

Reported Shifting of Patna BHEL office to Durgapur in West Bengal

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): महोदय, पटना में पावर प्लांट से संबंधित BHEL की एक इकाई है, लेकिन उसको वहां से शिफ्ट करके दुर्गापुर ले लाया जा रहा है।

महोदय, हम आपको बताना चाहते हैं कि जो बरौनी और कांटी थर्मल पावर स्टेशन हैं, वहां अभी 800 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से उनके रेनोवेशन का काम चल रहा है। क्या तुक है कि इसी बीच में इस पावर प्लांट यूनिट को पटना से उठा करके दुर्गापुर ले जाया जाए। यह क्या साजिश है? क्या आप चाहते हैं कि बिहार में आज जो बिजली का संकट है, बिजली की scarcity है, उसको और भी गहरा बना दिया जाए? हर स्टेट में इस तरह का एक सर्विस सेंटर होता है। बंगाल में ऑलरेडी एक सेंटर है। दुर्गापुर को आप एक और सर्विस सेंटर देना चाहते हैं, तो दे दीजिए, हम लोगों को कोई एतराज नहीं है, लेकिन बिहार से उठा करके आप उस सर्विस सेंटर को क्यों वहां पर ले जा रहे हैं?

महोदय, इसके कारण पटना में आंदोलन हो रहा है। कांटी, मुजफ्फरपुर और पूरे बिहार में इसके लिए आंदोलन हो रहा है। लोग धरने पर बैठे हुए हैं, प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं। यह एक उकसाने वाली बात है क्योंकि पहले से वहां पर विकास का काम हो रहा है और बहुत मुश्किल से वह एक ट्रैक पर आया, जिससे लोगों ने चैन की सांस ली। भारत सरकार आखिर क्या चाहती है? वह क्यों वहां पर डिस्टर्बेंस पैदा करना चाहती है? अगर आप ऐसा करते हैं तो उससे इम्प्लॉइमेंट के जो ऐवीन्यूज बनते हैं, उन पर भी इसका असर पड़ने वाला है और जो राजस्व की प्राप्ति होती है, उस पर भी इसका एडवर्स इफैक्ट पड़ेगा।

महोदय, इसलिए हम कहना चाहते हैं कि केन्द्र सरकार इस तरह की हरकत से बाज आए, वरना हम लोग इस बात को कतई बर्दाश्त नहीं करेंगे। सरकार की तरफ से मंत्री महोदय जवाब दें और इस सदन को आश्वासन दें कि वह ऐसा काम नहीं करेंगे और उसे वहां से उठा करके शिफ्ट नहीं किया जाएगा।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं इनका समर्थन करता हूं। इस पर मंत्री महोदय से जवाब दिलाया जाए।

श्री एन.के. सिंह (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं भी इनका समर्थन करता हूं।

डा. सी.पी. ठाकुर (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं भी इनका समर्थन करता हूं।

Regional imbalance in the distribution of natural gas

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the fact that the Government of India has gone on record rightly in asserting that the country's natural gas reserves including the gas of KG Basin is a national asset and the interest of the national economy cannot be held hostage to the benevolence and mercy of some private players. This had been widely reported in the media yesterday. I highly appreciate, and welcome such firm assertion by the Government of India and also by the hon. Minister who is sitting over here. Such a firm assertion, if we have to remain consistent with, needs urgent action in the matter of a proper, transparent and rational pricing and, at the same time, a proper distribution mechanism under the control of the State. Sir, natural gas is our property; it is

growing in our land and there is, absolutely, no justification of pricing the product linked with the international price of altogether a different product, the crude oil. This is being done by the empowered group of Ministers, raising the price to US \$ 4.32 per MMSCMD. I demand this is not rational and that must be reviewed downwards and revised if this national asset, as rightly said, is to be properly harnessed for national goal.

Sir my second point relates to distribution. Sir, my State West Bengal and the entire Eastern region is gas starved. They are being made to use costlier LPG for their public transport instead of CNG. So, I demand to have a proper distribution. The Southern Region is also suffering from that. So, Sir, in the face of the surreptitious and unauthorised bid of appropriating country's sovereign natural resources as family property – these are all coinage from the Government statement – by some private players, the need of the hour – and I demand – is a Government takeover, rather, nationalisation of the distribution and marketing of natural gas, including that of KG-D6 basin by the Government. We welcome the announcement of the Government to have a National Gas Grid. So, that National Gas Grid has to be put in place. The distribution and marketing of natural gas at the wellhead must be taken over by the Government and operated through that National Grid, as is being done in the case of electricity by the Power Grid Corporation of India. Then only, this vital national asset can be properly harnessed. Thank you, Sir.

Flood situation in Kerala

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the serious flood situation in Kerala. During the past 24 hours, eight persons have died in monsoon-related disaster. With that, the total number of people killed during the monsoon in the State has risen to 96. In a primary assessment, the loss would run into more than Rs. 300 crores, around 650 houses have collapsed totally and 1500 houses have collapsed partially. The heavy rain has caused damage to agriculture crops of more than 2000 hectares; 10,000 people have been shifted to relief camps in various parts of the State. The State Government has initiated relief programme in an urgent manner.

So, I request the Central Government, to sanction immediate debt relief to the State of Kerala. It was a -norraal practice that a Central Team is sent only after sometime, after the disaster occurs. So, I urge the Central Government to send a special team to the State of Kerala urgently to assess the damage caused by heavy rain and flood, etc. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kurien, associate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Sir, I always associate with whatever would be said, but this being such a serious subject, Sir, nearly 100 people died due to flood that is there for the last two-three days in Kerala. Then, loss to the cultivation is more than 10,000 hectares and Rs. 300 crores is the estimated loss. What I want is, the Government of India should immediately intervene and release assistance to the State of Kerala. That's all.