

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Shri Pranab Mukherjee will be able to give you the true picture.

SHRI V. P. SATHE: . . . the mechanism is our own inspectorate which goes to check. It was found in 1977 and 1978, that is during the previous regime, that the figures given by both the Satyayug and the Hindusthan Standard were correct. Now, later check has not yet been done because of the paucity of staff. In the whole country, for these 14,000 odd newspapers, we have very limited staff to do the later check. So that has not been done, and, therefore, these figures are there.

Another issue that my friend raised was whether the newsprint allocation can be connected with the type of publication. May I say honestly that I do not think that will be correct at all? Soft or good, lighthearted or serious type of printing that the newspapers do, is a matter entirely to be left to them and I do not think Government can do anything in that matter in any way, how they use newsprint for advertisement, to influence, the type of their printing, whether it is light-hearted or serious-hearted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, question No. 262.

श्री जे० के० जैन : मेरा सप्लीमेंटरी है। मैं बड़ी देर से हाथ उठा रहा था, मेरी सप्लीमेंटरी इसी के बारे में है। सर, आप पीछे वालों की तरफ ध्यान रखें।

श्री सभापति : मैं यहां नाम नोट करता जाता हूँ जिसका हाथ देखता हूँ। पीछे वाले जल्दी हाथ उठाएँ तो ज्यादा मेहरबानी होगी। अब बैठ जाइये।
You are too late. I have ruled question No. 262 now.

SHRI PILOO MODY: He has been deprived of a short notice; give him the opportunity today, though it is a bad practice.

श्री सभापति : हमारे यहां ला से कहते हैं: *Diligentia non dormiantibus.* That is those who are vigilant and not sleeping get the assistance. I am writing down the names now.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Writing down names is a bad practice.

श्री जे० के० जैन : हम यहां पहले से हाथ उठा रहे थे आपने देखा नहीं।

श्री सभापति : मैं देख चुका हूँ। हर दफे देख चुका हूँ . . . (Interruptions).
वहां बटन दबाने का बचाव।

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, You should announce the name, not the question No.

श्री हरी शंकर भागड़ा : मेरा सुझाव है कि आप कृपया सदस्य का नाम बोलें। आप उठकर सिर्फ नाम पुकारें।

श्री सभापति : जो एक दफा कह दिया तो कह दिया।

श्री हरी शंकर भागड़ा : मैं नाम बोलने के लिए कहने खड़ा हुआ हूँ। आप संख्या की बजाय सदस्य का नाम बोलिए।

*262, [The questioner (Shri M. S. Ramachandran) was absent. For answers vide col. 82—84 infra.]..

Sick Thermal Power Units

*263. **SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN:**

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE:†

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revamp the sick thermal power units;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ramakrishna Hegde.

(b) whether Government also propose to invite foreign expertise in this connection; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) It has been recognised that re-organisation of the management of thermal power stations is required to affect the necessary improvements. The Committee on Power set up by Government (under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajadhyaksha, Ex-member of the Planning Commission) has examined all aspects connected with management of thermal power stations and steps necessary to affect the improvement and is expected to submit their report shortly.

Inter-disciplinary teams of experts from Central Electricity Authority, Bharat Heavy Electricals, Instrumentation Limited, Kota, Consultants and the project authorities have been assisting the various power stations, whose performances have not been satisfactory, in identifying the deficiencies in designs, plant and equipment, operation and maintenance procedures etc. suggesting remedial measures required for attaining satisfactory levels of performance of thermal generating units. Assistance of foreign experts for this purpose is also obtained where considered necessary.

A team of West German experts had made a study of the power stations at Badarpur, Chandrapura and Kothagudem and gave recommendations for improving their performance. A Working Level team of

West German experts had also recently completed a demonstration assignment for the implementation of some of these recommendations at Badarpur thermal power station. Assistance of Czechoslovak experts is being taken for improving the Czech units at Ennore thermal power station with a view to attaining their full rated capacity; and assistance of Russian experts is being sought with the same objective for the Russian units at Patratu power station. The services of experts from U.K. is also being obtained for assisting in the implementation of the plant betterment programme being undertaken by DVC for improving the performance of generating units at Chandrapura and Durgapur thermal power stations of Damodar Valley Corporation.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government has put any time limit in regard to restoring the original capacity of these power plants?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: I could not follow. Will the hon. Member repeat?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: May I know whether the Government has put any time limit before which all these power plants will be restored to their original capacity?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: The power plants are in the State sector but we are sending teams everywhere as early as possible and they are trying to help them.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Kindly repeat.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: He was not audible.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: I said the power plants are in the State sector and we are sending teams and we

are trying to expedite the process of renovation and help which we are rendering.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE:

I would like to know: What is the time-limit? You are saying that you are trying to do this. We have been getting this reply for quite sometime. I would like to know whether the Government seriously propose to put a time-limit because of the shortage, the terrible power shortage, in the country.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: We want to cover most of the plants before the next summer, that is, before April.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-

KARNI: Sir, the hon. Minister has made a general statement here. It may be applicable to any thermal plant, in regard to any sickness which any plant may have. The questioner has asked about the thermal plants and their sickness. The hon. Minister should have mentioned here what type of sickness is going to be attended to. In this connection, I would like to ask him specifically, whether he is aware that in Maharashtra, out of the three thermal plants, namely at Chandrapur, Nasik and the third one near the Jalgaon area, two plants are usually closed down for want of workmanship in the machinery supplied by the public sector units. There also, some foreigners were called, some foreign expertise has made use of, some spares had been supplied and so on. But the basic point is that this is a design defect and the public sector unit at Hyderabad has supplied this unit to Maharashtra whereby a persistent outage takes place in power generation. As a result of this, the consumers, especially, the industries suffer and production also suffers. Out of the 67 per cent power shortage, 30 per cent power shortage has been due to the sickness in these thermal plants at Chandrapur and Nasik. I would like to know what the hon.

Minister has to say about it. The hon. Minister has given only a general reply. They say here, they want to have a grid and take over the State units and so on. Will the hon. Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a general question which has been asked. Now, you are actually entering into the field of the sickness of the thermal plants.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-
KARNI: The question is just like asking. 'How is the weather?' It may be said 'It is very nice'. But I may be suffering from scorching heat and you may be in an air-conditioned room. The weather is not nice for both.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are asking about the sickness. It may be anything from flu to cancer.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-
KARNI: Flu to cancer. That is why, you know, the hon. Minister should have been careful. He is an Energy Minister. He should have some energy at least. He should have some resource to reply to this question. The question is, is he aware that in Maharashtra, because of this design defect, the power plants were closed and are being closed many times? He should tell us how this defect would be removed and how these plants can be commissioned again on a permanent basis. Who will suffer for the losses incurred by the State Governments? Along with this, the bad quality of the coal which has been supplied, where the ash content is larger, has created the sickness to a very large extent all over the country. That is why, the State Electricity Boards are not prepared to purchase these units manufactured at Hyderabad. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister agrees with this. If he agrees, he should tell us what are the reasons and what solution he has in mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is rather encyclopaedic question.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: It may be encyclopaedic to you. But he is supposed to be a technocrat and he should reply to this question. You, Sir, as a judge, may look at it from a different point of view. But here, because of the closure of the power houses in Maharashtra, the industries suffer and crores of rupees are lost. It is a problem for me. It may not be a problem for you.

SHRI HARISINH BHAGUBAVA MAHIDA: Please sit down. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Why should I sit down? Mr. Mahida, it is between me and the Chair. Why should you worry? Let the Minister reply.

SHRI V. P. SATHE: The Chair is paying compliments to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I will stand by what he says, excepting what he says.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: Sir, may I read the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please answer the question.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: The Question No. 263 that is put to me reads:

"whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revamp the sick thermal power units;

and whether Government also propose to invite foreign expertise in this connection?"

So, Sir, it is a general question dealing with the entire country. (*Interruptions*). I have not finished. Why do you want to interrupt? (*Interruptions*). This is the question

and I have not said that I will not reply to it.

Now the question put by the hon. Member is about the Maharashtra plants. Sir, we have received certain complaints from Maharashtra regarding the equipment defects which are regarding boilers, burners, fans, economisers, dampers, coal mills, turbo-generators, boiler feed pumps, loosening of emergency stop valve segments, intermediate pressure control valves, automatic voltage regulators, barring gears, steam ejectors, etc. The State Electricity Board, Maharashtra, has not complained that any of their power plant has been stopped because of the defective equipment, but they have only said that these are the defects and we are trying to help them. At the same time, the loss that they have complained of, is of about Rs. 39 crores, not hundreds of crores as mentioned by the hon. Member. So far as defective coal is concerned, the complaint is, it is one of the factors, not the only factor and we are trying to improve the coal supply.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: What type of reply has he given? Could you follow it? I could not follow it excepting that he has accepted that there was a complaint of design defect. Now he admits that the design defect was there, but they have not complained of its stoppage. How can they complain of its stoppage? After all, the State Government belongs to their own party at the Centre. How can they complain? It is the consumer who has to complain. It is me as a consumer who is complaining. Do you want to say that the plant did not stop functioning?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, see my position. I cannot control your question because you object to it. I cannot control his answer because he will object to that also. So, I will leave you free to get reply as

you like. The Minister is here and you are also here.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Here, Sir, you are a referee and we are the wrestlers, you must know it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But when I shout 'fault', 'fault', you flare up like a thermal station.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: My question is very precise. As the Minister knows, I am a member on the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Energy and Coal. I have been on the Consultative Committee since 1969 and he is in the habit of giving very loose answers for which we have to draw the attention of the Chairman several times. Is he aware that I am chairman of the DVC Mazdoor Union also? The Minister of Energy has declared DVC as a sick thermal power station. Bokaro, Chadrapura and Durgapur; he himself has said, "They are sick, particularly Chadrapura." Why has it become sick which is in their own set-up? Other power stations are under States and you can say that it is their responsibility, you cannot intervene, but what has happened in your own internal homeland, as DVC, which has to supply 90 per cent of power to the entire Jharia and Asansol coal belt, Durgapur and other steel plants?

SHRI PILOO MODY: Is the Cabinet Minister also sick?

SHRI KALYAN ROY: No, no, Mr. Mody, it is a very serious question. He has said about Chadrapura that the services of experts from U.K. are also being obtained. Is he aware that an expert committee went to Chadrapura three years back, made an exhaustive study and gave a report to the Government which they are afraid of disclosing? What is the report, when was it given and by what time this Government prepared to disclose it before the House?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: Sir, so far as the report is concerned, we have sought the assistance of UK experts and the report is still awaited.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: When was the report received? How long will you take to consider it?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: It is still awaited.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: You say there is no report?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: I am still repeating it is still awaited. So far as the performance is concerned, it is true that the performance of the DVC is poor. But it is picking up and since December, 1979 to August, 1980, it has picked up by 300 MW. It was about 200 MW in December, 1979 and is approximately 500 MW today. It is improving but there are difficulties. There are trade unions and one of the major reasons is the inter-union rivalry, for which the hon. Member is . . .

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Mr. Mahajan, you are unfit to be the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yadav. Mr. Hegde, you have already asked. You have to thank Mr. Kulkarni for butting in.

श्री हुस्मदेव नारायण यादव : सभापति महोदय, मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो पिछड़े हुए इलाके देश के अन्दर हैं वहाँ विद्युत का उत्पादन जितना कम हो रहा है, वहाँ पर उस इलाके का विकास भी उतना ही कम हो रहा है। विद्युत का उत्पादन जितना खर्चीला है, पिछड़े हुए राज्यों की सरकारों के पास इतनी पूंजी नहीं है कि वह उनको पुनर्जीवित कर सकें या उसमें नयी पूंजी लगा सकें। जैसे कि बिहार जैसे प्रान्त के लिए यह असम्भव है कि नयी पूंजी:

लगा कर, नये थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बना कर या पुरानों को फिर चालू करें। तो मेरा कहना यह है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ऐसे पिछड़े हुए प्रदेशों के लिए विशेष सुविधा देने के लिए वहां के इन स्टेशनों को अपने हाथ में ले और अधिक से अधिक बिजली के उत्पादन के लिए वहां नये अधिक क्षमता वाले पावर प्लांट्स बनावे जिससे वहां का विकास हो सके। क्या सरकार इसके बारे में भी सोचती है या नहीं?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: So far as the latter part of the question is concerned, the Central Government is setting up new power plants in Bihar. One of these is at Kahlgaon which will be in the Central sector. Similarly, we are setting up super thermal stations in Bihar. At the same time, so far as old plants are concerned, we are sending expert teams to Bihar so that the plants there can pick up. It is true that the plant-load-factor in Bihar is extremely poor—rather the lowest in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Morarka. I cannot go on. I have got my list already finished.

SHRI PILOO MODY: As I said, it is a bad practice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : सभापति महोदय, अगर हिन्दी में सवाल पूछा जाता है तो मंत्री लोगों से हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि हिन्दी में जवाब दिये जाए।

श्री सभापति : रूल तो नहीं है मगर जहां तक हो सके करना चाहिए।

SHRI R. R. MORARKA: From the statement, it appears that the experts have been called from West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Russia and the U.K. I would like to know what the actual nature of the sickness is and how far the doctors have been effective to control the sickness or remedy or cure it.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: So far as sickness is concerned, we have sent teams and they deal with the questions of whether the instruments have been properly put up there, whether they have been not used, or they are defective. They look up the maintenance problems; they look up the water chemistry problems of the plant. Then they examine the various leakages in the plants regarding water, oil etc., the boiler operation, the lay-outs in the construction of plants and the question of management. These are the problems which they look up. And excepting for the German team, other reports are awaited. The Czechoslovak team has not given the report so far; the U.K. team's report is still awaited. The only team which has given the report is the German team and we are trying to implement it.

*264. [The questioner (Shri Kalraj Mishra) was absent. For answer vide Col. 84 infra].

*265. [The questioner (Shri R. Mohanarangam) was absent. For answer vide col. 85 infra].

Coal reserves in the Raigarh coal field of Madhya Pradesh

*266. **SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:**

SHRI J. K. JAIN:†

SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of proved coal reserves in the Raigarh coalfields of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any quantity of coal from the above coalfields is being arranged for the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board's proposed Raigarh Thermal Power Station; and

(c) what is the quantity of coal to be supplied from the above coal fields

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri S. K. Jain.