

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, January, 21, 1985
Magha 1, 1906 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Capacity Utilization of Power Projects in Bihar

*17. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether capacity utilisation of power projects in Bihar has shown any significant improvement in the last five years;

(b) whether the low level of capacity utilisation in that State is due to faulty equipment or maintenance inadequacies; and

(c) the comparative performance of similar equipment in other States ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION & POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) & (b). The Plant Load Factor in Bihar has not shown any significant improvement mainly due to equipment deficiencies, aging of certain units installed in the sixties, extended period of planned maintenance on account of non-availability of spares, deterioration in quality of coal and inadequate trained operation and maintenance personnel.

(c) The performance of similar 50 MW units installed at Korba in Madhya Pradesh and Obra in U.P. is comparatively better, while it is poor at Harduaganj in U.P. as

compared to Bihar. The performance of similar 100 MW units—based on Lignite—at Neyveli is better than that at Patratu which is based on coal. As for the 110MW units, the performance of Patratu and Barauni is poor compared to similar stations elsewhere.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know what measures are being taken and the time that is likely to be taken for removing these deficiencies.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, as I said earlier, the performance of thermal power stations in Bihar has been comparatively unsatisfactory due to various reasons such as deficiencies in plant and equipment, deficiencies in operation and maintenance and due to weak management. Poor industrial relations have also been one of the contributing factors for poor performance. Roving teams of the Central Electricity Authority have been advising station authorities on the measure to be taken to improve performance on a continuous basis. The Central Electricity Authority have also been helping the State Electricity Board in preparing and undertaking plant betterment programmes. However, the performance of BSEB stations has not shown any significant improvement so far. In order to improve the performance of existing thermal power stations in the country, the Central Government have initiated a Centrally sponsored scheme for renovation and modernisation programme.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked a definite question as to what concrete steps are being taken to remove these deficiencies. There have been defects in the design of the boilers and I put this question : What specific steps have been taken to improve the design of the boilers ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is what he explained.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : No, Sir, he has not said that. He has made a general statement, not mentioned any specific steps.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, as I said earlier, in order to improve the performance of existing power stations a number of Centrally sponsored schemes have been introduced and for modernisation....

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : I want the specific steps that are being taken.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : That is what I am telling. We have been introducing a number of Centrally sponsored schemes to the tune of Rs. 500 crores for the improvement in the performance of these.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What about Bihar ? You are talking about Bihar now. Are these Rs. 500 crores for Bihar ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : No, no. Bihar is included in this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Bihar is included.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It includes Bihar.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It includes Bihar also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why should it not be included, because it concerns the power generation ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : This question is about Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot separate it.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. Member should know that Bihar is in India.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why can't you make Bihar separate ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, there are three thermal power stations in Bihar and as I have said, Patratu, Barauni and Karbighia Thermal Power Stations of Bihar State Electricity Board have been included for renovation and modernisation under the scheme. Preliminary reports for renovation and modernisation programmes for the above power stations have been received by the C.E.A and the C.E.A. have also accorded techno-economic approval to the above scheme. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way. I have seen you. I will call you at the appropriate time.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to Patratu-Barauni 110 M.W. units, the performance of these units is poor compared to similar other units located elsewhere. What could be the particular reasons for the poor performance of Patratu and Barauni units ? It is because of lack of maintenance, poor maintenance or inadequacy in the equipments ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I have already said that the reasons are :

Deficiency in plant and equipment; deficiency in operation and maintenance; and weak management.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : You have the same kind of equipment and designs elsewhere in other stations.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Elsewhere such units are doing better and I still say that it is due to weak management.

Speaker, international standard of capacity utilisation is 75%. What is our capacity utilisation in our country and what is the capacity utilisation in Bihar ?

(b) What is the break-up of hydro-electricity capacity utilisation and capacity utilisation of thermal power station;

(c) Our Prime Minister when he was a Member in the last Lok Sabha...

MR. SPEAKER : This is not cataloguing of questions. No please.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : He had told categorically that gravity floatation process had to be adopted in all the coal washeries.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you one specific supplementary. Please ask anyone question.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I want your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving you protection.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : This is the problem of the entire country.

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members also in the House. You cannot ask questions all along thermo and hydro. You ask one question, if you want.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Am I asking irrelevant questions ?

MR. SPEAKER : You might be. I want you to pinpoint one supplementary.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : You are giving protection to the Opposition, which you gave three times to Mr. Biji Patnaik and Madhuji but you are...

MR. SPEAKER : Don't argue with me. You ask one supplementary.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : But you are discriminating against me.

MR. SPEAKER : No, Sir. I am not

discriminating. Why should I discriminate ? What does it give me ? I am not getting power. My constituency is starved of power.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : Sir, a point of information. I have not sought your protection at all. Let him be clear.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you reply to his question ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANANAD : I was not able to understand his question. Let him put it again.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, one supplementary.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I am putting (a) (b) and (c).

MR. SPEAKER : No (a) (b) (c). Only (a).

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : What is the international standard capacity utilisation and what is our capacity utilisation and what is the capacity utilisation of Bihar ? And what is the break-up of hydro-power and thermal-power utilisation ?

MR. SPEAKER : Unnecessary jumble of so many questions.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Our Prime Minister when he was a Member in the last Lok Sabha stressed in the House for gravity floatation process in coal washeries.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, the hon. Member is confused. He does not know that there has not been any international standard of capacity utilisation.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I know it very well. The Minister cannot tell like this. I know, it is 75%. I will give my answer. I will not allow. If he wants, I will give so many things for his knowledge, to educate him. He should not talk like this.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has to give accurate answer.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The Minister should not say that the Member does not know. He cannot insult on the floor of the House.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The Minister should come prepared.

MR. SPEAKER : You are now a seasoned parliamentarian. Please sit down.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : He should come better prepared.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : There is nothing like capacity utilisation in power sector. It is called the plant load factor.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Don't say that. I will then bring a privilege matter. I can produce all the documents which are at my command. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It is the plant load factor that is always talked of in the power sector. The plant load factor is the ratio of the actual energy generated from a unit during a given period to the energy that could have been generated if the unit operates continuously at its maximum rate throughout the period. It is denoted as a percentage and that is an important indicator of the performance of any power plant. So, instead of "capacity utilisation", in common parlance, we refer to plant load factor.

Now, regarding Bihar, as I said, the performance of power stations is poor; it is not the lowest but it is quite low.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sharad Pawar

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Are you satisfied with the answer ?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Allow me a supplementary.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Listen to me. Three questions have been allowed from your side; now one question from the opposition side should be allowed.

[English]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The condition of power in Bihar is very bad.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper. The Minister has recently taken over the charge. He needs some time to understand. [English]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The members from Bihar are not being allowed. It is a matter concerning exclusively Bihar.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you insist. Members from outside Bihar also be interested. We have to distribute this time equitably. Three questions have been allowed from your side. One Question may be allowed from the other side also.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Kindly allow members from Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you trying to disapprove my ruling ?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : I am only saying that this question is particularly about Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed three supplementaries to members from Bihar.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Are you satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Since I have referred to the plant load factor, I must give the international figure. The plant load factor as per international standard is from 50 to 70 per cent. Regarding Bihar, I should say, the plant load factor in 1984-85 is 14.7 per cent; for Barauni, it is 29.2 per cent. for Patratu and 27.5 percent for Bihar. The all-India figure is 45.9 per cent.

SHRI SHARADCHANDRA GOVIND-RAW POWAR : How far the equipments which are supplied by BHEL are responsible for this inefficiency ?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think there was BHEL at that time.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Generally, we cannot say that. So far as 110 MW units are concerned, there has been some mistake in the design and manufacture of equipment.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The picture in Bihar of power generation is absolutely dismal. The total installed capacity is 940 MW and the average generation has never exceeded 150 MW. This matter has been debated on the floor of this House and in the State also. There are defects in the designing and other factors are also responsible. But I wonder why upto now no steps have been taken to improve the power generation. The power potential of the State which is the richest in resources is going down every year and in terms of *Per Capita* income, Bihar is at the lowest bracketed with Nagaland and other States. In the last Lok Sabha, we had raised this matter and Government was considering to set up an atomic power plant in Bihar. In view of the dismal performance of the existing power plant, will the Government consider improving power generation and also setting up of atomic power station in Bihar ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This is a suggestion for action.

MR. SPEAKER : When the other power stations are not working well, how can you expect atomic power plant to work better ?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Who is responsible for that ?

MR. SPEAKER : That has to be streamlined. You should devote that much energy to that !

Construction of Low Cost Houses for the Poor

***18. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have initiated any new programme for construction of low cost houses on a large scale to meet the shortage of dwelling houses for the poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) and (b). Housing is a State subject and the States/Union Territories are undertaking schemes for various target groups in accordance with the Plan priorities. The programmes in this regard include the schemes for assistance through Housing and Urban Development Corporation for construction of houses for economically weaker sections, the plan scheme for allotment of houses—sites and construction assistance to rural landless workers to step up housing facilities for them and the provision of finances for low income groups through institutional assistance. It is proposed to expand these programmes with higher outlays during 7th Plan period.

According to National Buildings Organisation, the housing shortage in the year, 1985 was roughly about 24.7 million of which 18.8 million is rural and the rest urban.

In regard to the housing scheme for the economically weaker sections, a target of 16.2 lakh units has been fixed and up to 30-11-1984, 7.28 lakhs has been achieved. One lakh more units are to be achieved by the end of 1985.

In regard to the houses for landless labourers, according to the Planning Commission the estimated number of eligible landless families in rural areas would be roughly about 14.5 million by 1985 and according to another estimate of the National Buildings Organisation rural housing shortage would be roughly about 18.8 millions. The plan target for economically weaker sections was about 16.2 lakh units, and 7.28 lakh units have been achieved. Regarding rural house sites, at development cost of Rs. 250/-, the plan target was 68 lakh families, and 50 lakhs have been achieved, for construction assistance of near about Rs. 500, the plan target was 36 lakhs, and 17 lakhs have been achieved....

AN HON. MEMBER : Let him ask his supplementary.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The question he has asked is what are the new schemes, and I am explaining these so that