

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA (Cuttack): Let it be understood that the Government in the Power Ministry are considering GEC instead of BHEL for a Rs. 4000 crore power project. The Power Minister is considering purchasing power equipment from GEC. We are interested to know why GEC is being given this order against BHEL.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): I support the demand made by the hon. Member. I consider that this act is very much detrimental to the interests of our country. It will undermine and destroy our own industrial image which is very good at producing power generation equipment. The Minister is here. I demand that he must make things clear in the House. Otherwise, you please accept the demand for a discussion on this matter in the very near future. (Interruptions)

Why is he silent? We must know what is the explanation of the Government on this? .. (interruptions) Sir, this is an affront to us (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Sir, he must answer. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, are you interested in saying something? (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the power generation target of the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan has been fixed at 38000 Megawatts. Our Ministry places orders with Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. for all its requirements. I will be very thankful to the hon. Member if the B.H.E.L. meets even one-fourth demand of total of 38,000 megawatts. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: The problem is that they are not getting orders from the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): The Government is deliberately causing loss. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you are supposed to clarify the points the hon. Member has asked and not I.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Why are you considering GEC instead of BHEL? This is a most scandalous thing. We demand that there should be a Parliamentary probe on this, if at all they have taken a decision that they will hand over the Rihand Project to GEC.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, they are working under capacity. They have got the capability to undertake this job. In spite of that they have been denied this order.

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member puts me any question, I am ready to reply it.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): He has not replied the question already put to him. Let him please reply the question. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: About Rihand Project, why are you considering GEC, a multi-national company, instead of BHEL. This is a most scandalous thing. We demand that there should be a Parliamentary probe on this. If at all they have taken a decision that they will handover the Rihand Project to GEC.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Why are you working so closely with GEC subverting the public sector undertakings? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister sit on his legs to speak. Let him speak, please.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Let him say what is the capacity?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have put your question. Now the hon. Minister is on his legs to speak. Please let him speak.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALP NATH Rai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if an hon. Member puts question, I will reply it. As far as the equipments of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. are concerned, they are not able to meet our demand. The entire production of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. depends on our orders. If there is any question, please tell me, I will reply the hon. Member, or the hon. Member should put his question.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me tell you

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, I am, formulating the question for you, You please sit down. You are a very senior Member. You are getting up like this. I do not appreciate it. They want to know, Mr. Minister, why this order is being given to someone else and not to BHEL, Now, if I understood you correctly.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What I understood is that you want to say that the B.H.E.L. does not have the required capacity that is why you want to place orders with other firms. If this is the thing, please state what more you want to say in this connection. Please try to understand his sentiments.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Look, you have put the question and he is on his legs to reply it. Now if you are not listening to him. It won't do. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You should be happy that the Minister is replying your question. Please let him speak. You are not allowing him to give his reply. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: May I help you, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: No, you do not have to help me, you help yourself. You are neither helping yourself nor helping me or the Minister. You just keep quiet and you will have helped me.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: If he answers the capacity utilisation percentage, he gives the answer.... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, I do not appreciate your getting up like this all the time. Please allow him to speak first.

[*Translation*]

Why are you not placing orders with the B.H.E.L. and why orders are being placed with some other firm. Please give explanation on this point, if you have any.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, sir, I would like to tell hon. Shri Chatterjee that I am prepared to do whatever he wants me to do (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh):
Without notice how can he answer, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: No, not like this. The powerful Power Minister is quite capable of powerfully answering the questions on the floor of the House and outside also. You do not help him. He has, in substance, said that the BHEL is not having enough capacity and that is why order is given. That has been said in clear terms. That is all. Yes, Mr. Arvind Netam.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kanker): Mr. Speaker, Sir, inhuman treatment is being meted out by the police to the agitators who are carrying on a peaceful agitation over rehabilitation issue in the Narmada Valley Area of Madhya Pradesh. They are being put into jails. I would like to draw your attention to the barbaric behaviour of the police towards women and children. A peaceful agitation was going on in Khalghat-Manavar Road on November 23, when police scooped on the agitators and beat them up, especially the women and children. They were taken to the police station, where they were again thrashed. Similarly Adivasi women were raped in Barahedi block. When the Adivasis of the area protested against the police torture, the police beat them mercilessly and put them in jail. People who were put in jail include 6 women, aged more than 60 years. Some women with babies in their arms are being misbehaved. I, therefore, request you to hold an enquiry into the incident and take steps to curb the repressive attitude of the Madhya Pradesh police.

12.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Secondly, I would like to submit that the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be sent to that area immediately. The

people were launching their peaceful agitation over the issue of rehabilitation. There should be a check on the barbaric acts of the police and the administration. It must be stopped.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, in Gwalior, in a factory owned by one of our large industrial houses, an explosion has taken place taking away twelve lives. In our keenness to hand over the public sector and disinvest in the public sector, it is to such people that we are trying to hand over the public sector. Just now we were talking about GEC. We have not yet learnt our lesson. A few years back, a multi-national company called U.C.C., has almost destroyed the lives of lakhs of people in Bhopal. This is the concern of the private sector for the life of workers in our country.

I want to draw the attention of the Minister concerned and ask as to what are they going to do about such indiscriminate negligence by private sector, the big business and the multi-nationals in our country. Of course, we shall fight and compensation will be paid to the families of the twelve people. Had there been an accident like that in a public sector undertaking, some people would have been dismissed. I want to know from the hon. minister whether or not the owner of this Grasim factory would be hauled up; whether or not any of them will be punished, whether or not all funds given to such large industrial houses from our financial institutions be stopped unless they can assure that such things will never happen again. You must warn them before you hand over all your public sector companies to the private sector. This is all that I wanted to tell and this is the point to which I tried to draw the attention of the House earlier. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY—SPEAKER: There is a list before me. I shall call the names one by one. Kindly limit the speech to one or one-and-a-half minutes. I am taking into consideration the speakers who are to participate in this. Now Shri Dwaraka Nath Das.