

projects are completed soon and the power shortage is wiped out in the State.

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE):** Sir, the projects like Srisailem are the State projects. And if the States do not find adequate funds, we really cannot help them. There are nearly six projects which are under commission, like, A. P. Power House at Balimela with the installed capacity of 2x30 megawatt; Upper Sileru, Stage-II; Srisailem; Penna Ahobilam; Nagarjunasagar and Nagarjunsagar Extension. All these projects which are the State projects have been cleared as far as we are concerned. They must find the money and they must do the project. They are sleeping on these projects because they do not have the resources. They are delaying it. What can we do for that?

**SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH:** Sir, Nellore District in Andhra Pradesh is an important developing industrial centre. But due to power shortage, many small and medium scale industries are being closed down and shifted to other parts of the State. Hence, in view of this, whether the Government would try to see to it that the Penna Ahobilam Project is completed as early as possible in order to rescue Nellore District from acute power shortage.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** My sympathies are with the people of that district. I wish them luck.

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister the present stage of Potavaram Multipurpose Project and Pulichintala Project. Apart from irrigation components, there are hydro-power components also. They are very important projects. I would like to know whether the Government is going to clear these two projects—Potavaram Project and Pulichintala Project—for the benefit of production of hydro—electric power in Andhra Pradesh.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** We have not got any proposal with our Department for

Potavaram and Pulichintala projects. When we receive that, we will definitely examine that.

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO:** They are pending before the Central Water Commission.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY:** Earlier in the day, in an answer to another question, the Minister of Power stated that in the Eighth Five Year Plan, higher emphasis would be laid on hydropower. And the Minister agreed that the States were finding it difficult to finance these projects and Andhra Pradesh was not the only one State. Therefore, will the Minister consider taking over a few hydro-electric projects under Central Sector and finance them?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Definitely. That is the desire. We know that these projects now cost a lot. Therefore, it will not be within the scope and possibility of any State to have such major projects and we intend to take these up as Central Projects. Even if we have to find money through bilateral sources, we will try to do that and see that maximum hydel projects are inducted.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Is the answer definite-time bound?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Prof. Ramakrishna More—absent;

Shri Banwari Lal Purohit.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:** Q. No. 378.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):** A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** No, no. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY:** Sir, Mr. Kalpnath and confusion go well? together.

*(Interruptions)*

**Thermal Power Generation Projects by  
NRI in Maharashtra**

\*378. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT†:  
PROF. RAMAKRISHNA  
MORE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government proposes to entrust three thermal power generation projects to the Non-Resident Indians; and

(b) if so, whether Union Government have since approved the proposal of Maharashtra Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):  
(a) No proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra to entrust any of their thermal power projects to the Non-Resident Indians.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the position in Maharashtra is not unknown to Shri Satheji. If nothing is done in Maharashtra, situation on electricity front will deteriorate beyond control during Eighth Five Year Plan. There will be a great shortage of electricity. Gas is also not available there. Some proposals for gas are also pending and no commitment is being made about gas. All the proposals made by the Maharashtra are pending with the centre for financial clearance. Maharashtra Chief Minister recently visited U.S.A. he met non-residents Indians there and he received 3-4 proposals from them. I would like to know the role of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): No final decision has been taken regarding allowing N.R.I's in the private sector and the extent to which the power sector should be allowed and on what conditions. As soon as we take a decision, we shall consider all the proposals received from N.R.I.s.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: So far as the question of availability of the finance during Eight Five Year Plans is concerned, may I know whether the proposals submitted by Maharashtra, which have not been cleared due to financial constraints, shall be cleared in view of the expected acute shortage of power during Eighth Five Year Plan which Government is also well aware of. I would like to know the action being taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is only one way, we will utilise all the resources available with us. We will take steps to mobilize additional resources for the remaining gap, since it is expected that it will increase with the increasing demand for electricity.

DR. DIGVIJAY SINH: It is a fact that one of the reasons why the private sector NRIs are not making investments is that they fear loss in the distribution. A reply was given today that the pilferage losses are around 21%. I believe it is upto 39% in some States— it is from 39% to 21% and minimum is 21%. Therefore, is there any way whereby we can involve the NRI investment not only in the production of electricity but in the distribution of electricity also because we feel that when the private sector comes in probably there will be less losses than there are in the State Electricity Boards ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: There are two different angles and issues. As far as NRIs are concerned, they will be inducted and allowed only for generation. Generation will have to be done through a common grid. We cannot conceive of an idea where some private sector is allowed to distribute power separately. Because then separate trans-

mission system will have to be there. That will not be possible; but I agree with the Hon. Member that we will have to curtail the transmission and distribution losses, much of which is due to pilferage.

**Production of Oil and Gas Godavari  
Cauvery Basins**

\*383. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has explored oil and

gas in the Godavari and Cauvery basins and started production; and

(b) if so, how much of oil and gas are being produced every day in both those basins?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Present average daily rate of oil production and gas sales is as under:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Basin</i>	<i>Average oil Production (tonnes/day)</i>	<i>Average gas sales (cubic mts./ day)</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	Krishna Godavari	6	45,000
2.	Cauvery	137	12,700

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: In Cauvery and Godavari basins actually after the exploration by the ONGC they are able to find out more oil and gas. It has also been reported in the Press if we explore further the entire Cauvery basin we can have more gas and oil so much needed for this nation. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the ONGC in consultation with the Government of India are making the exploration or they are independently acting?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTTA: They always take up into confidence. In the Cauvery basin we are taking the help of the Soviet Union also. We are intensifying both off-

shore and on-shore exploration. In Krishna-Godavari basin the hon. Member may be aware that we have entered into an agreement with certain foreign oil companies for exploration of oil on sharing basis and we ourselves have done it in Vietnam. These two areas are very prospective areas and we hope within three or four years the production is likely to go up and we are starting utilisation of natural gas also simultaneously.

ME. SPEAKER: The question Hour is over.