

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:
Well, this a very novel idea, if I may say so, and we have not applied our mind at all. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. Mr Vishwa Bandhu Gupta wants to put a question.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA (Delhi): Sir, one of the points has not been answered and I thought that I should bring it to the notice of the Minister. A large number of boys and girls who were to participate in these Games were disappointed and as a sportsman who has foregone going several times to such meets, I would say that this does hurt the sports interests of the countries and the teams which are to participate and also some of our sport, standards. I think you may reply saying that this is a small fice on the part of the Indian sportsmen which is the only way to show our protest and also our solidarity with the African countries.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I hear some senior Members here saying that no sportsman was disappointed and this is very credible in the contest of the fact that, as you know, Mr. Deputy Chairmen and as the House knows, the largest community of Indian origin anywhf the world outside India is only in South Africa and more than a million of these people are there in South Africa and they have suffered a lot as a result of our boycott of South Africa. But, Sir, they have never shown any rcstentment. On the contrary, they have supported our measures and the y fully support our stand. Thank you, Sir.

**THE INDIAN ELECTRICITY
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1986—
Contd**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :
We shall now continue with the discussion on the Indian Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 1986. Yes, Mr. Rameshwar Thakur to speak now.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR (Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Indian Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 1986.

The main objectives of the Bill are to discourage the theft of energy and tempering with meters and electrical isntallations, and to cnahance the punishment for such offences by making the offences under the section 39 and 44 congnozable offences. This Bill provides for amendments to the existing sections of the Indian Electricity Act of 1910, that is, sections 39, 44, 47, 48, 49, and 50. The main amendment is to section 39 which deals with the theft of energy and which is proposed to be substituted by two new sections, that is section 39 and section 39A. Section 39 deals with theft of energy and provides for the circumstances under which if any person dishonestly abstracts, consumes or uses energy, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to three year or a fine which shall not be less than Rs. 1000/-. Now, this is one part. The second part is Section 39(a) which is a new section in which for the first time we have added that the persons who abets an offence—there were complaints that certain persons even belonging to the Department were abetting or some other persons were abetting and there was no punishment for them—will also be punished. This is a very commendable addition. This flection says that any body who abets the offence will be punishable under Section 39 or Section 44, notwithstanding anything contained in section 116 of the Indian Penal Code and he will be punished as provided in section 39 as well as in section 44. Section 44 mentions about two parts, *i.e.* connections and reconnections. Reconnections were not there earlier. They have been added and it deals with punishment which will be given. In place of Rs. 500/- it will be Rs. 5000/-. Earlier in the 1910 Act, there was one more clause which has been omitted now. This is for the hon. Minister to consider whether this should not have been there.

Clause 44(b) of the original 'Act mentions that persons shall be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs. 500/- which we are now raising. In the case of continuing offence, there was a daily fine which may extend to Rs. 50/- per day. Now, this continuing offence with a daily fine does not find a place in the amended law. I would like to seek a clarification whether this part remains as it is or it is expected to be omitted. If it is there, I would like to know whether the amount of Rs. 50/- is not low as compared to the other amount which we are raising from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 5000/-.

The other clauses 47, 48, 49 and 50 are of a consequential nature. We have to see the genesis of the power performance. This is only a part of it. There are leakages and thefts. If we look at our growth and development in the power sector since "Independence, we will appreciate the magnitude of the problem that is facing the country. In 1947, we had only 4033 MU of power which went up to 8592 in 1955. It rose to 16939 MU in 1960-61 and 1,05,232 MU in 1979-80. It went up to 1,56,633 in 1984-85 and in the latest year of 1985-86 it has gone up to 1,61,455 MU. It is nearer to the goal which was kept as target for that year. Now, in the case of rural electrification also, we find that in 1951, the electrification was only in 3061 villages which rose to 21,754 villages in 1961 and to 2,49,799 villages in 1980. On March 31, 1986, this year, the number rose to 3,80,091 villages. This is a very creditable achievement and the target kept for the Seventh Plan is 1,18,000 villages which will certainly make a substantial number of villages receive rural electrification. Similarly, in the case of pump sets also, we find that in 1951 the number was only, 21,068. In 1961 it rose to 1,98,904. In 1980 it, was 39,65,828. And in j 1986, on the 31st March, the figure rose to 59,68,576. And the Seventh Plan target is 23.0 lakh sets. These achievements are very creditable.

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But we have to see the total requirements of energy and the energy policy of the Government of India. The energy policy is published in the latest Annual Report of the Government. And it is important that we have to see the achievement and our performance in the light of the policy that we have framed for ourselves. The energy policy of the Government of India aims at ensuring adequate energy supplies at minimum cost, achieving self-sufficiency in energy supplies and protecting the environment from the adverse impact of utilising energy sources in an injudicious manner. Then, it specifies several grounds and I do not want to go into the details because of lack of time. It is at page 2 of the Annual Report for 1985-86. The question is whether this shortage of energy all through the country is affecting our agriculture as well as industrial sector, domestic and commercial requirements. We have not been able to meet these requirements in most of the States of the country. And, therefore, the aim which has been kept by the Energy Development Council held only this year is that we should be able to fulfil the requirements by the end of the Seventh Plan. And whether we are

going to do it is important because the latest Conference said that we have to meet the demand for power by the end of the Seventh Plan. Then the Conference says about the policy options in rural electrification and 'development of a co-ordinated approach for power supply from conventional and non-conventional sources. Then the other decision taken at the Conference is that energy conservation measures will be taken more effectively and also achieve efficiency in the use of coal. In this connection, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister to that fact that we have achieved particularly during the last two years a growth

[Shri Rameshwar Thakur]

rate of 12 per cent in 1984-85 and 8.5 per cent in 1985-86. But the transmission and distribution losses as reflected in this very Report and the other Reports indicate that the losses were to the tune of 20.87 per cent in 1982-83, 20.86 per cent in 1983-84, 21 per cent in 1984-85. And some studies of some Electricity Boards show that these losses are of the order of more than 31 per cent. In the light of the fact that we have so much of energy crisis in many parts of the country whether it is desirable that we have not been using this large amount of energy, 20 to 25 per cent of our total energy which we produce after making a lot of capital investment. The losses are shown as transmission and distribution losses which include thefts also. This present Bill appears to be the result of this finding. At page 11, the Report says that the All India rate of transmission and distribution losses for the year 1984-85 has been provisionally estimated at 21 per cent. And then they say that in order to reduce transmission and distribution losses of the State electricity boards the State Governments have been asked to introduce measures in conformity with the guidelines and instructions formulated by the central electricity authority. And then it is further stated that it is proposed to amend the Indian Electricity Act and make power theft as a cognizable offence. The question is whether the guidelines issued by the Central Electricity Authority are enough to ensure that this much quantity of losses in transmission and distribution could be reduced. I would like to seek some specific clarifications from the hon Minister. One is about the question of break-up of the losses. May I know what is the transmission loss and what is the distribution loss, particularly the theft? Has any detailed study been made in regard to that? And, what positive steps have been taken or are likely to be taken to reduce this loss and bring it to the norms, i.e. 8 to 9 per cent. We find that for three years we are having the same loss in

spite of the efforts that have been made, vigilance and other efforts. We find that this has slightly increased in fact and not decreased. May I know what positive steps are likely to be taken over or are taken? Secondly, Sir, May I know whether the passing of the law will be enough. We increase the fine as well as the punishment. But whether that will be enough or not, we do not know. Another hon. Member has also mentioned this matter. What steps is the Government contemplating to implement the law. If the same staff which is there in the field, which is supposed to partly abet this kind of a thing, whether that machinery will be continued or some other machinery is expected to be put there to enforce the law, I would like to know. Otherwise, in spite of the fact that the law is going to be harsh, it may not give the desired result.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Santosh Kumar Sahu) in the Chair]

There are one or two other aspects in this connection to which I would like to refer. In the Energy Policy we have referred to the question of hydel and thermal mix. In this mix we know and it is well known that hydel is much cheaper, power generation is also much cheaper and when we have set our policy at the minimum cost, we can do it, only, though we know that the capital cost of the hydel is much more than thermal, if we persist. But in the long run, from the different angles even from the renewal sources of energy, we know that there is a limit to coal deposits that we have got and we are supposed to preserve them for future also. Therefore, if we can and when we have hydel resources in the country and which we could preserve for the future, then it is necessary that hydel power should be given more importance. But we find from the data that in hydel and thermal mix in the Fifth Plan it was 40:60. Now it has gone down to 33.7:66.3 in the Sixth Plan and in the Seventh Plan it will go further down to 30.7:69.3. Now, the question is if it remains

there over the years instead of increasing the hydro mix *i.e.* hydro-thermal power generation we are reducing it, in the long run it will certainly affect the economy apart from the supply position. Therefore, I would urge the Hon. Minister to kindly consider and indicate what steps are being taken to give priority to improve the hydro-thermal mix in the Seventh Five Year Plan and also in future years.

Another aspect is the nuclear power. Nuclear power, of course, is of recent origine. But it has a lot of potential. But presently it accounts for only 3 per cent of the installed capacity. I would like

to know from the hon. 5.00 P.M. Minister what positive steps

are being taken to improve the nuclear power position in the country so that we should be self-sufficient in power generation.

Another aspect which is pertinent to this Bill is the delay in implementation of the projects. We have not been able to achieve the targets. In the past also we had certain targets and we find from the figures that in the First Plan there was a shortage of only 15 per cent but in the Fifth Five Year Plan we find there is increase of 43 per cent which we have not been able to achieve. This needs consideration. Though provision is made substantially and targets are set but we are not able to achieve those targets. We have to see to this aspect. There are various reasons but I shall not dwell upon all the aspects but I would only say that so far as funds are concerned, we have been providing more and more funds increasingly. In the Fifth Plan, we had provided for Rs. 7000 crores; in the Sixth plan, the provision went up to Rs. 19,000 odd crores and for the Seventh Plan, we have provided for Rs. 34,000 crores.

So far as implementation part of it is concerned, I would like to draw from a document of the Planning Commission. I quote from Chap-

ter 2i—Plan Implementation and Monitoring of the Seventh Five Year Plan 1985—>go. It says:

"There has been a trend towards acquiring capital assets in increasing quantities, without regard to the availability of funds and the economic and commercial benefits to be derived from such investments. In some sectors the volume of sanctioned projects in the pipeline is very large relative to the availability of funds and the annual rate of completion. As a result, cost and time overruns are inevitable as available funds are allocated among such a large number of projects."

Now, about power, it says— there is a Table 21. J and it gives power generation capacity in MW as 34126 under the column 'Magnitude of projects approved and under implementation at the beginning of 1984-85'. And for 1984-85, the figure given is 3080. It says further against the column 'Number of years required to complete approved projects at 1984-85 rate of completion' as 11 years. Now, if we have to complete these projects which were outstanding on 1st April, 1984 in eleven years, then what about the provision of Rs. 34,000 crores being made for the Seventh Five Year Plan? How are we going to complete them? There must be a clear picture about it. There must be a very effective implementation programme. In regard to acquiring of various assets, including right to acquire land and also various equipment! that we need and also the process of installation etc., all this must be expedited. There must be proper management and monitoring also in this regard. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how we are going to implement it. Power is the basic infrastructure in the entire economy of the country. In the 7th Plan we made promise for massive investment in the public sector outlay of Rs. 180,000 crores and out of this, 30.5 per cent is in energy sector it-

[Shri Rameshwar Thakur]

self. Unless we can fully utilise it, how can we achieve our target? One year is already over; half of the second year is also, over. I would like to know the progress and how we are going to improve things. How projects are going to be completed in the remaining years of Seventh Plan ?

Now about regional imbalance, in power. There are certain parts of the country which have a power crisis and difficulties.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.]

I would like to say that in the year 1951, the Eastern Region, comprising West Bengal, Bihar and Assam, topped the list in power generation. Then, in 1961, Western Region came to the top. Then gradually, the position declined. Particularly, we now find that the North-Eastern Region is the worst sufferer in the matter of power generation; it has been very low. I would like the hon. Minister to throw light on the question of regional imbalances in power generation and distribution and what steps are going to be taken, particularly, keeping in view the needs of the Eastern and the North-Eastern Regions of the country.

Then, Sir, in regard to rural electrification, adequate work has been done. But I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that more emphasis should be given to not merely giving connections—giving connections is all right—but we should also see that power is properly distributed to the rural people for their irrigation needs as well as other requirements. This is more important. It is not enough to say that we have connected so many villages; so many villages have been electrified. It is equally important to see that the villages get regular supply of electricity. This would mean more effective supervision and by this we would also be able to effect economy and avoid

losses including loss by way of theft to take care of which this amending Bill has been brought forward.

There is one more thing. This Act is of 1910. I should say, we are in the golden jubilee year of this Act. Seventy-five years have gone by. This Act needs to be updated. There have been piecemeal amendments on more than 15 occasions. I think, the time has come when we should bring in a new Act keeping in view the latest policy of the Government and the energy requirements. There should be a comprehensive law which will take care of the various aspects. We are increasing the punishment in some cases. But, other provisions of the Act and other punishment provisions remain as they are. We should have a rethinking on these things in the light of the vast magnitude of the developmental work going on and the technical requirements. Management methods have changed. Conditions in the villages have changed. If we bring in a new, comprehensive, law, we should be able to meet our changing requirements. With these words, I support the Bill and I hope, necessary steps would be taken, with the co-operation of the people, with the co-operation of the consumer with the co-operation of public men and others concerned, to see that the aims of this amending Bill are fulfilled.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I rise to support this Bill which seeks to amend the Indian Electricity Act of 1910. I believe, in pursuance to an assurance given by the hon. Minister in a seminar, this Bill has been brought forward for the consideration of the House, with a view to curbing energy theft. I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill. At the beginning of the Fifty Five-Year Plan, the cumulative losses of the State Electricity Boards stood at Rs. 4,100 crores. This is estimated to reach Rs. 12,000 crores by the year 1990. Unless some drastic

measures are taken by the Government to reduce the losses, the viability of the State Electricity Boards will be seriously damaged, to a large extent. Therefore, this is a step in the right direction.

Sir, the Plant Load Factor is a critical problem as far as the Department of Energy is concerned. It is not at all satisfactory. The national average is only 51 per cent. Although the Southern States have a good record in regard to PLF, it is very low in Northern and Eastern States. The PLF in Haryana is 32.8 per cent, U.P.—37.3 per cent, Bihar—34.1 per cent, Orissa—31.7 per cent and West Bengal—42 per cent. Wherever the transmission and distribution losses are above the national average, we find that the plant-load factor is very poor. The national average of transmission losses is estimated at 21% which is abnormal. Earlier in the year 1975-76 it was 19.42%, in 1976-77 it was 19.26% and in the years 1978-79 to 1983-84 the line loss was only 20%. Now it has increased to 21%. So it has ranged from 18% to 25% in various States. According to experts, the transmission losses should not exceed 12% because it is 10% in the developed countries. The transmission losses get inflated due to energy theft which is estimated at about 6 to 8% of the power generated. The cost of the stolen energy is estimated at more than Rs. 7000 crores. Nowhere in the world do we see this quantum of alarming loss. So effective measures are necessary to curb energy theft.

Sir, in this Bill our Minister has proposed enhancement of fine and the period of punishment. This could help to reduce the number of thefts. In addition, some more effective steps are necessary to curb the energy theft considerably. Powers should be given to the Electricity Board to disconnect the service. It must be made mandatory in case of energy theft. In the present Bill this power

is not assigned to the Electricity Board. It is not an easy task to prevent energy theft because it is being carried out successfully with the connivance of the officers concerned. If the Government is really serious about curbing power theft, when the transmission loss exceeds 12% the Government must fix responsibility on the officer. Then alone you will be able to curb power theft to a considerable extent.

In this context I would like to say that the power position in Tamil Nadu is very precarious due to the unfavourable behaviour of the southwest monsoon. The estimated demand in our State for the current year is 16,300 million units, but the estimated power generation is 15,000 million units, subject to benevolent behaviour of the monsoon. Anyhow assuming that monsoon is favourable, the shortage is 1,300 million units. If the monsoon repeats its unfavourable behaviour in November and December, the shortage will increase to the extent of 3000 million units. Therefore, to meet the shortage and keep the power position in Tamil Nadu comfortable, we have to produce more thermal power for which additional quantity of coal is required to the extent of one lakh tonnes. The Tamil Nadu thermal stations used to get their coal from Haldia, but I am to inform this House that since 2nd July we are not getting any coal due to the strike by the trade union. At the same time the transportation difficulty also is increasing. The stock position is very poor. Therefore our Government has renewed its appeal to the Government of India to permit it to import 1 lakh tonnes of coal from Australia which is inevitable. Coal from Australia is more superior [and cheaper than our coal. The ash content of Australian coal is 15%, whereas the ash content in our coal is 40 to 50%. So it is very desirable to import coal from Australia. Unfortunately the hon. Minister is about to leave. That is why I want to remind him. Sir, he has refused to

[Shri Aladi Aruna *alias* V. Aruna-chalam]

accept our proposal of importing coal from Australia, anticipating a successful monsoon. But the monsoon has failed; in the catchment area there is no rain. So, the generation of hydel power is very poor. Therefore, to meet the situation, one lakh tonnes of coal must be imported from Australia. Therefore, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government I appeal to the honourable Minister to reconsider his stand and allow our Government to import coal to the extent of one lakh tonnes from Australia.

With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVIND-RAO PATIL (Maharashtra) : Sir, I rise to support this Bill with a few suggestions. Here I want to put forth some grievances of the poor farmers as I come from a rural area of Maharashtra.

Here in this amendment, Sir, the offences centre round the consumer and he is being penalized with one year's imprisonment and one thousand rupees of fine. There should be categorization of the crimes according to consumption of electricity. In this connection I request the honourable Minister to exclude the farmers, particularly the small farmers, from the purview of this amendment because, Sir, they cannot easily get electricity connections as big landlords who have sufficient economic sources do. So, the poor farmers who have only dry lands are the greater sufferers. Naturally they cannot get water from tanks or rivers and whatever water is available is consumed by the landlords who have got electric connections and motors. Therefore, the poor farmers try to draw water through electric motors after the time prescribed for operation of the electric motors and consumption of electricity is over. And the officials of the Electricity Board penalize the poor, illiterate and innocent farmers for consuming electricity, without catching the real thieves. Therefore, this is injustice to the small farmers.

My second suggestion is with regard to bank loans. The poor farmers cannot easily get loans from the banks. Because their motors are installed at wells or river beds only after the wells or river beds become dry, they cannot consume electricity. Here the grievance of the small landholders is that because of delay in getting loans from the banks which results in delay in purchasing electric motors, they are not able to put them to use because by the time they are installed the wells or river beds become dry. But still the officials of the Electricity Board levy the charges from them for electricity which is not consumed by them. This is an in-justice being done to the poor farmers. Under these circumstances I request the honourable Minister to give them concessions in the electricity charges whether they consume the electricity legally or otherwise. The farmer should be exempted from being penalized at least during periods of scarcity of water or during shortfall of rains or at least during drought conditions when they consume power for *bona fide* purposes. Here the amended clause says, "Whoever dishonestly abstracts, consumes or uses any energy. . ." and under this clause the poor farmers are penalized. My submission, Sir, is that when the poor, illiterate farmer uses electricity with good intentions for *bonafide* purposes, he should not be penalized. This is an injustice to the poor farmers.

My third suggestion is about corruption. Sir, Corruption has become cancer in the Electricity Department. Due to corrupt practices almost all the Electricity Boards have come under liquidation. I do not want to go into the details. But I give only one example from the Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

The Maharashtra State Electricity Board Chairman, Mr. V. S. Shevade reportedly abetted with the engineers of the Nagpur Division of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board and a contractors' mafia in looting Rs. 100 crores in the IVTACmir.

Ghandrapur Division alone. The loot took the form of exaggerated contract valuer, stealing of the Board's material and fictitious transportation costs. The alleged fraud took place in the Civil Construction Circle Division at Nagpur and Ghandrapur and had even civil-eloped the Nasik Power Station. I may urge upon the hon. Minister that the Government should refer all such cases to the Central Bureau of Investigation as the allegations are extremely grave and demand a detailed probe.

Lastly, I may submit one point about the wastage of materials of the State Electricity Boards and the negligence of their staff. When I come from the rural areas I find that wires, poles, cement and all other raw materials are lying on the road side on the ground for number of days and months. Due to the delay, these materials become useless. About the negligence, Sir, even we find that due to the negligence of the staff officers the current wires are always found snapped and lying on the roads, roofs of houses and factories and even also in the water wells, rivers. Yesterday I read in the newspaper that one person who was taking bath in a well, was shocked by the current wire and died by electrocution. Another person who went to save him also succumbed. Therefore, under these circumstances, I am submitting that instead of penalising the poor, innocent, illiterate farmers, the thieves who are criminals should be severely penalised.

Thank you.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY
(Andhra Pradesh) : Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for having given me this chance.

I really welcome the object behind this Bill. But I may say at the outset that the provisions are insufficient to achieve that object. I will substantiate my statement. The two objects are :

One is to provide stringent punishment for theft which has become a menace and also for tampering with meters and other electrical installations.

The second is, to enable the Electricity Boards also to initiate prosecution.

The other provisions are consequential.

What is now the enhancement ? The original section 39 as it stands even today makes dishonest abstraction of current theft punishable as theft. Now the change is, instead of resorting to artificial definition and making it a theft—thief requires a moveable property—doing away with that, they made that dishonest abstraction of current itself is an offence.

That is the object of the substituted section 39. Because the Indian Penal Code does not apply, that abetment provision of 39(a) has been introduced. Since my friends have spoken on this, I would not repeat the same points.

As much as 21 per cent of the total electric production loss is through transmission. Nearly 50 per cent of it is due to theft. That itself accounts for Rs. 100 of crores. Such a menace is there and you want to remove that menace by the punishment that you have provided. The punishment is for a term which may extend to three years or fine which will not be less than Rs. 1,000/-The entire vigour of it has been taken away by providing for alternative punishment, and the object is lost. For petty offences you have provided still greater punishment. For example, under the Food Adulteration Act and under the Essential Commodities Act if a poor milk vendor mixes one litre of water in ten litres of milk—it is a very simple offence—there is a minimum punishment, which is imprisonment. Since he is a poor man, you have provided this punishment, but here most of

[Shri P. Babul Reddy]

these people who swallow hundreds of crores of rupees worth of energy are big sharks. No poor man can swallow hundreds of crores rupees worth of stolen energy. I have myself seen some Vanaspati manufacturers and some other big factory owners commit electric current thefts worth crores of rupees every year. If you want such people to be people to be punished and achieve the object then there must be a minimum imprisonment punishment. Therefore, at the outset I had said though the object of the Bill should be welcomed, the Bill is wholly insufficient to achieve that object. There must be a minimum punishment of imprisonment provided by replacing 'or' with 'and'. I appeal the hon. Minister to reconsider this because the menace is not a small one. Already my friend Arui a has said that the loss runs to several hundred crores of rupees. About 8 to 9 per cent of the total electricity generation in this country is lost by theft.

Next point that I want to touch is that there is a very serious effect in our planning in the generation of electricity in our country. Most of the States are suffering because of the short generation of power compared to our requirements. For example, among Southern States, Madras, Kerala and Karnataka are suffering due to severe shortage of power. Only Andhra Pradesh is slightly better off now, previously Kerala and Karnataka used to supply to Andhra Pradesh. Now, unfortunately, Kerala and Karnataka are taking electricity from Andhra Pradesh. It only shows that there is a very serious lacuna in our planning for the generation of electricity.

We have to exploit other sources of energy also like the solar energy, wind energy etc. All these can be converted at least to electrify the small villages. Even today in Andhra Pradesh itself, where there is sufficient production of electricity, hundreds

and thousands of its villages are without electricity. Electricity has now become a very essential commodity. It can now be said without any fear of contradiction that it is as essential as foodgrains. For such a commodity there should be a serious thinking. These thermal power plants; nuclear projects etc., should be expedited on a war footing to generate sufficient electric energy.

An investigation made in Himachal Pradesh has revealed that it is capable of supplying electricity to the entire country through its hydel projects.

May be higher claim, but there is certainly an element of truth in that. So we are not planning properly. How can there be industrialisation without sufficient generation of energy? The reason why Karnataka State which was surplus has become deficit is that in Bangalore there is so much concentration of industries they are not able to give the current required by these industries. The industries growth is more than the current that is generated. This fact should be taken note of.

Then, Sir, there is another provision which I would like to bring to the notice of this House. There is a provision in the Act that the Electricity Board should conduct their affairs on a no profit no loss basis. That is if a business man takes away more current by some mischief, the honest man has to pay more. Likewise, the Electricity Boards have been very callous and reckless against the honest consumer who consumes this current and pays the bills promptly. For example, in Vijayawada, there was a thermal project and that was commissioned in the year 1982. The Prime Minister was invited to open that. For that purpose they have to put up a guest house. The guest house was furnished at a cost of Rs. 5 lakhs. An interior decorator was taken all the way from Delhi to Vijayawada who was

himself paid Rs. 1,40,000 for suggesting that decoration. In this connection, I myself personally filed a writ petition. In my life that was the only writ petition that I filed. At that time I was an Advocate practising in the High Court. As a party in person I filed that writ petition to identify the person who was responsible for that callousness and then surcharge that person. All the newspapers gave two pages advertisement. The 'Indian Express', 'Hindu' and every other newspaper. The 'Hindu' has got a good habit of saying that this was an advertisement only and not anything else. I telephoned the authorities of the 'Hindu' newspaper and enquired how much the A.P.S.E.B. has paid for that one day advertisement. I was told by them that they had paid Rs. 72,000/-. Like that a few crores of rupees were spent towards advertisement. I want to know : why do they require advertisement ? Is there any competitor against this Electricity Board ? Can I purchase electricity from somebody else ? Like that some public sector undertakings, for example, Indian Airlines also got a habit of spending taxpayer's money towards advertisements very freely without any objection. They spend very callously crores and crores of rupees towards printing calendars and advertisements. If I want to come from Hyderabad or my hon. friends from Madras or Trivandrum, can we come by any other Airlines to Delhi ? Why do you pay such huge amounts towards advertisements ? I am emphasising *on* this because their affairs should be conducted as per the provision of the Act. That is on 'no loss no profit basis'. This callous expenditure should be avoided. Then I want to tell one more thing to the hon. Minister. There is a great clamour from many industries because there is a shortfall. Take for example in Bengal, Kerala and Karnataka the percentage of high tension cut is going upto 80 per cent. They are prepared to have captive generation. Even for that Government is not giving permission. When there 710 RS—10

is such a dearth why they are not giving permission ? If there is shortage of foodgrains and a man wants to produce the same in his own compound, Government won't give permission. Like that if I have an industry I want to have a captive generation, I apply for it, why do you grudge ? You are not able to supply the required electricity. In Telugu there is a proverb "The mother cannot feed the child nor she will allow the child to beg". Like that the Central Government must think about it and then allow this captive generation freely and relieve congestion so that current saved can be supplied to others. These are my suggestions.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार ने जो भारतीय विद्युत संशोधन विधेयक, 1986 प्रस्तुत किया है, मैं उसका पूर्ण समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, भारतीय विद्युत अधिनियम 1910 देश में विद्युत ऊर्जा के प्रदाय और प्रयोग के बारे में है। ऊर्जा को चोरी और विद्युत संस्थानों की दूर्घटनाओं को निरुत्साहित करने की दृष्टि से तथा ऐसे अपराधों की रोकथाम के लिए यह विधेयक अधिक कड़ा बनाया जा रहा है। इन बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए मुख्यतः अधिनियम की धारा 119 का यथोचित संशोधन करने का प्रस्ताव है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस समय देश में बिजली का उत्पादन 45 हजार मॅगावाट हो रहा है। पिछली छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में 15 हजार मॅगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन बढ़ा है और सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में भारत सरकार ने बिजली की बढ़ोतरी को प्राथमिकता दी है। लेकिन हमें इस बात का ध्यान रखना होगा कि आज बिजली विभाग में जो धांधली या ट्रांसमिशन लॉस या चोरी या भ्रष्टाचार हो रहा है इसको कैसे दूर किया जाए। इस सम्बन्ध में यह विधेयक लाया गया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहूँगा कि जितनी दण्ड की व्यवस्था की गई है उससे भी ज्यादा दण्ड की व्यवस्था

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

होनी चाहिए। क्योंकि मूझे ग्रामीण इलाकों में काम करने का मौका मिला है। बिजली विभाग में जिस पैमाने पर इस समय चोरी हो रही है उसको जितना कम किया जाए उतना ही अच्छा है। आज उत्तर प्रदेश में बिजली कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल है। मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इसमें हस्तक्षेप करे और उत्तर प्रदेश के बिजली कर्मचारियों की हो रही हड़ताल को तुरन्त खत्म करायें। क्योंकि इस समय किसानों का रोपने का समय है। अपने ट्यूबवैल के पानी का इस्तेमाल करके या पम्पिंग सैंट है, नहर है उनसे रोपाई का काम करते हैं। साठे साहब से और श्रीमती रोहतगी जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश में जो बिजली कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल चल रही है उसको आप समाप्त करने के लिए तुरन्त कार्यवाही करें। 24 घंटे के अंदर उत्तर प्रदेश के बिजली कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल समाप्त होनी चाहिए वरना उत्तर प्रदेश की आर्थिक अवस्था पर बड़ा गहरा असर पड़ेगा। ग्रामीण इलाकों में किसानों की बहुत बुरी हालत है। गांव के किसानों को बिजली की सप्लाई की जाती है नलकूप के माध्यम से। इस बिजली का 25 रुपये हार्स पावर के हिसाब से उनको देना पड़ता है। लेकिन जब वे खेतों में अपने पम्पिंग सैंटों का इस्तेमाल करते हैं तो भी उनको उतने ही रुपये के हिसाब से बिजली के दाम देने पड़ते हैं जितने जो शहरों में बिजली का उपभोग करते हैं वे देते हैं। अगर वे 24 घंटे बिजली का उपभोग करें फिर भी उतने ही रुपये हार्स पावर के हिसाब से उनसे वसूल करती है। जितनी बिजली चाहे किसान लें या मजदूर लें या इंडस्ट्री वाले लें, उद्योग वाले लें, पूंजीपति लें, या उद्योगपति लें या शहरों में उसका इस्तेमाल किया जाए तो कन्जम्प्शन के आधार पर हार्स पावर के हिसाब से पैसा लिया जाना चाहिए। शहरों में एक हार्स पावर का जितना पैसा लेते हैं उतना ही एक हार्स पावर का किसान से, गांव के किसान से कम लिया जाना चाहिए। किसान को तो अपने खेत के काम के समय ही बिजली लेनी पड़ती है, या सिंचाई के वक्त बिजली लेनी पड़ती

है। दूसरे लोग तो 24 घंटे बिजली इस्तेमाल करते हैं। किसान सीजन के वक्त इस्तेमाल करते हैं और सीजन के वक्त बिजली की सप्लाई कम हो जाती है। उनको 24 घंटे बिजली नहीं मिलती। यह एनामली दूर करने के लिए सरकार को कदम उठाना चाहिए।

श्री सीताराम केशरी : कैसे कदम हों, यह बता दीजिए।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : जितने भी प्रदेश में बिजली बोर्ड हैं उन सब बोर्डों में घाटा चल रहा है। जितने भी प्रदेशों में बिजली बोर्ड हैं वे घाटे में चल रहे हैं और उत्तर प्रदेश का जो बिजली बोर्ड है उसमें बिजली का उत्पादन सबसे कम होता है इसका क्या कारण है। बिरला, टाटा और बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपति हैं उनके बिजली स्टेशनों में तो 90 प्रतिशत, 99 प्रतिशत तक बिजली का जनरेशन होता है जबकि हमारे पावर स्टेशन में जो बिजली का उत्पादन होता है वह 33 प्रतिशत, 40 प्रतिशत और कहीं-कहीं 45 प्रतिशत होता है। यह देखना चाहिए कि इन बोर्डों को कैसे ठीक किया जाए, ये स्टेशन कैसे ठीक से चलें। और उनसे ज्यादा से ज्यादा बिजली का जनरेशन हो ताकि हमारे देश में जो बिजली की कमी है वह दूर की जा सके। बिजली से ही कृषि और औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में हम तरक्की कर सकते हैं। बिजली पर ही इन दोनों चीजों का विकास निर्भर है। मैं यह भी बताना चाहता हूँ कि अमेरिका में केवल एटॉमिक एनर्जी से 1 लाख मेगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन होता है। डेढ़ लाख मेगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन थर्मल पावर से होता है। डेढ़ लाख मेगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक योजनाओं से होता है। इस प्रकार से अमेरिका के अंदर चार लाख मेगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन होता है। अमेरिका की आबादी केवल 24 करोड़ है और हमारे देश की आबादी 70 करोड़ है। अगर हमारी बिजली का उत्पादन केवल 45 हजार मेगावाट है। ऐसी स्थिति में हमारे देश में कृषि और औद्योगिक जगत में तरक्की करने के लिए यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि बिजली का उत्पादन बढ़ाया जाए। हमें अपनी योजनाओं में सबसे ज्यादा प्राथमिकता बिजली

उत्पादन कर्षे देने की चाहिए। सबसे ज्यादा सस्ती बिजली हाईड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक योजनाओं से मिलती है। उसके बाद एटोमिक एनर्जी से मिलती है। हम कल्पाक्कम, कोटा में और नरौरा में इस प्रकार के प्लांट लगा रहे हैं। भारत की सरकार से मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश में जिन स्थानों पर हाईड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक से बिजली जेनरेट की जा सकती है वहाँ पर इसके लिए प्रयास किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि यह सबसे ज्यादा सस्ती बिजली होती है। हमारे मित्र कह रहे थे कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में इस प्रकार की बिजली का उत्पादन सबसे ज्यादा हो सकता है। हिमाचल प्रदेश में हाईड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक योजनाओं से 12 हजार से 15 हजार मेगावाट तक बिजली का उत्पादन हो सकता है। आज पंजाब में थर्मल पावर स्टेशन लगाए जा रहे हैं। पंजाब में कोयला नहीं है। कोयला धनबाद से आया। पंजाब में इन योजनाओं के लिए इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर भी नहीं है। इसका परिणाम यह होगा कि उपभोक्ताओं को महंगी बिजली मिलेगी। इसकी विपरीत अगर हिमाचल प्रदेश में हाईड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक योजनाओं के द्वारा पंजाब में बिजली पहुँचाई जाएगी तो वह सस्ती भी होगी और पंजाब के हिमाचल प्रदेश के नजदीक होने के कारण बिजली आसानी से उपलब्ध हो सकेगी। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन यह है कि हमें अपने देश में हाईड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक योजनाओं के द्वारा बिजली का उत्पादन बढ़ाने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए।

इसके साथ-साथ मैं आपका ध्यान टोहरी डैम की तरफ भी दिलाना चाहता हूँ। सन् 1962 से इस डैम की योजना चल रही है। मेरा सुझाव है कि नेपाल से निकलने वाली नदियों पर इस प्रकार के डैम बनाए जायें। करनाली, घाघरा और राप्ती नदियों पर डैम बनाए जायें। अगर आप इन नदियों पर डैम बनाएंगे तो जहाँ हमारे देश में बिजली का उत्पादन बढ़ाया जा सकता है वहाँ हम उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और पश्चिमी बंगाल को बाढ़ से भी बचा सकते हैं। एटोमिक एनर्जी कमिशन के चेयरमैन श्री सेठना ने एक बार कहा था कि इन योजनाओं से 50 हजार मेगावाट बिजली पैदा की जा सकती है। भालू डैम, टोहरी डैम,

करनाली डैम और पंचेदरी डैम से हम बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में बिजली पैदा कर सकते हैं। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि हमें अपने देश में हाईड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक योजनाओं पर ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिए और इन डैमों को बनाने में प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए।

जहाँ तक बिजली विभाग में चोरियों का संबंध है, मैं समझता हूँ कि इन चोरियों में सबसे बड़ा हाथ बिजली विभाग के कर्म-चारियों का होता है। बड़े से बड़े अधिकारी और छोटे से छोटे अधिकारी का इसमें हाथ होता है। उनके सहयोग के बिना ये चोरियाँ नहीं हो सकती हैं। चाहे बिजली विभाग में वस्तुएं खरीदने का शवाज हो या अन्य कोई काम हो, उसमें इन कर्म-चारियों का सबसे बड़ा हाथ होता है। इस बारे में मेरा सुझाव यह है कि जब आप बिजली विभाग में किसी भी अधिकारी या कर्मचारी को नियुक्त करें तो उनकी सम्पत्ति का ब्यौरा भी प्राप्त करें। चाहे कोई छोटा इंजीनियर हो या बड़ा इंजीनियर हो, सुपरिंटेंडिंग इंजीनियर हो या एक्जीक्यूटिव इंजीनियर हो, उनसे उनकी सम्पत्ति का ब्यौरा माँगा जाना चाहिए। चाहे इंस्पेक्टर हो या लाइनमैन हो, उन सबसे उनकी सम्पत्ति का ब्यौरा माँगा जाना चाहिए। अगर आप सब करायें तो पता चलगा कि बिजली विभाग की आर्थिक स्थिति से अधिक दौलत इन सरकारी कर्मचारियों के पास है। इसको रोकने के लिए सरकार को प्रयास करना चाहिए। सिर्फ कानून बना देने से यह राक्षस समाप्त होने वाला नहीं है।

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, ट्रांसमिशन लास इतना क्यों होता है, इस ओर सरकार का ध्यान जाना चाहिए कि बिजली की चोरी इतनी क्यों होती है। आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश के जो बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपति हैं, जो बड़े-बड़े घराने हैं जो बिजली का भारी मात्रा में उपभोग करते हैं, मैं अच्छी तरह से जानता हूँ कि वे दो मेगावाट बिजली का उपभोग करते हैं और एक मेगावाट बिजली चुरा लेते हैं। जो बड़े-बड़े इंडस्ट्रियल हाउसेस हैं, बड़े-बड़े प्राइवेट सेक्टर में काम करने वाली इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, ये देश के बड़े-बड़े उद्योगधंधों को चलाने वाले लोग हैं वे जितना बिजली का उपभोग करते हैं उसमें से

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

मुश्किल से 30 प्रतिशत या 40 प्रतिशत बिजली का दाम देते हैं और बाकी बिजली वे खुद पचा जाते हैं। ये लोग बिजली विभाग के जो कर्मचारी हैं उनसे मिल जाते हैं और बिजली विभाग के कर्मचारी उनसे पैसा लेकर उस बिजली को अपने यहां डाई-वर्ट कर देते हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार को विशेष जांच-पड़ताल करनी चाहिए और इसकी जानकारी करनी चाहिए कि जो स्माल स्कूल इंस्टीट्यूट हैं, मीडियम साइज इंस्टीट्यूट हैं या बगि इंस्टीट्यूट हैं जिनका कि बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपति चलाते हैं, इन बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपतियों के बारे में मैं जानता हूँ। उत्तर प्रदेश में एक मंत्री ने एक बहुत बड़े पूंजीपति को कि 90 लाख रुपये की बिजली की चोरी किया करते थे उसको पकड़ने में कामयाबी हासिल की थी। इस तरह की चीजें पूरे देश में पैमाने पर व्याप्त हैं। इस चोरी में इन लोगों के साथ बिजली विभाग के लोग शामिल हैं। इसलिये मेरा अनुरोध है कि सरकार को इस दिशा में पहल करनी चाहिए। आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, दूसरी बात मुझे निवेदन करनी है कि हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण को प्राथमिकता दे रही है। लेकिन यह ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण कहां हो रहा है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सन्तोष कुमार साहू) :
अब समाप्त कीजिये।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : गांव में रहने वाले किसानों, मजदूरों या गांव के उपभोक्ताओं को कितने मिनट बिजली मिलती है, इस पर भी सरकार को एक सर्वे करना चाहिए। आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश की पूरी अर्थ व्यवस्था की बुनियाद खंती है। हिन्दुस्तान की पूरी अर्थव्यवस्था का निर्माण हिन्दुस्तान के 60 लाख गांवों के माध्यम से होता है। जब तक हिन्दुस्तान के गांव विकसित नहीं होंगे, हिन्दुस्तान का कृषि उद्योग विकसित नहीं होगा, कृषि पर आधारित उद्योग-धंधे विकसित नहीं होंगे तब तक यह देश विकसित नहीं हो सकता।

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे देश के नेता श्री राजीव गांधी की अध्यक्षता

में सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना का मसौदा पेश हुआ है। उसमें उत्पादन, उत्पादकता और बरोजगारी को प्राथमिकता दी गई है। हमारी सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना का मुख्य लक्ष्य प्रोडक्शन, प्रोडक्टिविटी और अम्प्लाइमेंट है। लेकिन मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाते हैं हिन्दुस्तान में खेत और हिन्दुस्तान के गांव। हिन्दुस्तान की उत्पादकता को बढ़ाने की दिशा में खेती पर आधारित उद्योग धंधे बढ़ाने के लिये या हिन्दुस्तान के 60 लाख गांवों में बिजली पहुंचाने के लिये जितनी मात्रा में बिजली की आवश्यकता है उसकी पूर्ति नहीं हो पा रही है। आज गांवों की हालत यह हो गई है कि जो वहां पर सम्पन्न लोग हैं वे गांव छोड़कर दिल्ली की तरफ भाग रहे हैं, बड़े-बड़े शहरों की तरफ भाग रहे हैं। वे क्यों भाग रहे हैं? वे इसलिये भाग रहे हैं क्योंकि गांवों में उनको सुविधायें प्राप्त नहीं हैं। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इसीलिये आज गांवों की जनसंख्या घट रही है। वे लोग दिल्ली, कलकत्ता, बम्बई और छोटे-छोटे शहरों की तरफ भाग रहे हैं। जो अर्बनाइजेशन मुल्क में हो रहा है, जो जीवन की सुविधायें इन बड़े-बड़े शहरों में उपलब्ध हैं वह उन्हें वहां प्राप्त नहीं हैं। इसलिये जो भी सम्पन्न लोग गांवों में हैं वे वहां से भाग रहे हैं। इसलिये मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यहां की जो बुनियादी जरूरतें हैं उनको पूरा कीजिये, उनको बिजली की सप्लाई दीजिये और गांवों को...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सन्तोष कुमार साहू) :
अब आप खतम कीजिये।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : गांव में रहने वाले किसानों या गांव में काम करने वाले जो मजदूर हैं सरकार उनको यह गारंटी दे कि उनको कम से कम आठ घंटे बिजली की सप्लाई होगी। यदि आप देश में उत्पादन बढ़ाना चाहते हैं, उत्पादकता को बढ़ाना चाहते हैं और चाहते हैं कि गांव के लाखों-करोड़ों नाजवान गांव छोड़कर शहरों में रोजी-रोटी की तलाश में दर-दर की ओकर न लायें तो आप बिजली विभाग में इस ढंग से सुधार करें जिससे गांवों में कूटीर धंधे

स्थापित हो सके, गांवों में कृषि का विकास हो और वहां पर कृषि पर आधारित उद्योग धंधे खुल सकें और इस तरह से गांवों का आधुनिकीकरण किया जाय। आधुनिकीकरण का आधार है बिजली। लेंनिन ने कहा था कि समाजवाद का आधार है बिजली। लेंनिन ने कहा था कि समाजवाद और बिजली ये दो रिबर्स एंड दि कॉन्वर्स आफ दि सेम क्वाइन हैं, ये एक ही सिक्के के दो पहलू हैं। हमारी सरकार देश में समाजवाद की स्थापना करना चाहती है। हम लोग समाजवाद के माध्यम से हिन्दुस्तान को विकसित करना चाहते हैं। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में जितने बिजली बोर्ड हैं सबका एक नेशनल ग्रिड बनाया जाए, पूरे देश की बिजली का एक नेशनल ग्रिड बनाया जाय और देश की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार बिजली का वितरण किया जाय ताकि पूरे हिन्दुस्तान का चतुर्दिक और सर्वांगीण विकास किया जा सके। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : Now, Dr. Vijaya Mohan Reddy

DR VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, just as our friend has just now explained, electricity is our lifeline and the villages are very important. We sometimes forget the villages. But we remember them at least now.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : At least what ?

DR. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: At least now, that is, while speaking. Otherwise we forget them.

Sir, my predecessor, Shri Babul

had very categorically stated that this punishment is a kind of leverage so that a person can escape with only a fine. This particular point has been emphasised and I also agree. But I would like to submit that this Bill will not serve any purpose if this suggestion is not taken seriously because, as our friend has pointed out, pilferage is to the tune

of hundreds of crores of rupees and the big shots have escaped for the past so many years and now also they will escape. After all, the value of our rupee is only 10 P. and amount of five thousand rupees is nothing for them. Even if you make fifty thousand rupees, is it going to be nothing and it is not going to stop the pilferage that is going on now.

There is another point which I would like to emphasise and it is about rural electrification. Andhra Pradesh was the first State to fix a flat rate of fifty rupees per HP for the agriculturists. If a farmer uses 5 HP, for the entire year he pays only Rs. 250/- and he can have two or three crops. This was a great relief to the agriculturists there and they are now coming forward to use electricity to the maximum extent. But the planning was deficient. Energy is produced, but the distribution channel has not been made effective. As I said earlier, the villagers were forgotten and now great efforts are being made to see that the villagers, especially the agricultural people, weaker sections with community wells and all these are getting the power supply. And Sir, our Government has waived about Rs. 2/- crores of arrears with retrospective effect from 1983 onwards. This also was a great boon and relief to the agriculturists. Supply or distribution of power to the villages is very important. The Government of India should see that the meters, capacitors, wire etc. are supplied to the States properly. Even the power that is produced should be properly distributed amongst all the States so that there will be kind of resurgent economy, especially in the agricultural sector, because it has been emphatically stated that it is the groundwater that will have to come to the rescue of the people in all the drought-affected or drought-prone areas, where irrigation project* will not be in a position to help. That is why I say that the agriculturists should be uppermost in the

[Dr. Vijaya Mohan Reddy] the mind of the Government and they must get the foremost consideration. When we take up supply to well irrigation naturally, the business like thinking should not be there and we must be able to lay two or three poles more and reach the agriculturists. They should try to see that he is encouraged to make use of the energy. Therefore, a kind of flat rate should be fixed so that every agriculturist will be in a position to make use of this source of energy. It is very important. It will bring civilisation to the villages. It will bring in the transformation which our friend was aspiring. This will change the life of the villages and encourage agro-based industries to be dispersed which is very necessary for the prosperity of our country. Therefore, lot of emphasis will have to be paid by the Government to power generation. There should be power generation from all sources solar, nuclear etc. and it should be distributed in such a way that every State gets the benefit out of this power generation. There was a projects for giving nuclear power station to Aihdra Pradesh at Nagajuna Sagar. It was promised. It has been referred to by the Andhra Pradesh Government and the Government of India is sleeping over it and they give no reply.

DR. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY :

श्री कल्याण राव : आपकी सरकार को भी करना चाहिए ।

That is all right. We will definitely do it. We are a self-reliant State. We are building a self-reliant economy. We do not grudge taking upon ourselves even that kind of a responsibility if it is to be done through our own resources. If the

Government of India thinks that nuclear energy can be mobilised by the State resources, then we will be the first State to have such a scheme and programme.

About the functioning of electricity boards, I would say that there is a lot of contractor system which is being maintained by them. They employ thousands of workers. The workers are made to work and the bills are made in the name of contractors. Grores and crores of rupees are pilfered in *benami* transactions. I think the Government of India should awaken to this contractor system. In electricity boards, it is 100 per cent. Unless it is wiped out, there will not be any justice and you will not be able to control the agitation of the electricity workers simply because you are encouraging the contractor system and not showing proper respect which is due to the electricity board employees.

Sir, I have mentioned all these points for the consideration of the Government. I once more emphatically state that unless imprisonment for a minimum of 5 years is there, the pilferage will go on because the big shots who are pilfering 10 percent of our energy production in the country will not stop doing it. Even when they are caught, they will try to entangle some lower echelon person and some managerial officer and the major culprit will escape. Even this amendment will become iriructuous because the Government will not be able to stop the pilferage of electricity. That is why, I think the Bill cannot be accepted. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : Mr. B. Narayanasamy. Will you like to speak tomorrow? I adjourn the House till 11 o'clock tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 22nd July, 1986.