

that I do about my Constituency... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him put the question. He will answer.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIS. JAIPAL REDDY: The question is this. Except identification and survey... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We will cross the bridge when it comes.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIS. JAIPAL REDDY: Except identification and survey, nothing has been done. We have only a few months left before we go to polls. In fact, some of us would like to go to polls earlier. Therefore, I want the Minister to take it up immediately. Will the Minister indicate the time frame?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It has to be done immediately... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Unfortunately the hon. Member is psychologically very pessimistic and therefore... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Particularly in your case... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, if one close one's eyes to the reality, one cannot do anything about him. He need not think about the entire country because he will not bother. In Andhra Pradesh itself, completed projects are 3; projects under implementation are 10. Therefore identified projects are much more. Sir, all over the country 135 projects are under implementation and 85 projects are completed... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are unnecessarily shouting. Why can't you listen properly? He says that there are 135 projects in the country. Accordingly the share will fall.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I would like to have atleast one Urjagram in a Constituency of each Member. But, as I began by saying, unless there is a coordination with the State agency for identifying and for getting the resources for that Urjagram, it is not possible to do. We have been able to identify 220 Urjagrams in the country in 12 States and Union Territories, and already 85 have been completed and 135 are under implementation. Sir, this is a good effort. why do not want to close your eyes to the reality?

Gas Based Power Projects

*172. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the Conference of Power Ministers of States held in Delhi recently, it was stressed to have more gas based power projects;

(b) whether the indigenous production of gas based power plant equipment is not sufficient to meet the requirement;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to import gas based power plant equipment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what other steps Government propose to take to have more gas based power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). The conference of the Power Ministers of the States held in January, 1989 at New Delhi recommended, inter alia, that greater emphasis may be placed on gas based projects, which have a shorter gestation period, and that gas for power should be priced reasonably.

M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

have established capacity to manufacture gas-based power plants of about 200 MW per annum and have initiated measures to augment their manufacturing capacity to fully meet the requirement. Primary reliance continues to be placed on indigenous sources for the supply of power plant and equipment. Imports are resorted to only selectively, depending on the totality of circumstances, on a case basis.

The setting up of additional gas based projects, as short-term option for meeting the power demands, will depend on the availability of gas for this purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a conference of the Power Minister of States was held in which it was unanimously decided that more importance should be given to gas-based power projects. After the adoption of the said resolution, it appears that at several places, take for instance Maharashtra, large quantity of gas has been found in the States. Gas was also struck in Bombay High and Ratnagiri Field. In spite of the availability of large quantity of gas, the Government of Maharashtra sent only 5 proposals i.e. one Dhabol, two Dule and Raigargh near the O.N.G.C. pipeline, three Thakurali in District Thane, four Dahanu and Five T.E.C. But no work has yet been undertaken on any of these projects. I would like to ask the hon. Minister very precisely as to what is the present position in regard to the 5 proposals which had been forwarded by the Government of Maharashtra and why clearance is not being given to these projects.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact is that it has not so far been decided as to whether to utilise the quantity of gas found so far on the production of fertiliser or to store the entire quantity of it. This has been done in Anta, because gas can be stored easily in wells. Besides energy can be generated easily from gas and a plant could be set up within one and 1/2 years. This matter is

under consideration of the Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of energy and the Ministry of Fertiliser. A Committee is also there for this purpose. Once a decision on the utilisation of gas is taken, it will be very helpful in setting up gas based power plant's Maharashtra, Gujarat and similar other States.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: I have not received a clear reply. Several projects are pending in his Ministry. I have come to know that the Ministry of Energy is examining a proposal for setting up gas based power plants. But these proposals do not include any proposal from Maharashtra. May I ask the hon. Minister as to why the proposals received from Maharashtra has not been taken up alongwith the other proposals being examined by his ministry.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Unless there is a likelihood of gas being available, what will be the use of this examination?

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The hon. Minister would probably agree with me that in Assam more than a billion cubic metres of associated gas is being flared up everyday. There has been incessant demand that this waste of natural wealth is a criminal waste. If I am not wrong, certain proposal are pending with the Government of India in this connection. If the proposals are pending with the Government, what is the reaction of the Government to those proposals? If no proposal is pending, is the Government thinking on its own to have suitable use of this associated gas?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The associated gas if not used and tapped for generation of power, has to be flared. There is no other way out or we cannot do anything about it. Up till now, we did not have a technology which was economically viable to tap and convert it into energy. But now such technologies are available. We would be happy if there are proposals which can utilise this associated gas for conversion into power. The petroleum Ministry itself have

made some proposals. And as far as we are concerned, we have approved them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Minister made a mention of the Anta Project. I am very thankful to the hon. Minister for his inaugurating this project. Is it not a fact that in his reply to one of my questions in this House the hon. Minister had assured that the capacity of Anta Project was being raised from 430 to 860 and not it has been done. Then what are the reasons for which the capacity of the gas-based power plant at Anta in Kota remains fixed at 430 and it has not been raised to 860? What action is being taken in this regard?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It is only the first stage and just the beginning. Please look forward to all that what happens next. Let the resources be mobilised and the gas be available in a larger quantity, then we will also execute the Anta Project.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: We are told that the cost benefit ratio of gas based power does not compare well with the thermal or hydel power at present.

In view of the fact that we have got abundant resources of gas, as the hon. Minister just now said, we have to go in for new technology. So, I would like to know what is the effort that is being made to implement and obtain new technology for exploiting gas for electricity, how many State Electricity boards have come forward to utilise gas, has the State of Andhra Pradesh taken up projects for utilising this gas, and what is the energy produced by the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity board utilising gas.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, the Andhra

Pradesh State Electricity Board has not got any project yet where gas is used. Recently in Godawari Basin, gas has been found and a proposal, if it comes from Andhra Pradesh Government, will be examined and we will consider it favourably.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government was and is ready to give coal from Orissa starting thermal power plant in Raigarh district of Raigarh which is on the other side of the country. All the way it is to be taken by ship. So, that will be a very costly affair from transport point of view. On the contrary, the gas that is being obtained in the Hazira area and the Bombay High is being taken by pipeline to the borders of Bihar and Orissa. I do not understand why the Government is not considering the proposal given by the Government of Maharashtra for allocating the gas only on the pretext that Maharashtra is having sufficient energy at present. That pretext is not correct. Maharashtra is also having shortage of electricity. When the gas is taken thousands of miles away and is used to produce energy, it will be costing more, while if you produce energy in places where the gas is obtained, it will be costing less. So, in the light of this, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether they will reconsider the proposals. Only nine proposals are being considered and Maharashtra is not in the picture at all. We are very much anxious about it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, theoretically, on the coastal side, particularly on the western coast, when gas is found, it would be more economical to use gas rather than bring coal all the way. The projects in Raigarh and other areas in that coastal region, were earlier considered when the possibility of getting gas was not there and, therefore, coal transportation was visualised. But these projects, when they come up, will be multifuels. The idea is if gas becomes available, then instead of coal they use gas.