

[17th May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

प्रावधानों को भी देखा और उसके बाद भी संतुष्ट न हो कर के दो वृहद सेमिनार आयोजित किये जिसमें सब प्रकार के लोगों को आमंत्रित किया। उनके विचार सुन कर के उन्होंने एक रिपोर्ट दी है और ड्राफ्ट बिल भेजा है। उसको संशोधित टाडा कहना ठीक नहीं होगा। यह हमारा इरादा भी नहीं है।

\*723. [The questioner (Shri Dilip Singh Judev) was absent. For answer vide page 23 infra.]

**T and D losses due to cyclone in Orissa**

\*724. SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the damage sustained to transmission and distribution system in the State of Orissa due to cyclone of 29th October, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to repair the damage; and

(d) what is the present position?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM):

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was extensive damage to transmission lines equipment and distribution system resulting in disruption of power supply mainly in the coastal belt of Orissa.

The Government of Orissa has estimated the damage caused by the cyclone which occurred on 29th October, 1999 at Rs. 372.25 Crores.

(c) and (d) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID) was entrusted with the responsibility of restoring the following lines:—

- 33 KV Bidanasi-Kalinga Line (to resume power supply to Cuttack city).
- 132 KV Cuttack-Jagatsinghpur line
- 132 KV Kendrapara-Paradeep line
- 132 KV Paradeep-Paradeep Phosphate line
- 33 KV Paradeep-Paradeep Port line

The restoration of these lines was completed by POWERGRID within the scheduled time.

The restoration of distribution lines and sub-stations is the responsibility of the zonal distribution companies namely Central Electricity Supply Company of Orissa Ltd. (CESCO), North Eastern Electricity Supply Company of Orissa (NESCO) and Southern Electricity Supply Company of Orissa Limited (SOUTHCO). Power supply has been restored in respect of villages in the South and the North zone. However, power supply is still to be restored in a number of villages in the Central zone.

SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Sir, the hon. Minister has agreed that power supply to a number of villages which come under the Central Zone (CESCO) covering mainly Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Jagpur, has not been restored till today. These are the main areas which are severely affected during the super cyclone. He has also mentioned in his reply that NESCO and SOUTHCO restored the distribution lines to all the villages that come under these zones. But, the CESCO has not restored the power supply to the villages which come under its jurisdiction. The hon. Minister knows that the super cyclone hit Orissa on 29th October, 1999. It is already seven months but, till today, they have not been able to restore power supply to the affected villages. They had suffered during the super cyclone. They are suffering now because of summer, and the monsoon will also come very soon. How long should they suffer? What is the reason behind it? Why are they not restoring the supply lines in those areas, specially which are severely affected because of the super cyclone? The hon. Minister also mentioned that the Government of Orissa has estimated the damages caused by the cyclone at Rs. 372.25 crores. Of Course, he has not mentioned about the total fund that has been given by them for the restoration of power supply to these affected areas. May I know from the hon. Minister what exactly is the reason—whether it is lack of funds or is it the responsibility of the companies—because we thought, when the responsibility was entrusted to these companies, they would be more responsive in restoring power lines very quickly. But, they have not restored the lines so far. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the reasons are for this.

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती जयवंती मेहता): माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो सवाल पूछा है, वह बहुत की गम्भीर है। 17, 18, 29 और 30 अक्टूबर को बहुत बड़ा चक्रवात उड़ीसा के ऊपर आया और उसमें 19062 गांव प्रभावित हुए और करीब करीब 372

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करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हुआ। यह बात आपने जो कही, वह बिलकुल सच है। साऊथ जोन में 2030 गांव अफेक्ट हुए, सेंट्रल जोन में 9282 गांव अफेक्ट हुए और नार्थ में 7750 गांव अफेक्ट हुए। उसके पश्चात् निश्चित रूप से पावर ग्रिड के सहयोग के साथ में काम कर के पावर ग्रिड को काम दिया गया। पावर ग्रिड ने समय सीमा के अन्दर की-सेटर्ज के अन्दर विद्युत उपलब्ध करा दी। जैसे कि आपने कहा, सेंट्रल जोन में डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन का काम बाकी है, यह बात बिलकुल सच है। इसके लिए कुछ विलम्ब के कारण हैं, जो मैं बताना चाहती हूं। इसका सब से बड़ा कारण यह है कि यहां पर मांग बहुत अधिक है। जो मेटेरीयल चाहिए उसकी मांग बहुत अधिक है। उस मेटेरीयल को सप्लाई करने में सप्लायर की तरफ से विलम्ब हो रहा है उसके कारण मांगों को पूरा नहीं किया जा रहा है। दूसरा कारण उसका यह है कि वहां पर तटवर्ती प्रदेश है उसकी साइट अच्छी नहीं है, काफी खड्डे हैं, वहां पर बड़ी मशीनरी नहीं ले जाई जा सकती है। इसके कारण उसका काम करने में विलम्ब हो रहा है। तीसरा भी एक कारण है यह काम जल्दी करने के लिए निजी कंपनियों को कहा गया है। इसमें लाभ का अंश बहुत कम होने के कारण निजी कंपनियां इस काम को पूरा करने के लिए ज्यादा उत्सुक नहीं हैं। इसके कारण सेंट्रल जोन में काम करने में विलम्ब हो रहा है। यह बात बिलकुल वास्तविक है। मैं यहां पर यह बात बताना चाहूंगी कि पी एफ सी के माध्यम से 100 करोड़ का आफर किया गया है, भारत सरकार की तरफ से, आई सी की तरफ से 50 करोड़ का आफर किया गया है। 98 मिलियन यू एस डालर लोन की उसके लिए मंजूरी की गयी है। आज तक उस पर टोटल खर्च 33.89 का हुआ है और 19 करोड़ रुपया वहां की स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ने उसके लिए खर्च किया है। लेकिन एक बात निश्चित है कि अब भारत सरकार ने अपनी तरफ से पूरी सहायता कर दी है। अब जो डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम में सुधार करने का काम है वह राज्य सरकार को करना होगा और राज्य सरकार ने डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन के काम में जो जिम्मेदारी ली है उसमें भी विलम्ब होने के कुछ कारण हैं क्योंकि पहले राज्य सरकार ने एक बजट बनाया था जो बहुत अधिक था। वे सारे डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम को तोड़कर नये सिलसिले से बनाना चाहते थे लेकिन जब सी ई ए के पास भारत सरकार के पास इस मांग को रखा गया तब भारत सरकार ने उनको राय दी कि इतना अधिक खर्च करना संभव नहीं है। आप जितना नुकसान हुआ है उसी को दुबारा बनाइए और उसके लिए अनुमानित खर्च का 21.44 करोड़ का बजट बनाकर अभी यहां पर दिया गया है जिसके लिए हमारी तरफ से पूरी मंजूरी है। अब राज्य सरकार का कर्तव्य है कि वह इस अनुमानित बजट के अंदर तुरन्त इस काम को पूरा करने की कोशिश करे।

**SHRI ANANTA SETHI:** The work related to restoration of transmission lines was entrusted to the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. Here, you have mentioned only about five transmission lines; while, in response to a similar question, that is, Question No. 1917, in the Lok Sabha, you had mentioned about 21 transmission lines which were severely damaged. So,

there were sixteen more transmission lines which were severely damaged. May I know whether those lines have been restored or not? There is no mention about this. I would like to know about it in detail because such damage occurs very often, almost every year, in cyclone-prone areas. There is an extensive damage to the transmission lines and distribution system. So, I would like to know whether the Government of India has got any specific planning for the cyclone-prone areas, especially, for the coastal belt of Orissa, which has severely suffered because of the super cyclone. If so, the details thereof.

**SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to inform the hon. House that transmission and distribution actually comes in the arena of the State Government or private operators, if any. So far as Orissa is concerned, there is a company, GRIDCO, which deals with the transmission within the State. When the super-cyclone took place, we had, what is called, the emergency restoration system in the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., which are put up within a couple of days. But the point that is important is, we can put up only those towers which we are permitted to. We did five, which we were asked to. But I must also say that the GRIDCO did the rest; the transmission towers have been put up and the transmission is complete. So far as the problem of distribution is concerned, I would like to say that the sub-station transformers were swept away and short-circuited. Many of them had different voltages, say, 11 KVAM 33 KVA, etc. etc. Some of them are so old-fashioned that you have to re-make those equipment. So, some time is taken in this. There is another point that when all this investment is done, and if, on the basis of this investment, tariff is to be re-organised, it may even cost 60 paise per unit. So, it is now being operated in such a way that the burden on the tariff is as little as possible. The investment is done between the Centre and the State in such a manner that the load of repair does not come on the general tariff, or, if it comes, it will be as little as possible.

श्री मनमोहन सामल: सभापति जी, मैं आप के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय उड़ीसा में कितनी बार रिव्यू का काम कर चुके हैं और अगर नहीं किया है तो तुरंत रिव्यू कब करेंगे? महोदय, रिव्यू के बिना उड़ीसा राज्य के 14 जिलों में पावर की प्रॉब्लम है—सांसद, विधायक और ऑफिसर, सभी के सहयोग से और रिव्यू करने से यह काम एक्सपैडिटीली हो सकता है, ऐसा मेरा ख्याल है। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी इस बारे में हमें बताएं।

**SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM:** Sir, I wish to inform the hon. member, through you, that not only are the officials doing the review, but I myself, personally, had gone there at the time of the cyclone, accompanying the hon. prime Minister. Then, later on, I posted a Joint Secretary from the Ministry of Power at Bhubneshwar follow-up-action. The C.E.A has also recently visited that place. We have the exact details. The hon. Defence Minister has also been reviewing the situation. He is heading a Committee. If you wish to know, I can give you figures regarding the areas and the situation in major cities for October, 1999. I can give you the latest figures. These are very detailed assessments. If you want, I can give it to you. But it is true that the other two zones are only fully supplying. The central zone which is the largest zone has been the worst-affected, where we are now in the process. I hope, before the monsoon sets in, all the villages should be connected with power.

**श्री रामचन्द्र खूंटिया:** सभापति जी, क्या यह हम सब के लिए शर्म की बात नहीं है कि उड़ीसा में चक्रवात आने के 7 महीने के बाद आज तक भी हम इलेक्ट्रिक रिस्टोरेशन नहीं कर सके हैं? महोदय, मंत्री जी ने कहा कि रिव्यू किया है, जार्ज फर्नान्डीज साहब दस्क फोर्स का रिव्यू करते हैं, उड़ीसा सरकार भी काम करती है, लेकिन क्या यह हमारे लिए शर्म की बात नहीं है कि 7 महीने बीत जाने के बाद आज भी उड़ीसा के गांवों में हम इलेक्ट्रिक रिस्टोरेशन का काम नहीं कर सके हैं? दूसरी बात यह है कि वहां जो इलेक्ट्रिक स्प्लाइ नहीं हो पाई है, उस का क्या कारण है? क्या यह बात सही है कि जब चक्रवात आया तो कटक और भुवनेश्वर शहर में जिन प्राइवेट निजी कंपनियों को कांट्रक्ट दिए गए, उन्होंने कनेक्शन करने के समय हर यूनिट से पैसा मांगा? महोदय, मैं जिस 3 नंबर यूनिट में हूँ, वहां भी कनेक्शन के लिए 5 हजार रुपया मांगा गया जिस पर बहुत झगड़ा और हंगामा हुआ। आज सारे उड़ीसा के गांवों में यही बात चल रही है कि जो गांव कलेक्शन कर के पैसा देंगे, उन के यहां लाइन जाएगी अन्यथा नहीं जाएगी, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह बात सही है? इसी आधार पर भुवनेश्वर और कटक में कुछ पुलिस केस भी हुए हैं, क्या यह बात भी सही है? महोदय, मेरा तीसरा प्रश्न यह है कि एम. पी. गवर्नमेंट, महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट और कई सरकारों ने जो उड़ीसा को उस समय मदद की और इलेक्ट्रिक पोल्स और ट्रांसफॉर्मर्स स्प्लाइ किए तो उन के द्वारा जो यह सब मदद की गई, उस का सदुपयोग हुआ कि नहीं? साथ ही मंत्री से जानना चाहूंगा कि वह कितने दिन के अंदर उड़ीसा के सभी गांवों को बिजली पहुंचाने का काम पूरा कर सकेंगे?

**SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM:** Sir, the fact is that is so far as the CESCO which is in charge of the Central area that has been privatized, is

concerned, it was just before the cyclone that it was given the charge of the area by privatization. The cyclone was the first thing that they faced. At the end of September, they took over, and in October, 1999, came the cyclone. So, they took some time to gear up to face it.

With regard to their asking for charges, I frankly have no information. I will check it up. But, to the best of my knowledge, they were advised not to do this even by the regulator. If they have indulged in this, we shall definitely look into the matter. But, as I said earlier, we hope to see the completion of the work and the restoration of the supply to the villages well before the monsoon. The fact is that some of the equipment that was very kindly supplied by the neighbouring States, did not suit the circuitry that was in place. For example, if an 11 KVA transmitter is used in place of a 33 KVA transformer, there will be problems, and we faced them. Fortunately, they have been sorted out. They have geared up. They are actually doing the restoration work. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Is there any time limit to this? The people of India have given crores of rupees. Rs. 10 lakhs has been given by all the MPs. You know this. What time will it take? Seven months have passed. The cyclone took place everywhere, but nowhere else seven months were taken. Why no restoration has taken place?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANAGALAM: Sir, I am a little surprised that the hon. MPs from the other side are making a little bit of ado about it. The fact is that their party Government was in power. I wish that they had created as much noise at the time because, then, we would not have faced the situation that we are facing....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, I had raised this issue in the House....*(Interruptions)*... This is unfair.

SHRI RAJU PARMAR: You were also a member of that party. Don't forget that.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Who is forgetting that? The fact of the matter is that at the time of the cyclone, the State Government should have moved much faster in this particular area. We have made available to them everything. I myself summoned the American CEO of this company all the way from America to tell him to do this, to intervene in this personally. I

myself told the Chief Minister not only over telephone but in person also that this was an area where I expected trouble, where, I believed that the maximum damage had taken place and that he should move men, machinery and help. It is not that we did not take any steps. But, I can assure you that well before the monsoon all the villages will be electrified.

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that power has not been restored in the main area where devastation has taken place. It is true that the company management had come and discussed this with him and the State Government also. At that time, it appeared in the Press that they had made a demand, either to give compensation or to increase the rate of units. This has appeared in the Press. You cannot deny this. My question is whether any such demand has been made. The Central Government has not agreed to this demand. I understand that. But, still, the delay goes on. I myself and the hon. Minister were there all the time. Still the suffering is going on. So, will the Government look into this matter? They are deliberately delaying and applying pressure tactics on both the Central Government and the State Government. Will you look into this, ward the pressure and give them directions to complete this work immediately.

**SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member. Let me make it clear that the amount that was demanded by them was around Rs. 90 crores so far as this company goes. The total area was with regard to transmission as well as distribution in the whole state is 300 odd. But in so far as this Rs. 86 crores, to be accurate, is concerned, they did demand this money. Now the fact is that they did demand this money to be given from what is called cyclone relief operation. We told them that you give them loan assistance. Finally, the World Bank has diverted nearly \$100 million which was meant for other account, towards them at hardly any interest rate. They did approach the regulator seeking an increase in the tariff which the regulator denied. He said that the expenditure should have been covered by an appropriate insurance. If the company did not do it, it was their fault. It is not the fault of anybody. We have told them that unless you complete the work, there is no way in which we can consider. We said, "Assistance is available. Please go ahead and do it." I agree with the hon. Member to fix a meeting. I plan to call the chief executives of the companies here and ask them whether they will move. I have requested the Power Minister in Orissa to look into the matter. If you wish, I will keep the hon. Member, informed personally.

कुमारी फ़िडा टोपनो: सर, यह जो पावर सप्लाई का रेस्टोरेशन हो रहा है, अभी यह ज्यादातर कोस्टल डिस्ट्रिक्ट में हो रहा है, जहां सुपर साइक्लोन हुआ उस तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जा रहा है लेकिन जो बड़े-बड़े टाउन हैं जैसे कटक है या भुवनेश्वर है और वहां जो झुग्गी-झोंपड़ी एरियाज हैं, उन एरियाज को कोई नहीं पूछता है। वहां पावर सप्लाई का काम नहीं हो रहा है, इलेक्ट्रिसिटी नहीं है जो उनको बहुत तकलीफ हो रही है। तो कोस्टल एरिया को छोड़कर जो बड़े-बड़े टाउन हैं तथा जो झुग्गी-झोंपड़ी एरिया है, जहां एस.सी., एस.टी. के लोग ज्यादा संख्या में वास करते हैं और दूसरे डिस्ट्रिक्ट में भी एस.सी., एस.टी. एरिया में पावर सप्लाई बिल्कुल नहीं है और उन लोगों को इतनी गर्मी में बिना पावर सप्लाई के बहुत तकलीफ हो रही है तथा तकलीफ में वे दिन बिता रहे हैं। तो मैं जानना चाहती हूं कि इस बारे में सरकार क्या कर रही है?

श्रीमती जयवंती मेहता: सर, माननीय सदस्या जी ने सवाल पूछा है, उस बारे में मैं बताना चाहती हूं कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में भी, झुग्गी-झोंपड़ियों में भी ध्यान देकर कंसंट्रेशन करके उनको जल्दी, मानसून से पहले बिजली पहुंचाई जाए, इसके लिए बीच-बीच में परीक्षण किया जाता है और वैसे आदेश भी दिए जाते हैं।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of CESCO was discussed in this House through a Special Mention. This is a signal. I think, this is a warning to the reformers, whether it is the first generation reforms the second generation reforms or the third generation reforms. The Orissa example is a warning to the reformers. The fact remains that the private company which has taken up transmission and distribution in the East Zone is not interested. As the hon. Minister herself was very straightforward in saying since no profit was involved, they are not interested in the job. In these seven months we have failed to force them to restore power to the consumers, especially, in the villages, due to whatever system we had. Will the hon. Minister look into it and see that this is not repeated? Because this is going to be the story where the private company has to do something to repair any damage. When you are giving his route of privatisation to all the States, would you kindly say what will be the framework of stopping such things in future? Will you wait for seven months to call that company and the Power Minister? Could it be continued like this? What exactly is the guideline for the next private routers, whatever you call it, reformer or whatever it is? What is to be done? Will you wait?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for having raised this issue. He is an experienced electrical



engineer. He is very much aware that normally when State Electricity Boards pay damages, they do it out of their reserve funds, they pull out the money and spend. In private, the usual system would have been to ensure, or, insure yourself against the acts of God. In this particular case, this insurance was not done. In fact, the act of God came so quickly that the directives were not given. Therefore, this question of where the money is going to come from? We did offer various assistance...(Interruptions)...

**SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:** Where has this money of the private sector gone now? Again, why should the State and the Centre have to go?

**SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANAGALAM:** Let me clarify that it is unfortunate if one particular instance is spelt out. The question asked was, how do you plan to ensure that this does not happen in other places? We have made it clear that in future, when we privatise, these conditions like facing acts of God or rioting or such other things that may happen must be covered by an appropriate insurance which does not have too much of a premium and can be handled.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Power Stations in Assam

\*721. **SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA:** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power stations under construction during the last five years in the state of Assam; and

(b) the time by when each power station is likely to be completed and the total amount likely to be incurred on the aforesaid power stations?

**THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM):**  
(a) and (b) The details of sanctioned hydro and thermal power projects under construction/commissioned during the last five years, including likely/ actual