

प्रोग्राम में हाउसिंग को विशेष महत्व दिया है और वह हाउसिंग की महत्व वाली बात तभी लागू हो सकती है जब कि अरबन लैंड सीलिंग कानून को पूरी तरह से समाप्त कर दिया जाए। मेरा उनसे निवेदन है कि कृपया विस्तारपूर्वक इसके ऊपर अध्ययन करें और इस कानून को जल्द से जल्द समाप्त कर दें।

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: The hon. Prime Minister has amply made it clear that the Government is at it and that the Government is contemplating to bring about very comprehensive amendment after taking into confidence all the political parties.

Sir, with regard to the second aspect, it has been observed by the hon. Member that there are several deleterious effects. The prices have gone up very high. Our senior leader, Salveji, has also pointed that out. Most of the land is not made available for going in for a massive housing programme which is the need of the day. But, keeping in view all these things, the Government is ready to bring about these amendments. Even the industrial growth has also been impeded. There is a negative growth rate. So, the Act itself is ridden with several of these adversaries, and there are some of these inadequacies. So, as our Prime Minister has also mentioned it, as far as repealing this is concerned, no State Legislature has come forward with this.

That is the reasons why after taking the Chief Ministers and also the political parties into confidence, the Government is actively considering to bring forward a comprehensive amendment to overcome all these difficulties and also to see that the surplus land is made available to all these sections and that too at concessional rates.

DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA: How much land has been used for dwelling houses in the last 20 years?

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: Sir, I have already answered right in the beginning that the total land that has been made available or procured is very meagre, i.e. 15, 320 hectares. It is really not a figure to be mentioned time and again. (*Interruptions*) We have mentioned that there is a limitation on the part of the Government of India to take this up *suo motu*. Unless the State Government come forward

with the permission of their legislatures, this cannot be done. Now it is high time, because our total growth has been hampered, our housing programme itself has been hampered and the growth of the society from its social angle has also been hampered. The Government is at it. Soon we will come up with a comprehensive amendment.

Generation of Power by Private concerns in Gujarat

*223. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power generation proposals by private concerns in Gujarat cleared during the last two years;

(b) the cost thereof, and the capacity to be installed, the rates of power offered by the private companies and approved by Government;

(c) whether rates approved for one concern are higher than those approved for other concerns in Gujarat and other states; if so, the comparative rates approved in respect of different concerns; and

(d) whether a number of eminent persons including M.Ps. and M.L. As. from Gujarat have protested against this; if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The following proposals for generation of power in Gujarat have been cleared by Central Electricity Authority during the last two years:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Cost (Rs. Crores)
1.	Baroda CCGT	167 MW	368.22
2.	Hazira CCGT	515 MW	1666.56

The rate of sale of electricity by a generating company to the State Electricity Board (SEB) is determined as per Power Purchase Agreement finalised between the SEB and the Company and the approved financial package. The State Government have not made proposals

as provided for in Government of India's Notification dated 30-3-1992 relating to rate of sale of electricity by generating companies to SEB's.

(d) Yes, Sir. Government of India could take a view on the rate only after the State Government finalises their proposals and sends them to Government of India.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: I am very sorry to say that the question which I have asked in parts (a), (b), (c) and (d), has not been fully replied to by the Minister. The reply seems to be quite evasive and seeks to put down the facts into the technicality of the procedure. As a matter of fact, to make the question precise, I had asked in part (d) of my question about the memorandum submitted by MPs and other eminent persons to the Governor of Gujarat against the disproportionately high rate of power under the PPA between the Gujarat Electricity Board and the ESSAR Power Limited i.e. Rs. 2.88 paise against Rs. 2.12 paise offered by M/s. ESSAR Power Limited itself. Sir, one of the Members, who has met the hon. Governor, is also sitting in the House. He is Mr. Brahmakumar Bhatt. A direct reply to this question has been evaded referring only to procedural details. I would like to know about the view taken by the Government on the said memorandum. Let the Minister tell about this to the House. In the reply the Minister has mentioned only two projects. But, as per information given by the State Government, there are three projects. One of them is also M/s. ESSAR Power Limited, which has been cleared by the C.E.A. One is M/s. Gujarat Power Ltd., the other is M/s. ESSAR Power Limited and the third one is M/s. Reliance Power Limited. These are the three power projects which have been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority, which are nowhere found in the reply of the Minister. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the status of these three power projects, particularly the ESSAR power Limited.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the proposals received during the last two years. I have mentioned that during the last two years Baroda project with a capacity of 167 MW and Hajira, which is nothing but ESSAR. Power Project,

with a capacity of 515 MW were cleared by the C.E.A. In addition to these, there are eleven other projects. They are Barge Mounted Coastal project, which is under bidding, Baroda, which is a Gujarat Industries power Co. Ltd. project. Then there are the Coastal TPS and Ghogha projects. Next is Hajira, which is an ESSAR Power Limited Project. Jamnagar is a Reliance Power Limited Project, while Paguthan is a Gujarat Toren Energy Corporation Ltd. Project. Three Pipavar projects are underbidding. Then we have the Surate Lignite project. Almost all, except the ESSAR Power Project and two other projects, are under the consideration of the State Government. In Part (d) of my answer I have already mentioned about this. Part (d) of his question was whether a number of eminent persons including MPs and MLAs from Gujarat have protested against this, if so, Government's reaction thereto? I have already stated in my main reply, Yes, Sir. Government of India could take a view on the rates only after the State Government finalises their proposals and sends them to the Government of India."

So far as fixation of tariff is concerned, we are not concerned. The CEA gives techno-economic clearance. Regarding regulation of tariff, it is the concern of the State Government and the Gujarat State Electricity Board. In spite of several reminders to the State Government, they have not sent tariff proposals. The former Chief Minister and others have submitted their representation to the hon. Prime Minister. I think on this the Prime Minister has called for the remarks of the CEA. It is under examination.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Regarding the CD project, the Minister says that it is under consideration. But as per our knowledge, the PPA had been signed in respect of only three projects. The first project is M/s. Gujarat Torrent Energy Corporation Ltd. The PPA was signed in February, 1994. The Second project is ESSAR Power Limited. The PPA was signed on the 30th May, 1996. The third project is Reliance Power Ltd. The MOU was signed on 9-12-1994. So, how can the Minister say that the other two projects have not been cleared by the CEA and they are under consideration? The PPA has already been signed in respect of the three projects.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Two projects have been cleared by the CEA. The CEA first gives clearance. Later on it would give techno-economic clearance. So far as the PPA is concerned, it is the concern of the State Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your second question.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Regarding the project of Essar Power Limited., it had been given clearance on the 8th August, 1995 by the Central Electricity Authority. How can the Minister say that it has not been cleared by the CEA? It has been cleared by the CEA on the 8th August, 1995. The Chief Minister had announced about this agreement publicly.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Techno-economic clearance has been given. But we have not received the final report from the Gujarat Government.

The Paguthan project had been cleared on 20th November, 1993, at a cost of Rs. 2,298 crores. The Hazira project had been cleared at a cost of Rs. 1665.50 crores. The Boarda project had been cleared at a cost of Rs. 368.22 crores.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Anyway, my second supplementary is ..(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maybe, your colleague, Mr. Brahmakumar Bhatt can answer. I would call him. He is aware of it. He mentioned this news. Mr. Bhatt.

SHRI BRAHAMKUMAR BHATT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House, particularly, the attention of the hon. Prime Minister. So far as M/s. Essar Power Limited is concerned, the State Government has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with them setting aside all norms, all records and all nothings on the file. The hon. Prime Minister may please note that the Chairman of the Essar Power Limited, first took permission for captive power from me when I was the Chairman of the Gujarat State Electricity Board for five years. The Chairman is the Chief Executive. He gave me a letter for captive power. He obtained some machines from outside at a cheaper rate. Then he turned it into a full project. He told me that he can supply power to the Gujarat State Electricity Board. The hon.

Prime Minister may please note this; and the entire House may also please note this. He gave to me in writing that he was prepared to supply power at Rs. 2.12 per unit. And the State Government has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement at Rs. 2.87 in spite of the fact that there is a writing on the records of the Electricity Authority and the Government. On the contrary, the rate of Rs. 2.12, "I rejected I do not want this costly power". And you are hiding that fact. That is what the Additional Chief Secretary and Acting Chairman of the Gujarat Electricity Board wrote. After the BJP Government came in, I resigned the next day. The Additional Chief Secretary had made a note on record that nothing more than Rs. 1.50 should be given, not a paisa more; Rs. 2.12 was rejected. And the State Government has granted Rs. 2.87. A foolproof inquiry is needed. ..(Interruptions).. There is a lot of suspicion. ..(Interruptions)..

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the Member rightly said, ESSAR has started with captive generation. Later, it is going into the IPPA sector. About the situation of tariff, it varies from Rs. 2.12 to Rs. 2.87. As I answered earlier, the fixation of power tariff is not the concern of the Central Government. As per the 30.3.1992 Government of India notification, the tariff for the sale of electricity by a generating company to the Board may also be determined in deviation of the norms other than the norms regarding tariff and plant load factor specified in the notification subject to the condition that the overall per-unit tariff of electricity calculated on the basis of the norms in deviation does not exceed the per-unit tariff calculated on the basis of the norms specified in the notification.

Secondly, Sir, the State Government concerned has, after satisfying itself, recommended that the deviations made are justified and the Central Government, after satisfying itself that the overall per-unit tariff is in accordance with the above condition, approved the deviation.

As earlier mentioned, we have not received any power tariff from the Government of Gujarat in spite of several reminders. As soon as it is received, we will look into the matter.

SHRI BRHMAKUMAR BHATT: Was any inquiry made by the Government on the representation made by the ex-Chief Minister and the MPs and MLAs of the Congress party? They gave a written representation to the Governor of Gujarat regarding the deal. *..(Interruptions)..*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The MPs have represented. The Government has not acted on that *(Interruptions)..*

SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: The matter is still pending with the High Court.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: If the matter is pending with the High Court, what is the necessity. *..(Interruptions)..*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, all of you. The Prime Minister is replying.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Sir, I appeal to all sections of this august House, to all senior Members. On this type of issues, let us not mix politics. Whether there is a BJP Government or a Congress Government is not my concern. My concern is that power starvation in the whole country is today one of the major issues. I want to see that power is given the top-most priority by this Government without any political consideration. The former Chief Minister approached me and made a complaint. But I cannot directly ask for a CBI inquiry. They requested for a CBI inquiry. I cannot do that. I have asked the Central Electricity Authority to examine if there are any irregularities and after examining the issue, if there are irregularities, to report the matter to me. That is the instruction I have given to the Central Electricity Authority. But the matter went up to the Supreme Court on this particular issue. It is understood from the Government of Gujarat that the hon. Supreme Court has, on 20th May, 1996, allowed the PPA for a period of 20 years. It is, however, subject to the SCA in the High Court.

This is the final view of the Supreme Court. But whatever it may be, particularly on the power projects, let us not mix politics. Let us take a pragmatic view from the point of view of the overall development of the country. Power is one of the major areas where we are

struggling, where we are starving and the power famine is there. That is why even on Enron, I took a decision to clear the project without mixing politics. If anything is there, I am prepared to re-examine it within my limits. *..(Interruptions)..*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. S.M. Krishna. Mr. Krishna, is it on Gujarat?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Yes, Sir. Sir, in the States, power flows from one State to the other State. That is how it operates. It flows either from the Central Pool or from the State Pool. I would like to commend the stand taken by the prime Minister with reference to the priority given by this Government for power generation. Sir, today the gap between demand and generation is about 30,000 mega watts, to put it very conservatively. Now, I would like to know from the present Prime Minister, who was the erstwhile Chief Minister of Karnataka, about the clearance of the Congentrix project. When he was the Chief Minister of Karnataka, he gave a deadline to the then Central Government that if a particular project-the Congentrix project concerning Karnataka, did not get cleared within a particular day, then he was going to scrap the project. Now, destiny has pitchforked him into the position of Prime Minister. Now, I would like to put this question to the hon. Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Karnataka and the State Government of Karnataka whether we should give a deadline to the present Prime Minister as to when he is going to clear the Cogentrix power project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it is a Karnataka project. Isn't it?

MR. S.M. KRISHNA: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then you have to put a separate question.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: No, no. The hon. Prime Minister made a mention about Enron also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not form part of this question. The Prime Minister generally said something. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: I take this opportunity to raise that issue. *..(Interruptions)..* I am taking Gujarat as a case history.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prime Minister, are you prepared to reply to his question?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Sir, I would like to assure my hon. friend, Krishna Ji, that the Congentrix project will be cleared very soon, at the most, within two weeks.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, my supplementary arises out of the reply given by the hon. Prime Minister on the floor of the House. I don't think that there can be any point of disagreement so far as the availability of power is concerned. The disturbing factor is that in order to achieve the target that we have set for ourselves for achieving the availability of power, are we going to give a complete go-by to some of the facts which have been clearly stated by one of the hon. Members? I am not prepared to believe what he said. I would like to have a factual position from the hon. Minister. I would like to know whether the power tariff which was offered to him previously was Rs. 2.12 paise per unit. He may reply to the correctness of this fact. But later on the Gujarat Government seems to have agreed for Rs. 2.87 paise per unit. Let him clarify these facts. If these are facts, then, of course, the rest of the things will follow.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, as I have stated earlier, the Central Government is not concerned with the power tariff. Secondly, in respect of this matter, a number of complaints have been made at different levels. As per the hon. Member, they had submitted representations to the non-officials and the hon. Prime Minister also. Some persons had approached the hon. High Court of Gujarat and now the matter is pending in the Supreme Court. They have extended the PPA for twenty years. So, whatever we are discussing in this House, is *sub-judice*.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: No, no, no. From the project report itself you can give the factual information. That is available in the project report. What is the per unit cost? If that factual information is available in the Report, there is nothing wrong, as you are saying, in giving facts on a case which is pending in the court; factual information can be supplied. So, what was there in the project report? And let me also know whether these two figures which are quoted here are factually correct or not.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: May I clarify the position, Sir? Earlier, as the hon. Member rightly put it, on the captive power side the rates quoted were something 'X'. Now the rates tentatively agreed were 'Y'. The issue before me is at various stages; this will be scrutinised. First, the draft PPA will be sent by the State Government after it has been recommended by the concerned State Electricity Board. But once it comes to the Government of India, in the Central Electricity Authority and in the Department of Economic Affairs scrutiny takes place at various stages. Mr. Chhabildas Mehta, the former Chief Minister, has made a specific complaint. I have asked the Central Electricity Authority to examine all the observations and some of the allegations made by the then Chief Minister and give me a comprehensive report. Once I get the report from the Central Electricity Authority about any fraud that has taken place, I am prepared to make a statement in the House. I will again pursue with the Central Electricity Authority to see that the licence is sent earlier. I will come back to this House and if there is any fraud committed, I am prepared to make a comprehensive statement.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I am not asking about the fraud. I am asking for the facts.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: At this stage it is very difficult for me to say under what circumstances Rs. 3/- or Rs. 2.97/- has been fixed. All these things, it is only for the technical people to say: I can't say. I have asked the Central Electricity Authority to examine the allegations made by the former Chief Minister and I will come back to this House if there are any specific complaints proved; otherwise, I cannot say anything on that.

*224. [The Questioner (Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar) was absent. For answer vide col. 30 *infra*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 225. It is another power question. Q.No. 235 is also on the same subject. So, I propose to combine these questions together.

Supply of Power to States from Central Pool

*225. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by the Central