeding the development of industries there;

(b) whether there is a need of a super thermal power station in North Bengal to meet this shortage; and

(c) steps Government are contemplating to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The present availability of power in North Bengal just balances the load demand in that area. How-

ever, on days when there is a short-fall in generation or import, load shedding is being resorted to.

(b) and (c). While there is no proposal to locate a super thermal station in North Bengal, the steps being taken to meet the growing power demand are:

(i) The Raman Hydro-Electric Project with 4×125 MW units has been sanctioned.

(ii) Import of additional power from South Bengal through Malda-Dalkhola-Siliguri 132 KV transmission line which is expected to be completed by June, 1979.

(iii) The Rinchington Hydel Power Station of 2×1 MW has been sanctioned. It is expected to be commissioned by 1978-79.

(iv) Jaldhaka Stage II with 2×4 MW units has been sanctioned. The first unit is expected to be commissioned during 1979-80 and the second unit during 1981-82.

(v) Installation of two Diesel sets each of 3.5 MW at Siliguri. One of these two sets has already been commissioned in July, 1977 and the other is expected to be commissioned by March, 1978.

(vi) 6 MW of power is likely to be available from Lower Lagyap Hydel Power Station in Sikkim for distribution in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri Districts by the end of 1979 or so.

(vii) Some power is expected to be available at Siliguri from Chukha Hydro-Electric Project in Bhutan after that project which is under construction is completed and commissioned.

(viii) A proposal to construct a large thermal station at Farakka to meet the growing power demand in the Eastern Region of the country is under consideration.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I have seen the Statement of the Minister. It

seems to me that the Minister has not understood my question. I have asked: whether he is aware of the acute power shortage obtaining in North Bengal impeding the development of industries there? He has said that the supply of power just meets the demand. But for future it is not good enough. I want to tell that whatever Statement the hon. Minister has placed on the Table of the House, it is not enough for North Bengal and there was a proposal to construct a thermal power station in Dalkhola, West Dinajpur. He is saying that there is a proposal to construct a large thermal station at Farakka to meet the growing power demand in the Eastern Region of the country. But I want to put this question: whether the Minister will take a decision in a very short time on the super-power thermal station at Farakka and the thermal power station at Dalkhola as they have done with regard to a new super thermal power station in Tamil Nadu at the time of the budget. I want to know whether he will give a categorical assurance on this point.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: With regard to the Dalkhola power station it was considered and the Planning Commission did not favour it as there are other difficulties regarding the availability of coal and other things. It is only in that context that a larger power station for Farakka was considered. For that power station, an investigation is going on. As soon as the project report is finalised, a decision will be taken and with regard to the present position in North Bengal, the report says—as received from the State Government and from the Electricity Board in West Bengal—that the present availability of the power is just sufficient to meet the demand and whenever there is some shortage of power due to forced outages or the power is not imported from Bihar, there is some load shedding. That is the report we have received from the West Bengal Electricity Board. With regard to Dalkhola, it was first considered and to locate a large thermal station there, the environment and

also the availability of coal was not favourable. That is why it was given up.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I want to know from the Minister whether he is aware that the Jaldhaka Hydel Power Station has already become silted so that it is not giving out any output of power.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: I know there is a report about silting of the Hydel Power Station. I do not have a report about that. But from the report that I see, about 27 megawatts of power is being produced there.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether any assessment has so far been made with regard to the power need of the districts of North Bengal so that proper industrialisation of that region may take place? May I also know at what stage the Farakka project is at present?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: It is only about Farakka the investigation is going on, that is, about the coal linkage. As soon as the coal linkage is finalised, the proposal will be considered and when it will be completed it is premature for me to say now. Anyway, the needs of the North Bengal will be taken into consideration and by the time these power stations are completed, the needs of the North Bengal also will be fully met.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: West Bengal is facing acute power shortage and lack of industrialisation of that stage and other difficulties are being faced due to that. It is also well known that inefficiency on the part of the previous administration had created more problems than solving problems. May I know from the hon. Minister the list of projects that are there and also at what stage of implementation they are? May I know

whether they have been delayed because of the inefficiency on the part of the previous administration and whether any crash programme is being thought of for generating power at an early date because they are all long term programmes. May I request the hon. Minister to give us the shortest time by which this could be overcome.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Some steps are being taken for improving power supply in North Bengal and by March 1978 there will be an addition of 3.5 mw of power. Again the transmission line from Malda to Dhalkola to Siliguri is likely to be completed by June 1979. When it is completed power from South Bengal can be transmitted to North Bengal when there is shortage. There are some small units also that are likely to be commissioned in 1978 and 1979 and when they are completed power position in North Bengal would also improve. With regard to the general situation, I should like to inform the hon. Member that this Government should not be held responsible for whatever has been done in the past, because there was some slackness in implementing certain schemes and we are aware of it. This government will take all steps to see, as already announced in the budget speech, that under the 6th plan we would endeavour to achieve self-sufficiency in power in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Next, short notice question.

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU: One minute. You are aware of the shortage of power all over the country.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. I am on my legs now. I have called the short notice question. You are on the panel of Chairman. Please resume your seat.