

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, March 1, 1988/
 Phalgun 11, 1909 (SAKA)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
 Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*].

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Power generation Target in North Eastern States

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*101. SHRI BALWANT SINGH
 RAMOOWALIA :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for power generation in North Eastern States for the year 1987-88;

(b) the quantum of power generated during the first eight months of the year as per the target fixed; and

(c) whether Government have provided adequate assistance to the State Governments concerned for achieving power generation targets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the Statement below.

(c) Assistance is provided to State Electricity Boards in matters such as training of personnel, procuring of spare parts from foreign and indigenous sources, and supply of requisite quality and quantity of coal, fuel oil and gas. Roving Teams and Task Forces of senior engineers from the Central Electricity Authority, M/s. BHEL and M/s. Instrumentation Ltd., Kota visit power stations and render requisite assistance in matters relating to their operation and maintenance. A renovation and modernisation scheme is being implemented at the Namrup thermal power station to improve its performance.

Statement

Energy generation target for 1987-88 and the actual generation during April, 1987—Nov., 1987 vis-a-vis the programme in the North-Eastern States

(Figures in million Units)

State	Generation target for 1987-88	Generation during April 1987-Nov. 1987	
		Programme	Achievement
Assam	1705	1095	777
Meghalaya (including NEEPCO)	595	415	353
Tripura	105	66	55
Manipur	448	327	256
Total :	2853	1903	1441

[English]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : My first objection is that while mentioning the names of North-Eastern region, the hon. Minister has mentioned the names of Mizoram and Nagaland in the List. Anyhow, from the data provided by the hon. Minister, it is clear that there is shortage of electricity in the North-Eastern region despite the demand being very low. A major attempt should be made for renovation and modernisation. Even the hon. Minister has mentioned that for the purpose of renovation and modernisation of the plants and to meet the power generation targets, certain steps are required to be taken by the States with the assistance of the Central Government. What special measures are being taken by the Government of India to boost the power generation in this region?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : There are actually four parts to the main question. First and foremost, I would like to say that though these two States, Nagaland and Mizoram have not been mentioned here, we are happy to provide all the details about these two States to the hon. Member here. The second part of the question is about the renovation and modernisation. This is just now a Centrally-sponsored scheme and steps have been taken and the Government of India has released quite a large amount of money for renovation and modernisation. This should be speeded up so that the results will be available more easily.

As regards the latter part of the question about the boosting of power generation, we have taken a number of steps and I am happy to say that by the end of the Seventh Plan this particular region will have a surplus of 783 million units.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : My Supplementary question is that even regarding the overall situation of power generation, in a report published in a newspaper, it has been stated that Smt. Sushila Rohtagi, while addressing the Engineers from 15 countries, admitted that the hydel generation is going to experience a downward trend from 45 per

cent to 30% in the Seventh Plan. Another report of the Planning Commission has predicted serious power shortages in the Eighth Five Year Plan as no advance action has been taken on the projects approved in the Seventh Plan period and slated to fructify during the Eighth Plan period. Taking into account that statement of the hon. Minister of State in the Department of Power in the Ministry of Energy and the reported apprehension of the Planning Commission, should we construe that the country is heading towards a serious power shortage in the future.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : The hydel and thermal mix ratio has been going down and by the end of the Seventh Plan, for the hydelmix it may be only about 30 per cent with the country having a capacity of about 85000 megawatts potential of hydel power with us. We are very keen that the thermal and hydel mix should be more rational so that we tap more power from water and bring it to a balanced level. About the other part of question regarding our country heading for the alarming situation, I think we are going ahead with all the schemes that have been taken up-on-going schemes and the new schemes which are to be commissioned. I do not see any reason to agree with the hon. Member that we are heading for a serious power crisis in the future.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : We are very grateful to the Government of India for the fact that generation of electricity in Jammu & Kashmir is receiving very good attention. (Interruptions) My Supplementary to Shri Ramoowalia's question would be that your reserves of coal may get depleted. Already there are some mines where we have reached rock-bottom level. There is no scope for getting coal. It is a costlier proposition. Jammu & Kashmir has a very rich and very vast potential for hydro-electric power generation. Would the Government of India consider to tap the resources and harness the vast resources not only for the Jammu & Kashmir State but for others also? We have resources to the tune of 20000 megawatts. Would the hon. Minister prepare a long-term plan to tap the resources for the benefit of the entire country and see

that sizable portion according to the needs of Jammu & Kashmir goes there ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, I am happy that the hon. Member agrees that there has been better monitoring this year and that has led to better augmentation and better PLF. In fact, it was also stated yesterday, during the Budget Speech that the PLF this year is the highest ever in the last 10 years. Regarding the second part of the question about depletion of coal of course we are also trying to focus attention on the non-conventional sources of energy in which hydel power also will be playing a very big part. We have the tidal project coming up in Kutch the project report for which was reported to be ready by the next month. Also, there are other sources of energy like bio-gas and other things which are very much interesting. Jammu & Kashmir has a very good potential for hydel power generation, during the Seventh Plan itself where about six or seven major schemes are there. We hope to complete them and by that we will not only help Jammu & Kashmir but also other parts of the Northern States.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sultanpuri, you may put your supplementary.

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several areas have been surveyed for setting up hydel power projects in Himachal Pradesh. In this connection, my specific supplementary to Shri Ramoovalia's question is as to how much funds have been provided for Nathpa-Jhakari, Kol dam and other hydel power schemes as per the blueprint prepared in this regard ? Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is aware of the depletion of our coal reserves Prof. Soz has also pointed out this thing and has said that under such circumstances hydel power projects will become useful.

MR. SPEAKER : Put your question.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is enough water in Himachal Pradesh to generate 20,000 mega-

watts of power. Adequate reserves of water are available. Therefore, will the hon. Minister kindly enlighten us about the projects that are to be set up there and the funds that would be made available for this purpose ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though this supplementary does not arise out of the main question, yet it is true that there are huge reserves of water in Himachal Pradesh and efforts are being made to tap it to the maximum extent. We have received proposals from the chief Minister also in this regard. I do not have the exact figures at the moment regarding the allocations for these schemes—particularly the Nathpa-Jhakri Scheme—but it is certain that all out efforts are being made to tap the available water resources in the State. Several schemes are being examined and once they are approved, it would definitely increase the ratio of hydel power in the State.

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I want to thank Shri Sathe for the efforts being made by Government in this direction. A survey of Kandla Tidal project, has already been conducted. I would like to know as to when will the actual work begin, how much will be the estimated cost of the project, and how much power will be generated there by ? Similarly, is there any proposal for setting up a solar energy centre in Chhota Rann area of Rann of Kutch ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, we expect the project report to be ready in March. This centre will generate 840 megawatts of power. We are working out the estimated cost also.

[*English*]

World Bank loan for Gas Production

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*102 **SHRI S. G. GHOLAP :**

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :