

[Shri Devendra Nath Dwivedi]

I would urge upon Mr. George Fernandes to resign if he has a modicum of decency. I would also request the Prime Minister to demand the resignation of Mr. George Fernandes if he has any self-respect.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS (Assam): Sir, the Ministry of Energy deals with two subjects, namely, coal and power. I have gone through the reports, for whatever worth these reports are. Generally, I do not like these reports of various Ministries, because they do not indicate any direction in which the Government is moving or the country is to move. These reports are only some collections of statistics—nothing more than that. Anyway I have gone through them and I will point out certain facts which I have picked up from these reports.

Take, for example, production of coal. In the first 11 months of 1977-78 the production was 90.64 million tonnes. During the first eleven months of 1978-79 the figure is 90.76 million tonnes. Thus, there is no progress at all so far as production of coal is concerned, as compared to the last year.

Now, the despatches. In the first 11 months of 1977-78 the figure was 90.32 million tonnes. For the 11 months of 1978-79 the figure is 86.74 million tonnes. There is thus a fall in despatches.

What about pit-head stocks? Stocks at every pit-head have gone up. In April 1979 the stocks were 14.06 million tonnes. This figure includes coal for Railways, coal for thermal power, coal of metallurgical grade for steel plants, and so on. But this indicates that pit-head stocks are mounting and the movement of coal has slowed down. Sir, this is the point to which I want to draw the attention of the Minister.

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Now, take demand and production. Demand and production, so far, do not indicate any progress. The progress is not encouraging at all. But they have projected a production in 1982-83 at 160.05 million tonnes and the demand they have projected at 150.50 million tonnes. I do not know the basis of this calculation. But if we take into account the progress made so far, it does not inspire any confidence.

Between 1974-75 and 1978-79 about 27.47 lakh tonnes of furnace oil valued at Rs. 183.93 crores have been saved through substitution of coal. Now that is also held up. The reason given is that railway transport is responsible for that, or it is something like that. But the fact is that saving of furnace oil has been held up at the moment.

Now the financial position of coal India Limited. It continues to incur losses. I will come to this later on.

The reserve of coal is 83,600 million tonnes and the reserve of lignite is 2,100 million tonnes. That is good reserve. Another 27,000 million tonnes of reserve have been assessed or estimated, if the seam thickness is extended to 0.5 meter and the depth upto 1,200 meters. But for greater depth exploration, you will require deeper mining technology and that has not been evolved up till now. For this reason perhaps there is this talk of import of coking coal. As a matter of fact, the Steel Minister was in trouble the other day at the Janata Party meeting when he said that coking coal should be imported. There was a lot of trouble the other day. If so much stock is there as reserves, I do not understand why they are talking of importing coking coal at all. Now, of course, they have taken up more projects for development of coal further.

Now, the coal distribution problem. The daily average loading given in the report is a little misleading. The daily average loading of wagons at 7600 is the lowest this year during the last four years. It was 8380 in 1977-78, 8167 in 1976-77 and 7960 in 1975-76. There is a little movement of coal by coastal shipping. It is subsidised of course from the excise duty levied on coal. But that will not make up the deficit. By road and ship, 30 m.t. in 1978-79 was moved, and in 1977-78 it was 29 m.t. But this is unlikely to pick up because of price hike of diesel. This will not help us very much. Unless 35 to 40 per cent increase takes place in loading, even 98 m.t. against the target of 106 m.t. is not likely to be lifted to the consuming centres. This is my calculation.

Now, the coking coal requirement for steel plants is estimated at 16.68 m.t., against which the supply up to the end of December 1978 was about 10.34 m.t. The trouble is bottleneck in transport. Bottlenecks in transport of coal to steel plants and power stations are causing serious concern to everybody. Coking coal shortage has compelled steel plants to cut down production and conserve coking coal. This is the result of lack of supply to the steel plants. Power stations, of course, have shown some increase. I do not understand it. They have said that the Central Electricity Authority's assessment of coal requirement for 1978-79 is 32.96 m.t. and pespatches up to December 33.50 m.t. I doubt it. I question this figure as given in the report. I doubt it extremely. If these figures were true, why this power crisis?

Now I come to coal prices. Since 1975, when partial price increase was announced, the prices of inputs like cement, steel, power and explosives used by coal companies have gone

up manifold. The Companies' cumulative losses are Rs. 380 to Rs. 390 crores. The price formula does not take into account the depreciation and return on investment. The latest estimate of pithead cost is Rs. 85 per tonne, whereas the price per tonne is Rs. 64 at the pithead. Therefore, these problems arise. There was the Baveja Committee which recommended a moratorium for five years to be given to companies on interest and loan repayments. What has happened to those recommendations, we do not know.

Now, Sir, a few remarks about power. Again, the figures are conflicting. I do not know why. For example, the total installed capacity today is reported to be 29,000 MW. In 1982-83, the total has been estimated to come up to between 41,000 and 42,000 MW. That is the assessment. The Hon. Minister announced on April 28, 1979, that additional power to the extent of 40,000 MW will be produced in ten years. This is a very tall promise and it inspires people. But I do not believe it. On what basis has he made his calculation? This is the position about installed capacity today. But here I would like to make a mention about hydle power assessment. Particularly the assessment for the North Eastern region. The hydle potential of the entire North Eastern region, i.e. Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram, has been assessed to be 12,000 MW. I repeat that it is an expert opinion and I can produce papers. But the figures of our Government are that in the North Eastern region, they hope to have an installed capacity of 401 MW only by 1982-83. My friend, Dinesh Goswami, spoke at length on this the other day. In spite of that, the report says that by 1982-83, they want to develop only to the extent of 401 MW. This is the sad situation. This is the kind of treatment that the Government is giving to the North Eastern Region.

The additional capacity installed in the year 1978-79 is 3022 MW. It falls short of the target already fixed by 835 MW. This is another fact which does not inspire confidence. The actual capacity installed is 3022 MW and there is a shortfall of 835 MW. The Minister says that we shall have another 40,000 MW in another ten years. How can we believe the statistics given by the Ministry?

There are several sources of power development. Of course, while deciding on sources and making arrangements for development of the sources, we will have to take into consideration the availability of physical resources, geographical distribution and economic viability. Mainly, our sources are coal and hydro up till now. The installed capacity of hydro in March, 1978 was 10,000 MW. It has contributed 38,000 million KWH. That is 41.2 per cent of the overall power generation and the contribution from the thermal side is 56.4 per cent. The contribution from Tarapore is 2.4 per cent. The installed capacity or planned capacity is 640 MW in RAPS and Tarapore, both taken together.

All the thermal sources taken together use 29.8 million tonnes of coal for power generation. This consumption was expected to rise to 31 million tonnes in 1978-79. Lignite is also used. The geological surveys indicate large oil and gas potential in the country. But the proved reserves are small. In 1977, proved and indicated balance of recoverable reserves of oil was 303 million tonnes and the indicated reserves of gas were 230 billion cubic metres. And the total indigenous production in 1977 was 10.19 million tonnes of oil and 2,726 million cubic metres of gas. And that indicates how slow is the progress. Extremely slow is the progress. At least, this resource has not been fully exploited or adequate progress has not been made in that direction.

So far as hydro power is concerned, according to the survey of 1960, the potential was 40,000 MW. Subsequent studies and investigations indicate that the potential may be higher. But, again, I will point out that these surveys and investigations have been concentrated mainly in the Northern region or the Southern region or the Western region, but nothing has been done in the North-Eastern region at all so far as the investigation is concerned. And that is a very important point which the Minister, I think, will take note of.

Sir, a quick assessment by the Central Electric Authority indicates the hydro potential to be 76,200 million KW at 60 per cent load factor. This is again from different regions. In the Northern region, it is encouraging; in the Eastern region, it is encouraging; in the Western region, of course, the hydel potential is not there and so, it is not encouraging there. In the Southern region, it is encouraging. But again, in the North-Eastern region, the assessment made is not encouraging at all. The hydel potential assessed today is 76,200 MW. And the potential developed so far is 7,613 MW, and the potential under development is 5,190.95 MW. So, the potential developed and the potential under development, both together will be 12,804 MW only out of a total assessment of 76,200 MW made by the Central Electric Authority.

Sir, let us come to the nuclear situation. We have only one completed nuclear power station at Tarapur. And the Tarapur atomic power station was installed in 1969. One unit of the Rajasthan atomic power station is complete and the other is under construction. The Madras atomic power station and the Narora atomic power station are not yet complete. The Tarapur power station is in trouble and everybody knows it. Everybody knows that the Tarapur power station is in trouble because of the American attitude. I do not know

[Shri Bipinpal Das]

what they are going to do. Now the news has come that the Madras plant is in trouble because the French Government is also adopting a similar attitude as the United States Government. Sir, you remember that in this House, we were shouting and shouting that the Government must think of substitute fuels and that we must not depend all the time on foreign countries' supply. And here is the problem. Tarapur is already there; it is one headache. Now there is another headache regarding the Madras plant.

Sir, I now come to the solar energy. Solar energy is very important. As a matter of fact, Sir, all energy arises from the sun. No kind of energy is there which is not ultimately derived from the sun. But still, directly from the sun, we can derive energy. Sunshine is abundant in this country. And, Sir, some work has been done, some research has been carried on by the universities, the research institutions and so on, and I do not go into that. And I do not want to repeat what has been given already. But I want to point out that apart from what you have reported in this document regarding tapping the solar energy, you have not laid adequate emphasis on solar pumpset and the solar basket. Of these two items, the solar basket has not been mentioned at all. The sun basket, as it is called, is capable of cooking rice in ten minutes and chicken in 20 minutes, and it will cost only Rs. 45. This is the report from the West. But there is no mention at all about that in your report. So far as solar pumpset is concerned, some demonstration was made at Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad. Some proto-types of this particular solar pumpset are currently manufactured by the Solar Electric International Limited based on the Isle of Man in the USA and it follows the principle of conversion of energy through photo-voltaic cells. This can be

used for lift-irrigation purposes and it can generate energy upto 250 Watts which is one third of the horse power. Solar energy can also be used for solar water heaters which have become popular in the households of the United States of America.

And a 10 KW system can 3 P.M. be used for village electrification. Now, some efforts are being made in the U.S.A. to develop 5 M.W. system out of the solar energy, but several difficulties have been encountered.

Now, they have also mentioned something about the bio-gas. I am not going into that, the gobar gas plants and that kind of a thing, which can be run with organic waste like animal dung, vegetable waste, human night soil, and so on. I do not want to go into that. But up till now only small plants for family use have been manufactured. For achieving economy and also to accelerate and maximise development of the bio-gas potential large-sized plants are essential for a whole village or a community, and this is not impossible. It is possible. I do not know whether any investigation or research is going on in this direction.

Then, there is the geo-thermal energy which is derived from hot springs and in our country the Pughla valley in Ladakh and the Parbati valley in Himachal are more pronounced in the availability of hot springs. But enough energy has not yet been developed out of it. In fact, no energy has practically been developed.

Now, so far as the tidal power is concerned, nothing has been done. (Interruptions). Do not be impatient. I will come to that. In the case of tidal power some investigation has been carried on, but nothing much has come out of it. It is reported that the tidal power can be developed in the Gulf of Kutch and the Gulf of

Cambay and also in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal but nothing particular has been developed in this field. Perhaps it is because of the high initial cost and other technical and economic problems.

Now the wind power for the vast area, according to the Report, of our country cannot be harnessed for the production of electricity. But there are some places where it can be done and an integrated rural development project is in progress, particularly in U.P. in collaboration with the Netherlands.

Sir, one thing they have not mentioned in their report. I do not know whether the Ministry of Energy has come across this idea, which is called the OTEC, which means the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion. The principle of OTEC is utilisation of the difference in temperature at the surface of the ocean water and the temperature at a depth of 900 metres. The surface temperature varies from 27°C to 29°C and at the depth of 900 metres it varies from 4.5°C to 7.2°C. This difference in temperature has been utilised in the U. S. A. to produce energy and this is what is called the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion and this has not been mentioned at all here. I do not know whether the Ministry of Energy will take this into consideration and see that some research is encouraged in this direction because it is a 24-hour a day source of energy.

Mr. Ramachandran, again you are not listening to me.

This is what is called OTEC. It is a 24-hour a day source of energy. It does not depend upon night or day, or morning or evening. This is the importance about OTEC, and of all the oceanic sources of energy, OTEC has a great overall potential.

Now, in the direction of rural electrification some progress has been made but not enough. Much more progress should have been made in the direction of rural electrification.

Now, I come to power crisis. After having made my comments on the Report of the Ministry, let me come to power crisis. The worst example of power crisis in the country is what is happening today in West Bengal. Sir, I was in Calcutta for two days, just to experience for myself what was happening. Horrible. Calcutta has become a hell. Even the last evening's report is that it has not improved. Sir, the worst manifestation of this crisis in West Bengal is that the Government granted a six-day holiday to industries, asked the industries to remain shut down for six days, because they could not supply power.

Have you heard of it? West Bengal Government itself is doing that. With a drastic power cut, industrial activity is practically paralysed and other consumers are suffering hell. It is not only in Bengal, mind you. Don't imagine that it is only in Bengal. It is happening in Bihar, in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Assam. There also, power cuts have been imposed. So the power cuts are almost everywhere but Bengal has been the worst-affected.

Every year, there is a shortfall in the generating capacity. There is low utilisation of the capacity. Heavy loss in transmission and distribution, non-utilisation of capacity, poor maintenance and frequent breakdowns are some of the causes why this crisis in Bengal has developed and also in the eastern region as a whole.

Sir, last year, power generation increased by only two per cent in the entire eastern region whereas in the rest of the country, it was 13 per cent. How do you explain this? Sir, in the West Bengal State Electricity Board, there is not a single member who can be really called a power expert or a power engineer. There is none. All generalists and bureaucrats are dominating the entire Electricity Board.

[Shri Bipinpal Das]

They know nothing. There is complete mismanagement. And this is another reason why there is no improvement. Apart from that, there is political interference and union rivalries. These are the various reasons.

Now, Sir, I will summarise. The basic causes of the West Bengal crisis are, according to me, five. Complete mismanagement by the Government, complete mismanagement by the electricity board, extremely bad maintenance—rather no maintenance at all—, political interference and rivalry among the unions and the Board itself being dominated by the bureaucrats with hardly anybody who can be called an engineer or an electricity expert, are the causes.

Sir, about Maharashtra, he has mentioned. In Gujarat also, they are suffering from coal shortage. These things are happening everywhere. Several other States are having the power crisis although it may not be to the extent West Bengal is having. One of the reasons advanced is that there is wagons shortage. According to the Energy Minister himself—if I can quote him—the gap between the demand and supply of wagons is 1200 per day. They themselves said it. So, don't try to defend the Railway Minister here. In the Calling Attention he tried to defend the Railway Minister. But he himself said that the gap between the demand and supply of wagons per day is 1200. I do not know how you are going to solve this problem. That means there is a wide gap in planning for the wagons availability and wagons movement. That means lack of co-ordination between the two Ministries, the Railways and the Energy Ministry. That is the only explanation that we can have. So, there is a shortfall in plan targets. That has become a regular feature now in every plan.

I would like to point out to the Minister that more dependence on hydel power is not desirable because of its dependence on monsoons. Coal

supply has become highly irregular and undependable. The high ash content also is creating a serious problem in some thermal plants. Switchover from coal to fuel oil is unthinkable because of pricehike again. So, a permanent solution lies on utilisation of the optimum capacity. The State Electricity Boards must be thoroughly re-vamped and reorganised and experts must be placed there and its working should be streamlined. Sir, the Electricity Act of 1948 stipulated that the Board should be managed by professionals. It has said that it should be manned by power engineers and run on quasicommercial lines, invested with wide powers.

Sir, the Administrative Reforms Commission made a recommendation that experienced power generation and distribution engineers alone should be appointed to the Electricity Boards. The recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission on the one hand and the requirements of the Electricity Act, 1948 on the other, both have been ignored everywhere. Have you done something about it? Have you instructed the State Governments about them? Have you called a conference of the concerned people? There should be standing instructions to the Electricity Boards. If these are not done, I do not know how things will progress. Most of the State Electricity Boards are forced to supply power at rates which have absolutely no relation to the cost of generation, and without subsidy from the State Governments. I warn: the West Bengal crisis must be taken as a lesson by everybody in the country, by all the States in the country. If sufficient and adequate steps are not taken from now onwards, right from now, some other States will also face the same crisis as West Bengal is facing now.

Sir, regarding the atomic power plants one point I would like to mention and that is, there is an escalation

of cost in all the atomic power projects, not in one, but in all of them. There is cost escalation in the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, first unit and second unit; first and second units of the Madras Plant; both units of the Narora plant, in the Tarapur Plant, in the Tuticorin Heavy Water Plant, in the Talcher Heavy Water Plant, in the Baroda and Kota plants, in the Fast Breeder Test Reactor Project in Madras, in the Radio Metallurgy Laboratory at Kalpakkam and in the Radio Chemistry Laboratory at Kalpakkam. Everywhere the cost has been revised substantially. Why? The reasons are: The cost of equipment has gone up. Then, there are changes and modifications in the plants on the advice of the collaborators. And that is why the cost has gone up. All along the line, the cost assessment has been revised of the atomic power plants. The cost of equipments has gone up—I can understand that. But what about the changes and modifications done on the advice of the collaborators? That means, the whole thing was not properly planned in the beginning itself. There was no imaginative planning; there was unimaginative planning. Or the collaborators are trying to play politics; they are trying to have more profits. Once the plant construction starts, they come and suggest this and that; they say, do not do this, do that. And you are compelled to do it. This is the game played by the collaborators, and the entire cost has gone up. This is very bad, this is very unfortunate.

I now come to the question of policy. I am sorry that nothing definite has been mentioned in the report about the Energy Policy. Sir, may I read out a very interesting thing?

"The policy as accepted by Government in May, 1978 envisages:—

(i) Coal as the principal source of energy to the extent practicable and economic;

(ii) Achieving self-reliance in oil to the extent possible by

maximising indigenous production and reducing imports and consumption;

(iii) Conservation of energy and energy resources;

(iv) Priority for meeting rural energy needs;

(v) Research and development activities to develop new sources of energy; and

(vi) Adequate monitoring of implementation of the energy policy and its review frequently."

This is the policy statement of the Janata Government in regard to energy. With all respect to you, Mr. Ramachandran, and to your Government, my son who is a student of the 12th class, can also write down these sentences. If a school boy can write down these few sentences, is it any policy? And there is no mention of hydel power at all in this policy formulation. These few sentences can be written by anybody. It does not require the exercise of any knowledge. This is a sad commentary on the performance of the Janata Government.

Then, Sir, about the recent oil price hike, what is the reaction of the Government? The reaction was shown by the Finance Minister by raising the excise duty. That was the reaction. In 1973-74 we raised the price of oil and for same time the consumption went down and then again it picked up. So, excise duty and price hike on petrol and petroleum products are no deterrent. So, this simplistic step again he has taken and this will not help. We did it in 1974 and they have done it again. This will not help. High-speed diesel is needed for transport and transport is the biggest bottleneck today in the country. Therefore, ultimately price hike will not help the economy as a whole.

Substantial saving in high-speed diesel can be achieved by introducing

the latest gadgets. Please note that substantial savings in high speed diesel can be achieved by introducing the latest gadgets, like micro electronic chips to ensure controlled fuel injection and optimum fuel-air mixture. This has been experimented, this has been done elsewhere. I do not know why we are not trying all these things. There is a strong case for making the above mandatory for all vehicles using high-speed diesel. Import of technology for manufacturing high performance engines is also necessary. The Heavy Industry Department claims that the use of modern high performance car engine can reduce petrol consumption by one-third. Why not you try that also? Why not you do something about it? Practically, no research has so far been done to develop introduction of alcohol-petrol mixture as a fuel for automobiles. Alcohol to be mixed with petrol should not be produced from maize and sugarcane because that will be very costly. The price will be very high. Therefore, it must be produced from molasses and that will bring the cost to 60 paise per litre. This has been done in other countries. We should try it here also. There are large new reserves of off-shore natural gas, but not much has been done for its use as a source of energy. This may be used as a substitute for coking coal for steel plants. The biggest failure so far is in the field of domestic fuel. Soft coke can be a good substitute for kerosene and cooking gas. Sir, this is a very sensitive proposition, but this may be examined. The pricing policy has been not to encourage substitution by soft coke. I agree, because in terms of calorific value the cooking gas is the cheapest, kerosene is the next and the soft coke is most expensive. That is true. But the price range could be reversed by making soft coke the cheapest by raising the cost of cooking gas and kerosene. This is also subject to the condition that soft coke is made available in plenty. I have made a sensitive proposition, but then this may be

examined in the interest of the overall energy picture of the country today.

Sir, newly perfected smokeless coal is costlier than soft coke. The success of the R & D is in designing a new kerosene stove which saves fuel by 25 per cent. Now it is proposed to reserve the new kerosene stove for the small scale sector. I would ask Mr. Ramachandran to ask the Industry Minister not to reserve the new stove for the small scale sector. The cost will go up. Therefore, it should be kept in the medium sector. These are certain things which I place before the house.

(Time bell rings)

Now, since you have rung the bell, I am going to conclude. Regarding the use of coal, though it is available in abundance, it is restricted by environmental considerations. Until economically viable methods are developed for making coal a clean and versatile fuel, we cannot depend too much on coal.

Now, I come to the associated gas which comes out with oil. Sir, whether you have visited my State I do not know, but if you visit my State you will see in the entire oil fields of Assam that associated gas has been burning freely for the last 15 years or so. How many millions of cubic ft., I do not know and nothing has been done to tap this source for power generation. A more promising source, according to Dr. Sethna and according to the President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, ultimately is nuclear energy and that must be kept in mind.

Now, as I have said already, you have done something about the gobar gas and other such plants and you should also try to do something for cheap devices of solar energy. Finally, I shall conclude by saying this. The whole subject is really a little

complicated technologically. I am not blaming the Janata Government alone; I blame my Government also. My regret is this. Uptil now there has been no proper plan or strategy for the development of the energy needs of this country. Policies flow out of a plan and strategy. Unfortunately, the previous Government followed *ad hoc* policies; the present Government also is following *ad hoc* policies. Let us have a long term plan and strategy, and policies will flow out of these. Hence, there is need to draw up a 20 year plan upto 2000 A.D., and in drawing up that plan, I would suggest for your consideration, for the consideration of the Government and the House that the following elements and factors should be taken into consideration: (a) an assessment of the total requirements of energy for the whole country by 2000 A.D.; (b) a correct assessment of various resources of energy available and possible of development in the country; (c) a correct assessment of the potential of each such source; (d) geographical distribution of these resources; (e) technological feasibility of development of each such source for energy; (f) cost of production in each case; (g) which energy can be used for what purpose and allotments must be made accordingly; (h) targets must be fixed—annual targets, 5-yearly targets—in the context of the overall 20 year plan; (i) transport arrangements must be perfected, particularly for movement of coal. There is a suggestion as to why not use electricity for running the trains so that the trains can carry more coal to the power plants. Of course, it is a complicated question: how to produce electricity without coal and how to carry coal speedily and smoothly without electricity. I only place this question for examination and scrutiny. Then, transmission lines must be lasting, effective and foolproof against all hazards. Allowance must be made against natural calamities. R & D activities must be further geared up.

And there should be one national power grid. I am glad, Sir, that regional power grids are coming up. But more active steps should be taken to have the national power grid. And taking all these elements and factors into consideration, draw up a plan, Mr. Ramachandran. Before you run away from this Ministry, please take this up in your hands. Start doing it. Drawing up a 20 year plan, taking all these factors into consideration so that we may not suffer from power crises every year and may be able to meet the requirements of the future generation. Thank you very much.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO (Orissa): Sir, the List of Business shows at the end—"to raise a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Energy". I am told it has already been renamed as the Ministry of 'Gloom'. How is it printed as 'Ministry of Energy'?

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, the entire world is facing the energy crisis for more than two decades. The scientists say that the world will be literally dark in 200 to 300 years. But darkness descended on West Bengal much earlier. Only recently the city of Calcutta was turned into a living hell. The offices were closed. The hospitals were closed. The mills were closed. There was nothing which was open. Why? Because the power crisis was moving towards the climax, towards zero.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Shri Arvind Ganesh Kulkarni) in the Chair]

This is an unprecedented phenomenon and I am afraid this will be repeated again and again because this Government does not have any vision. This Government does not have any policy about energy. That is the basic fallacy about this Government.

Sir, even a man like Mr. Satyajit Ray had to say that he will have to

leave Calcutta because he cannot produce films in darkness and nobody can see films in darkness. But this Government, sitting at the Centre, is living in the dark.

SHRI DAVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): They have made a big dark room.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: This Government at the Centre, though an ally of the Government in West Bengal, took very little interest. On paper almost everything was said but very little was done. Rather some State Governments came to the rescue of West Bengal and helped them. I do not want to politicalise the issue although it is a political issue. But I will not say much on this. How is it, Sir, that Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana which forms the grid are also facing a similar crisis?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): Where?

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will you kindly listen to me because I will put certain facts from the report of Estimates Committee, may be the Estimates Committee of the previous Government. The fact is that the energy crisis is the crisis not of conscience, not of human soul but of the matter of which this world is composed or made of. As you deal with the matter it will produce the thing. And man deals with matter. And these are men and women dealing with matter at the electricity boards, and they are failing in their duty. As Mr. Bipinpal Das very rightly observed, these are human failures. Mr. Jyoti Basu also said categorically that it was a man-made crisis. It has been everywhere because these people cannot cope with the modern situation. Only recently a small country like Britain had to offer, I think, to Mr. Ramachandran that they will train our Indian Engineers. I do not know whether it is a matter of pride or shame for India. But I would only

say that our engineers and our scientists are extremely talented. They are no less than the scientists belonging to any other country. So one should not go after foreign countries. I think that they should be given the proper freedom and the proper environment to work. Now they are working under bureaucrats. Hence this power crisis and power failures.

Sir, one can understand power failure in West Bengal because it is a highly industrialised State. There is a lot of industrial growth. But what is the explanation for the power crisis in Bihar which is a backward State? One can understand that there is over consumption or demand for more consumption in Calcutta. But it is difficult to understand the crisis in small towns, in what you call *kasbas* in Bihar. Bihar is an extremely backward State. So it means that the failure is all round. Sir, on the one hand, this Government has said, "We will use electricity for the growth of industry as well as for agriculture." But it is neither being used for the proper growth of industry nor for the proper growth of agriculture. Rather some industrialists, some unscrupulous elements, are imposing their own views on the Government and the Government is acceding to their demands. So, Sir, I want to put this question in a broader perspective so that it is properly understood. It is not a question of mere energy. It is a question of what type of society we want to build. Sir, we are trying to build a consumer society. We are trying to build a society composed of petty bourgeois. We want to have aristocrats. We want to have upstarts. We want to have those people who can thrive on wrong means, who can have maximum domestic consumption of power, who can have disproportionate economic growth. This is the type of society we want to build. It is but natural that the distribution of energy will also be unequal. It is but natural that

the villages, although we will talk of rural electrification, will remain dark and the cities will glitter. So, Sir, it is quite natural it is logical. So, I do not blame poor Mr. Ramachandran. I blame this Government which is composed...

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): Of which, he is a part.

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH (Bihar): Why poor Mr. Ramachandran? He is the Energy Minister.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: He has hardly any voice. You see, there are only two voices. One is a quack economist; the other is a quack doctor. One is a Deputy Prime Minister, and the other is the Prime Minister. This Government does not have a vision. The society is crumbling. It is not a question of harnessing the energy for a section of the society. But today what is happening is, whatever is the production of power, whatever is the production of coal, whatever is the production of non-conventional energy, it is being harnessed for a certain class. Sir, I am not a Marxist, but there are certain things which have to be interpreted, which may not be very palatable to the present Government.

Then, Sir, Mr. Ramachandran has often said that the picture in the coming years is not going to be so dismal as it appears to be. And I think his Secretary has also observed similarly somewhere in the report when he went into the evidence two years ago. [But the Estimates Committee's report says that the power supply position would remain critical even after 1982. On what basis do you say that the power position will improve in six months or four months? Every day you are cheating one Chief Minister or the other saying that the power position is going to improve. What is the basis? What is your calculation?

Then, Sir, I have already mentioned that the Government lacks trained personnel. Not only the Secretariat but the Electricity Boards are manned by the bureaucrats who are hardly competent to manage this. So I suggest that the Government should do some reorganisation and impose their views on the State Governments also that all the Electricity Boards should have more and more engineers and technical personnel so that these boards are properly managed, and there is no breakdown of power. Because, you never know when power is going to break down. Then, in a modern economy energy is used for three or four purposes; for heat, lighting, provision of motive power and electrolysis. Energy is important for almost everything. Without energy the modern society cannot exist. You are not living in a Gandhian society. I would prefer that this Government accepts Gandhian economy; then there won't be energy crisis; then there won't be that sort of pressure on energy. But you have not accepted that model. You have accepted another model. Then you have to accept the technology and the pressures of technology, and then you have to harness the necessary resources of energy, because neither in your domestic consumption nor in the industrial sector can you survive unless there is power. And power is related to coal and coal is related to power. And it is all related to wagons, the availability of wagons on which our friend, Mr. Kalyan Roy, has often enlightened this House. The whole thing has become a vicious circle, that wagons are not available for the supply of coal; and then without coal the trains cannot run, and unless the trains run, there is no electricity. In the entire country it has become a vicious circle. And what is coal production? Out of 77.90 million tonnes of coal produced in 1970-71 66 million tonnes were used for non-energy purposes. That means only about 11 million tonnes were used for energy purposes. This is something fantastic. I can-

not understand how much waste there is in this country. I must confess that production of coal has gone up in the last 70 years. In 1900 it was 6 million tonnes. Now it is about 80 million tonnes. So the country has produced more, not because of the Congress Party or the Janata Party but because of on its one, because of the people, because of the manpower, because of the will to survive, to live, to prosper. But when the Government, when the Ministers do not give any vision, any insight into it, what can the country do, what can the labour do, what can the people do? They can only move directionless. So I would say mere emphasis on growth or production is not enough. A similar emphasis should be laid on distribution. Our distribution machinery should be streamlined. It should be seen that it reaches everybody.

Then I come to Coal India Limited. We know how Coal India Limited is functioning. In this House often it has been the subject of criticism. Their officers—and I do not want to be very critical of them, I do not want to name them—I will only say, should come out of their ivory tower and face the reality. I will give an example. During the last three years we have been trying our best pressing the present Government—and the last Government also—that the office of the Western Coalfields should be shifted from Nagpur to Bilaspur because there are collieries and it is an important centre. But then this demand is not being accepted only because the son and the daughter of a certain official in Nagpur are studying in a public school while in Bilaspur there is no public school. A public school is much more important than a colliery, a public school is much more important than the Korba thermal plant, and a nearby station, Bhilai is not more important than the future of the daughter and the son of an officer. The attitude of the officers must change. Unless

the attitude changes, you cannot expect that the functioning of the Ministry—which is very dismal—will change.

I would say that we are living in a strange age, where great men have small alternatives and small men have great alternatives. It is a strange age. This is the truth. There are various alternatives to the conventional sources of energy. Some of them have been mentioned by my colleague, Shri Bipinpal Das. Some have been listed. I am of the firm opinion that our solar energy or gobar gas plant is not going to yield any result. The only real alternative to energy is nuclear energy. We are living in the twentieth century and we are going to enter the twenty-first century. You will face greater challenges in future. You will face countries which are already ahead of you. You will face challenges which you can never imagine. You are not going to face these challenges with your gobar gas or solar energy. Gobar gas is all right as a good gesture. Solar energy is good for boys and kids. But the modern alternative is nuclear energy. It is very unfortunate that the nuclear energy got a set back under the present regime because this Government is composed of fantastic minds. This Government wants to take the country back to medieval ages. They do not have any conceptual understanding of the situation. They do not have any understanding of the world we are living in.

I would say that we must develop nuclear energy at any cost because other energies will dry up very soon. You will not be there. I will not be there. But posterity will be there. What is the legacy we will leave behind for their benefit? We should not give them any opportunity to apportion blame on us.

Although this subject does not concern my friend, Mr. Ramachandran, I want him to convey this feeling to his Government. They must

understand that there is no alternative except nuclear energy and therefore we must develop it at any cost.

I want to conclude with a passage from the Estimates Committee report, 1977-78 which is a comment on you and the national policy on energy and the functioning of your Ministry. Despite the fact that you have remained in power for more than two years, you have not been able to evolve a national policy on energy. What is required is this. The passage reads like this:—

It appears to the Committee that there is some mix-up between having a national power policy and national energy, policy. While admittedly, power being the source of energy, it would be covered by national energy policy, the Committee have to point out that the Government as such have not brought out any white paper or official document spelling out in detail, even the national energy policy.

It is a sad commentary. What more can I say? I can only say that this Government does not have any policy on anything and therefore they have no policy on energy also. The Government is incapable of taking any decision. I do not want to politicise it and I am not doing that. But the issue is related to politics and with the autonomy of the States. Once again I appeal to the Minister to accept the concrete suggestions made here and more will be coming forth and appoint a committee of experts to evolve a national policy on energy.

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, today we had a Calling Attention on Energy this morning.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): You have ten minutes.

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: They were criticising this

Government. Now they are also criticising. We have to find out whether this Ministry was better than the previous Ministry. We have to judge this only on the basis of performance. Till 1976-77, electricity produced was 89 billion units. Sir, now, in 1978-79, within two years, it has increased to 103 billion units. That shows 14 billion units increase. The Opposition is not taking this into consideration. The increase is there. But consumption is also there. New industries have come up. Many people are starting industries. We are not taking into consideration the consumption in 1977. In 1979 the consumption increase is there. So the increase in production is also there. But, Sir, the Government have planned to produce 18,500 billion units during the Fifth Five Year Plan. They are increasing the production. In some places we have shortages. What is happening in West Bengal? One thing is certain. The agitators cannot be administrators. That has been proved. You encourage the labourers. You encourage them to agitate. What is happening now? The CPM is facing the music. What is happening in units where electricity is produced. The workers say: This engineer is not required by us, you change that engineer. The Chief Minister told them: You change the engineer. The result is that they are not producing electricity to their capacity. That is why there is a shortage of electricity in West Bengal. I am not only blaming West Bengal. Take Bihar also. It is the same thing there. In Bihar also, the units are not able to produce according to the capacity. They are also having labour trouble, and they are also not able to produce according to the capacity. This is the position.

SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR (Maharashtra): Let me point out to him that in Maharashtra where there is no labour trouble, generators are not producing... (Interruptions) It is not fair that you blame the working class and trade unions for this.

Don't make them a scapegoat.....
(Interruptions) There is no co-ordination that is the issue.

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: In Maharashtra there may be a shortage of coal, but in West Bengal and in Bihar there is no shortage of coal. There is labour trouble. They are not working up to the capacity. Now, Sir, this shows that the management is not properly done. Where Electricity Board Chairmen are appointed on political grounds, there is bad work; there the production is not up to the mark. Where they have appointed Chairman in the interests of the Electricity Boards, they are producing very well.

Take the case of Andhra Pradesh. Two or three years ago, we had shortage of electricity. For agricultural purposes, we used to get on alternate days for two or three hours only. But they appointed Mr. Kaka Rao as the Electricity Board Chairman. He was with the Madhya Pradesh Government. His services were taken and Mr. Vengal Rao, the then Chief Minister, brought him to Andhra Pradesh. He is a proper man. He has done very good work. In three years, the position is different. Now we supply electricity to Madras, Karnataka and Orissa. This shows that if you have the proper management, then there is no trouble. If you do not have the proper management, there is trouble. The States which have trouble are blaming the Central Government. The Central Government is not responsible for the appointment of the Chairman of Electricity Boards. The State Governments are responsible. Will the State Governments entrust the responsibility of appointing Chairman of Electricity Boards to the Central Government? I am not talking about Maharashtra. Their case is different. I will come to that later on. If the States are to throw the responsibility on the Central Government, will they allow the Central Government to appoint Chairman of the Electricity Boards and the Chief Engineers? If

this is done, then only we can blame the Central Government. Otherwise, we have no right to blame the Central Government. The State Governments are responsible and if the appointments are made on political grounds, they have to suffer and the Central Government cannot be responsible for that.

About Maharashtra, I will say that there is very good management there. But there is shortage of coal. If there is shortage of coal, nobody can help. Only the movement has to be helped. Therefore, I come to Railways now.

SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: The Energy Minister does not accept that there is shortage of coal. They are inserting huge advertisements in the press to make it known that there is no shortage of coal and spending huge amounts. But you say that there is shortage of coal. What is the truth? Minister says that there is no shortage of coal.

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: I am a Member of the Energy Consultative Committee. There is plenty of coal at the pitheads. But this has to be transported. (Interruptions) As I said earlier, in West Bengal or anywhere else, the rulers cannot be the agitators. The same thing can be applied to my party. Mr. George Fernandes and Mr. Madhu Dandavate were the railway leaders previously and now they are not in a position to control them.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Prime Minister became an agitator for a while. He was arrested.

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: If you plead on their behalf for their rights, then it is your duty also to ask them to work. But you don't ask them to work. There was go-slow going on. The wagons are not moving. (Interruptions) These wagons were moving previously. But now they are not moving. What is the trouble? The trouble is that nobody is taking the responsibility. I can say that there is plenty of coal. A few days back, the Energy Minister asked

the Members of Parliament who are Members of Energy Consultative Committee, to go and see for themselves whether the statement of the Minister is correct or not. Some of us will be visiting the coal fields very soon, from the 25th to the 30th of this month. Then we will know the truth. There is plenty of coal. But there is no movement. For that, somebody has to take the responsibility and see that the trains move and the wagons move and the coal is supplied to the needy people.

SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: Mr. Naidu, you are a member of the Consultative Committee on Energy. I am just making a suggestion. You can ask the Energy Ministry to take over the movement of wagons from the coal pitheads to certain fixed points. As you know, the Port Trusts have a separate railway system. They move the goods from the docks to certain fixed points. So, in order to avoid this problem, let the Energy Ministry move the wagons from the pitheads to certain fixed points. From there, the responsibility for the movement can be taken by the Railways, and the responsibility can be fixed. You please make that suggestion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): Sir, will you allow Mr. Naidu to have his say? If there are any clarifications, the Minister is there to clarify them.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA (Uttar Pradesh): He is making a useful suggestion. What objection Dr. Sinha has, I do not know.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): I just want to request the House and particularly the Janata Party Members one thing. The Chair here is to regulate the business of the House and not to solve the intra-party feuds.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: You have to judge who is interrupting and who is contributing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Mr. Bhattacharya, whatever you want to say, you can say it through the Minister.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Mr. Bagaitkar is making a suggestion. Where the Minister will come in?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Do not interrupt the Member on your party lines or whatever it is. It is the Minister or the Party which has to manage those things. It is not for the Chair. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: There is no dispute in the party.

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: So, Sir, when the coal is there, it has to be moved. For that, the Government has to find a way. The Minister of Energy and the Minister of Railways have to find a way so that coal is moved properly. If this is not done the trouble will be there.

Sir, the Government is contemplating the Kalpakkam plant at Madras. They have constructed the unit but there is no fuel for it. It has been planned to produce electricity. If they procure the fuel it can be run and it will supply electricity even to West Bengal. The Minister of Energy must talk to the Prime Minister and see that the fuel is acquired somehow from outside. They must see to it that the Kalpakkam unit runs and produces electricity.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Have you concluded?

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: No Sir. They are interrupting from behind. What to do?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Mr. Naidu, that is the perpetual problem of your Party. How can I help you? Either you reply to them or you sit down. What can I do? I will call the next speaker.

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Sir, regarding the coal fields also, I have got a complaint. Sir, there were some enquiries against some officers. From the enquiries, it was proved that they committed some mistake. Instead of giving them some punishment, they were given promotions. And they are encouraging the officers to commit more mistake. Sir, we have brought this to the notice of the Minister in the Consultative Committee meetings. We requested him to look into this matter. Whoever is responsible for giving them promotions must be asked to explain. Explanations must be called from them. If they are not able to take action against them, that means, they are encouraging the entire staff to commit mistakes so that they can get promotions.

This is the way they are doing things regarding the management of coal from pitheads to the railway sidings. previously there was a contract system, I was told. I do not know whether it is working properly or not. Now, the labourers want that the Government itself must undertake that work also I do not know whether that will work or not. If the contract system is working well, let it be continued. If the contract system is not working then the Government must have their own transport system for removing coal from pit-heads to railway sidings. If this is not done, there will be trouble. (Time bell rings)

Now, this morning you were telling and here my friends are telling about the position in Maharashtra. The Minister must see that coal is moved to Maharashtra.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, coming from the coal belt, I must say that I feel depressed to participate in this kind of a debate because I am speaking only on coal. Sir, we discuss coal only in relation to shortages, or when there is a stock or when the wagons are not available. Sir, we discuss miners when they are dead or destroyed in accidents and the Ministers rush

and photographs appear in papers. We do not discuss miners when they are alive.

Sir, today we are facing one of the biggest strikes in the country, a strike which we do not want, a strike which we want to avoid, a strike which has been thrust on us. Sir, unfortunately, the five Central trade unions, the AITUC, the INTUC, the CITU, the HMS and the BMS, have jointly given a strike notice of an indefinite strike to start in all the coal mines throughout the country on and from the 18th of this month ten days from today. I say, it has been thrust on us. Sir, on the 5th there was a total strike, a token strike, all over the country in order to show the Government, the people and Parliament the anguish and the anger which were accumulating in the hearts of 6,00,000 coal miners who go down the pits every day to see that the country moves. Sir, they are discriminated against they are a pitiable lot. In all other countries, Sir, all over the world, it is the miners, the coal miners who get the best wages, salaries, amenities and housing. These 600,000 workers risk their life every day. There is no doubt that they are doing the most hazardous the most risky and the most dangerous work. A miner, when he goes down the pit, is not sure whether he will come back. Sir, I can give only a few statistics which have been distributed by the Ministry of Labour. Since 1975, when the miners had the last wage increase, till today, they did not have a single wage increase or increase in amenities or fringe benefits. In the mean time, every thing has gone up, including the D.A. of Members of Parliament, including the pension which has been given to us. Thanks to Shrimati Indira Gandhi and the emergency. But the miners did not have a single paisa rise, Mr. Naidu should know, since 1975. And yet, Sir, since 1975, till today, how many miners have been killed in accidents? Nearly 2,000. Even in the Indo-Pakistan war not so many people lost their lives. In 1975 those who lost their lives numbered 664, in 1976 they numbered

294, in 1977 they numbered 237 and in 1978 they numbered 164. The actual figures will be more because these figures are only provisional once. Now, how many people have been seriously injured and serious injury means permanent crippling throughout ones life, i.e., he is unfit for work or get any work in this country. In 1975 their number was 2,211, in 1976 they numbered 1877 in 1977, up to October, their number was 1824 and up to October 1978 they numbered 1582. This is the type of work they have to do, which requires constant vigilance underground in suffocating mines, in gassy mines, with water up to their neck when they have to crawl in mines.

They have to crawl for miles to reach the working face. In other countries when the miner goes down, he is taken by a transport for two miles, two and a half or three miles to reach the working face. Here he has to crawl for miles to reach the working face. Just see his condition, his position and his health when he has to crawl up to the surface again. All over the world, underground lighting is perfect. But here there is hardly any underground lighting; there is no proper and adequate ventilation. An ILO delegation came about eight years back and they said that only an Indian miner can work in these conditions and no other civilised human being can work in these conditions. This is the condition of the miners underground. And all over the world, more or less, the situation is same. The Parliament should remember that our coal which was near the surface has been exhausted and we are going deeper and deeper inside where the roof is shaky, where there is more gas, where there is more danger to life. Just think of what happened in Chasnalla. Within half a second, 396 human beings were washed away. Even a man who sits at the pit bottom and who gives signal, could not escape. Such was the fury of the flood which affected the mine. And who were responsible? All senior officers were responsible.

So many disasters took place after the Janata Government came. Not that things have suddenly deteriorated. Things deteriorated even before the Janata Government came. See the disasters at Chasnalla, Kesargarh, Silwara. And even this year started for the miners not with good news. In January 1979 a disaster took place in Assam, at Bargolai. There was an explosion and 14 miners were killed and 16 injured. Such is the type of conditions.

All over the world, the miners are getting the highest wages. And I believe, Sir, a latest agreement has been entered into by the British miners and the British National Coal Board. I am reading from the Economist which appeared on 3rd March, 1979. According to it, a total 16 per cent increase for the miners will leave the miners unchallenged with the top wages. The average earning for the underground workers have risen to over 120 pounds a week. The coal industry of U.K. was already expecting 250 millions of subsidy from the Government before this week's wage bill to cover the losses in 1979-80 and the pay increase would add 130 million pounds to the Board's labour cost. In other words, the National Coal Board was losing heavily. In spite of that, they had to enter into an agreement with the union and the British Government is subsidising heavily. Show me one country, Mr. Naidu, where the mines are running in profit. Are they making profit in West Germany? Are they making profit in France? Are they making profit in Belgium? Are they making profit in United Kingdom? Nor are they making profits in U.S.A. But because of captive mines in the steel plants, they are managing. Nowhere do the mines make profits. It is foolish, ridiculous and idiotic to talk that the mines should make profit. You have to invest more to secure the roof, to preserve the health of the workers, to properly stabilise the surface because not only are the mines underground dangerous but because of exhaustion

and extraction of coal, even the surface becomes shaky. Go and see what happened in Jharia. Fire is raging all over the area. See the condition in Asansol, in Raniganj and other places. Everywhere the condition is same. You find the boards there on which is written: You are residing at your own risk. This is the condition of life, the medieval and primitive life, the miserable sub-human conditions where the miners in India are forced to live. And Mr. Naidu gives a lecture. It is shameful not to understand the agony and the misery of the coal miners. When did you have a wage revision? We had a wage revision in 1968 when the mines were in the private sector and 90 per cent of the private sector mine-owners refused to implement the wage agreement. You know that. This question has been discussed in this Parliament, by the Jan Sangh at that time, by the BLD at that time and by the Congress at that time. These are matters of record. Fictitious names were put. Three lakh workers were working at that time. One lakh workers were put on the muster roll and two lakh workers were not put on the muster roll. Accidents were hushed. Then, Sir, 300 lives were lost in the Dori disaster in 1968 and their dependents have not been paid a single paise by way of compensation. This gentleman, the Raja of Ramgarh, is now a member of the Janata Party. He is now a Member of Parliament, a Member of the Lok Sabha. It is a shame, Mr. Naidu. Please try to understand. The wage agreement, the national wage agreement and the wage board recommendations were not implemented in the private sector. They were implemented in 1971 and in 1973, when, in two parts, the coking coal mines and the non-coking coal mines were nationalised.

Before the Compensation Commissioner, workers had filed their claims. Provident fund dues were to the extent of about Rs. 20 crores.

These dues were not paid by the private sector. Unpaid wages amounted to Rs. 30 crores. Bonus etc due amounted to Rs 15 crores. These dues have not been paid to the coal miners. Many cases are pending before Compensation Commissioner at Calcutta. Such is the record of these private mine-owners who are trying to sneak once again to get a foothold in the coal mines. I would like to have a reply from Mr. Ramachandran. I would like to know whether it is a fact or not that a conspiracy is being hatched to hand over certain in coal mines to the private sector in the Ranchi area. I would like to have a categorical answer. The rumour is spreading all over the coal fields. Sir, I have shown you the condition. In 1974, after the mines were nationalised a wage committee was set up. I happen to be in the mines for the last 30 years. I am the General Secretary of the Indian Mine Workers' Federation which is the strongest federation in the coal mines today. We had protracted negotiations with the same people, minus one or two, in the coal mines. We had a strike for two days because Mrs. Gandhi was not eager to complete the negotiations. Ultimately we entered into some agreement just before the railway strike. We were called to Delhi. Mr. K. C. Pant, who is unfortunately not here today, appeared before us suddenly. He said: We cannot pay you so much. We said: for ten years, we did not have any wage revision; the accident curve is going up; there is no quarter; nothing at all. He said, I cannot do anything. He also said 'You cut down by half'. We said 'We cannot do that'. We said that this was an honest agreement between Coal India, IISCO and TISCO on the one hand and the trade unions on the other. We were threatened with arrests. Just before the agreement, the railway strike was crushed. Ultimately, the management cut down one-third of the agreement and two-thirds of

the agreement was implemented, Rs. 104 crores was paid to the coal-miners. Since then the wage level has been frozen in the coal mines. It has gone up twice and thrice in steel and it has gone up more than that in cement, in textile, in jute and so on. The people who should get the highest wages and the maximum facilities are the worst hit today. Is it justified? I would ask the Minister. I leave it to the House to decide. Now, Sir, only 20 per cent of the workers have been provided with quarters in the coal mines. Is it the case in any other public sector? What about the quarters? They are just barracks. There is no light. There is no water. The Coal miner is the only man in whole world who has to pay for his water every day. Yesterday, we had a meeting in Kenda area in Assam. I was living in a small room, in the open cast mine.

मेने पूछा पानी कहा है ? मुझे कहा गया कि पानी आने में अभी थोड़ा देर लगेगी क्योंकि अभी भारी नहीं आया है।

This means, the man who has to bring water has not arrived. I asked him 'How much do you pay? He said Rs. 8 per month.' I would like to ask! Is it true of any other public sector? Then, your duty is to provide water, medical facilities. You have miserably failed. Your expenses on medical is less than Rs. 100 in coal mines, whereas in Tata and other concerns it is Rs. 400. The workers in coal mines suffer from the worst kind of lung disease. You have to look at the man. A worker in a coal mine cannot work for more than 8 years. In all other countries a miner does not work for more than five days. In India they have to work sometimes for 7 days. Even under this Government they have been forced to work for 7 days. They have been prosecuted under the Mines Safety Act for not working for 7 days. Then, people have not been given ambulances even after the death of their children. Am I right Mr. Ramachandran or not?

This was brought to the notice of the Consultative Committee. A Panel was set up with me as an Inquiry Committee member. What did you find? Bulk of the coal mines were not having ambulances, but they have three guest houses in Calcutta. There is not a single new hospital opened after nationalisation. About quarters, in the Negotiating Committee Mr. Sharma, Chairman of the Coal India, said, yes, we can provide quarters, but Mr. Roy, you have to wait for 500 years. And this is the only industry where the worker does not get a single paisa as house rent. I have got the list of the public sector undertakings in this country. Every Government sector pays house rent to the extent of 7 per cent, 10 per cent or 15 per cent, but in coal mines not one paisa is paid as house rent. Regarding casual leave, workers in coal mines get more leave in other countries. Here what is the position in the public sector? Casual leave is denied to the coal miners. You ask him, is there any casual leave in coal mines? Not a single day is there. Am I wrong? Will it be wrong if I go on strike for demanding casual leave? Then there was another suggestion. Even in Ghatsila where there is the Hindustan Copper Corporation the workers get privilege leave, one day for every 12 days' attendance. for underground workers and surface workers get one day leave for 16 days' attendance. Will it be wrong if we demand this leave. Will it be wrong if the workers go on strike while demanding this leave? Then there is no canteen in coal mines. Chittranjan, Durgapur, Bokaro, San Ralleigh, all these are surrounded by coal mines. There you find fine excellent canteens. For one rupee there is full meal, subsidised food. Ask him, the Coal India does not pay a single paisa for the subsidised food for men who are working in the pit or on surface. They are leading a jungle life. They have been bluffed. Loot is going on in the coalfields. Who does not

know this? Ask the worker; How angry he is when he sees officers making millions of rupees and those officers, who were found to be corrupt, are being promoted. Here is the whole list of officers who have been found corrupt. I will name them. Shri B. Kanungo, General Manager (Transportation). What is the allegation against him? He showed undue favour to M/s. P. K. Mukherjee (Coal and Agency) Private Limited. The punishment for a General Manager was: Promotion withheld for one year. Again, Shri B. Kanungo, General Manager (Transportation). The next charge against him is, he showed undue favour to M/s. Gladstone Tyall and Co. Limited and M/s. Indian Air Travels. I have been told that he used to charge air fare when he used to go by bus. And what is the punishment? It is, promotion withheld for one year.

The whole list is of the officers. And for a clerk, Mr. Dayvant Dubey, what is the charge against him? It is, false payment to workers. And the punishment; it is dismissal. The whole list is there. The charge against Shri U. Bhattacharjee, Sales Officer, is, he forged signature of officers and allocated coal in favour of fake party. What is the punishment? It is 'warned'. Mr. K. L. Chalana, Manager; what is the charge against him? It is, alleged misappropriation of Rs. 20,000. The punishment is increment stopped and severely warned. Here is the workers' list who were dismissed and the officers who were promoted and only their increments were stopped. You want peace in this state of affairs. Let the Parliament decide. Who is responsible for accident? It is either the manager, or the supervisor of the workers. In each case, the officer who has been held responsible in an enquiry by the Director General of Mine Safety has either been promoted, or his case has been financed by the Coal India Ltd. Lakhs

of rupees have been spent by the Coal India Ltd. to defend the officers in courts against prosecution by the Labour Ministry. Still you want peace in the coalfields! You want peace where even 20 per cent workers have not got quarters, where they are paying money even to buy water, where in case of accidents ambulances are not available to pick them up from the pit surface to the hospital, where hospitals are collapsing, where working hours are increasing, where cases of gasification and suffocation are increasing! The coal-miner wants human treatment. We want that he should not accept a single paisa less than what you give to the other workers in the public sector undertakings. Let Mr. Ramachandran not forget this. He is meeting us on the 13th, 14th and 15th. I tell you in all seriousness that I have been going from pit to pit, from colliery to colliery for the last ten days. The workers there say:

इस दफा कुछ लेकर आना नहीं तो
आसनसोल से छुट्टी कर लोजिए।

Either you bring something, or please don't come to Asansol. This is the anger of the worker, this is the mood of the worker. Let Mr. Ramachandran stop going to Madras for some time. Let him go to the coalfields and address the workers, if he has the courage to do so, which he lacks. Even on the question of import of coking coal, he said one thing in the Consultative Committee meeting and when Mr. Biju Patnaik stands up, he meekly surrenders. Unfortunately, we are having this kind of trouble. (Time bell rings). I am finishing. You may ask me; what is the contribution of the coal miner? I just want to quote one thing. This is the reply given by Mr. Ramachandran. A lot of things have been said about the workers—that they do not work, they shirk work, after nationalisation they are absent. This is the reply given by Mr. Ramachandran to a question by Mr. Morarka. The Janata Party Members should not feel disturbed. It is a question tabled by their own

partymen about productivity and other things in the collieries I quote:

"In the first three years after May, 1973, the number of workers generally increased mainly due to employment in new projects, regularisation of certain contract workers. Since 1976 the number has gone down due to natural wastages, control over new recruitment and rationalisation of deployment of manpower."

About productivity, you say that after rationalisation the productivity has gone down. What does Mr. Ramachandran say?

"The productivity in mines of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries has actually increased since 1973. The O.M.S. during 1977-78 was 0.68 tonnes as against 0.55 tonnes in 1973-74".

Do you want another proof to show my sincerity? Or you don't accept the figures given by Mr. Ramachandran. Tell me where have I failed as a miner, where have I tried to shirk work? In spite of these double standards which the Government is playing, we are treated as miserable creatures. We have been working peacefully without any protest. But for how long? Our patience has been exhausted. The poor Harijan miner can also protest. The coal-miner, the loader, the khalasi can also stand on his legs. Please understand it. Don't try to mislead the people. Either you give us what you are giving in other public sector undertakings, or you have a strike on the 18th.

My last point is this. The question arises wherefrom the money will come. Yes, it is a very serious question. First, you stop the loot and plunder by sacking the officers whom you are shielding. The list is here. Which officer will not start taking bribes if he finds that taking bribe only leads to warning. It is giving incentive to bribery. Sir, I am finishing. Who knows I may not be here

on the 18th. I may be in the Presidency Jail or some other place, I do not know. The question is from where is the money to come. Your loss is colossal. Why don't you have an independent investigation which has been demanded by all the central trade unions? Why are you afraid of that? I am not afraid of that. Have investigation and find out what are the ills and diseases which have crippled you.

Sir, in every other industry, for example, steel, cement, textile, they get money in advance from the consumers. But the situation in Coal India is strange. A hundred crores of rupees are lying with the consumers which they refuse to pay. I and several M.Ps. have asked Mr. Ramachandran in the Consultative Committee as to why he does not collect money from the consumers? And who are these consumers? Mr Biju Patnaik, the ISCO and Mr. Dandavate's Railways. They consume 70 per cent of this coal. If you collect a hundred crores of rupees from them your loss would be wiped out. But that they will not do. If you have no money, how is it that you have paid Rs. 93 crores to the contractors as per your own statement? Where did you get money to pay the contractors? Where did you get money to pay the Indian Explosives a multi-million concern. They have been fleecing the Coal India annually of Rs. 10 crores. Where do you get money from to pay to the people who supply timber? The timber supply is controlled by ten families. Where do you get money to pay the contractors for the three main inputs—coal, explosives and timber? And what kind of explosives do they supply? Mr. Ramachandran knows what kind of explosives are being supplied.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Please conclude, Mr. Kalyan Roy.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: An accident took place due to defective explosives

in a certain mine. Mr. Fernandes said that he is taking action. I should like to know what action they have taken against Indian Explosives for supplying defective explosives. I am finishing in a minute. Therefore, you have no shortage to pay the contractors. You have no shortage of money when you fail to collect arrears which have accumulated with the coal consumers.

And now the last point. You are paying increasing overhead cost every year. What have you got to say about that? Every year the overhead costs in Coal India and in all its subsidiaries are going up. If you have money to pay your executives, if you have money to pay the contractors, if you have money to pay to your big officers, then you have to find money to pay the coalminers, otherwise the 18th May strike nobody can prevent. I beseech, Sir, let the House understand, let the House give what has already been conceded to the workers of the other public sector undertakings, no more, no less.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Please conclude. Mr. Sankar Ghose.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I would plead with Mr. Ramachandran and his Cabinet colleagues that if my demand is not conceded, then I want just your support for the justified struggle which we are going to launch from the 18th May, 1979.

SHRI SANKAR GHOSE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the country is passing through a most serious power crisis and the Power Minister is very quiet, very tranquil. He went round the country on the 18th April. His statement came out in the newspapers—Power Supply Comfortable. This was flashed in all the national newspapers.

Sir, in many parts of the country, particularly in West Bengal there is the most serious, most disastrous power crisis which is causing untold misery to the people and incalculable national loss. When we debate this question in Parliament we expect

from the Central Government and the Power Minister to know what they are going to do about it. Sir, I asked certain questions about power crisis in West Bengal and I got two answers on the 30th April from the Minister. One answer said that there is a shortfall of 150 M.W. On the same day in response to Question No. 202 Mr. Ramachandran's Ministry replied that there was a shortfall of 150 M.W. On the same day, in reply to another question of mine, Question No. 92, you said "There is a shortfall of 230 M.W." Sir, we want that the Central Government should take a little more interest in this matter which is causing national loss. In West Bengal, the people of West Bengal tried, the newspapers of West Bengal tried, to draw the attention of the Government there and of the Chief Minister to the serious problem. But when this question was first raised, unfortunately the Chief Minister said, and the Government circles said, that there was a conspiracy. If you discuss the serious power crisis, then there is a conspiracy regarding this matter.

Sir, I have got figures from one of the economic journals from Bengal, the *Business Standard*. It says:

"The State Government owns plants with a generating capacity of 900 MW. But the total generation from these is a paltry 300 MW."

I want to know from the Energy Minister: Will he tell the country what the true position is, so that corrective action may be taken? In West Bengal, the people of West Bengal, the public of West Bengal, the newspapers of West Bengal, have written constantly on this matter and have mentioned this problem repeatedly. But first, the Chief Minister said, it is a conspiracy. Then they said, it is a legacy of past neglect. Then the Chief Minister went and opened a new power unit of Calcutta, of CAC, a private concern. And then the Chief Minister said, there is no management in the State Electricity Board, in DPL. And DPL is under a Government under-

taking. The Chief Minister said, efficiency of management has declined during the last...

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: If the Chief Minister says so, what do you expect us to do?

SHRI SANKAR GHOSE: I am expecting you to do this. On the same day, in one answer you said that the shortfall was 150 MW, and in another answer you said the shortfall was 250 MW. And Calcutta newspapers say that out of a generating capacity of 900 MW, which the Government possesses, only 300 MW is being produced. Now, we have tried; the people of West Bengal have tried. We want that you should call a meeting and get the correct information so that corrective action may be taken. The long-term project we know. The long-term units that have to be set up have to be set up. But is it not a fact that if the units that are installed there in West Bengal are run properly, if they are managed properly, then this kind of power crisis will not be there? We want those facts. These are specific questions that I am asking. I do not want a general answer. And you have given certain reasons for the power crisis in your answer. One reason that you have given is the need for better operation and maintenance of the existing power stations. Better operation is possible. If the State Government is not doing it, is it not the duty of the Central Government to call a meeting of the State Government to say that these things should be done? Then another reason you have given is the need for improvement in the co-ordinated operation of the system within the State. Previously the Chief Minister said that this is not so; it is the past legacy. Now he has admitted that there is no management in the State Electricity Board and in the DPL. Sir, in the State Electricity Board, the experienced power engineers who were there had all to go as a result of the reorganisation that came. I think the Energy Minister knows it. And the

people who have been operating the State Electricity Board do not have that knowledge and experience which the previous engineers had. They do not have a real thermal engineer; they do not have an electrical engineer. It is most unfortunate that there is political interference in its functioning. Sir, if the engineers have to work, they have to be given a free hand. In the Administrative Reforms Commission report and in the last Electricity Bill, it was specifically provided that the State Electricity Boards should be run by engineers. Now, on top of that they have put an IAS man. There was dual control that led to further conflict. Moreover the engineer has to work according to the guidelines given by certain CPM unions. Can a power plant in the modern world be run if they have to work according to the guidelines of certain IAS officers and certain CPM cadres? Furthermore, in DPL which is a State Government undertaking there is a conflict and a clash between the CPM union and the RSP union on the labour front. I am saying this not because it is a State matter. I am saying this for this reason that at the State level people have tried by all kinds of attempts, all kinds of attempts have been made, to rectify the position. The Chief Minister himself is the Power Minister. He is also the Home Minister there. He has other duties. He devotes his time for party work also. So there is a persistent demand, you appoint a full-time Cabinet Minister for Power, because this whole crisis is not a part-time duty. That has not been done. The next demand we made was at least you appoint—if you do not want to leave Power portfolio—a full-time Minister of State for Power. That has not been done. These things have appeared in the newspapers. One of the Ministers, Mr. Krishnapada Ghose, the Labour Minister, has said that he will end the power crisis in a week if the portfolio is given to him. So there is this clash that is going on

inside. So you can see the problem. I am reading from the newspaper of 5th May. This is the position. Therefore, so far as West Bengal is concerned, so far as the power situation in West Bengal is concerned, we are not asking for Central intervention. We are asking you to please call a meeting; please take these facts. These facts show that the power units that we have got, if they generate power at the national level, at the national average, through proper maintenance, through proper technicians, avoiding political interference, avoiding inter-union rivalry, this problem can be solved. This problem is not confined to West Bengal. This is a national problem causing an incalculable national loss. Therefore, I hope the Energy Minister will not give the kind of contradicting answers that he has given. This is a serious question and he should deal with the situation seriously. The problem should be solved from a national point of view. This is so far as West Bengal power situation is concerned.

So far as the all-India situation is concerned, in regard to energy, we have got a situation where the Energy Minister says I have got enough coal but the Railway Minister is not giving me sufficient number of wagons. And the Railway Minister says, I have got sufficient number of wagons but the Energy Minister is not giving me coal. This is the position. Public statements are appearing in the newspapers. The Steel and Mines Minister goes one step ahead. Mr. Patnaik says, both are to blame. The Energy Minister is not giving me coal and the Railway Minister, Prof. Dandavate, is not giving me wagons. So all three Ministers are right. All three Ministers are right because it has been proved in the Cabinet Subcommittee that 8000 to 10000 wagons—I think Mr. Ramachandran will agree with me—which the Railway Minister was required to give according to the allotted quota, have not

come. Therefore, the allegation against the Railway Minister is correct. Now, so far as the allegation against the Energy Department is concerned, that is proved from the official documents. The problem in West Bengal is a little different. In West Bengal the Chief Minister himself is the Power Minister. Therefore, he could not blame himself. First he says there is no power crisis. If you persist saying that there is a power crisis, then you are a party to the conspiracy. Stage by stage the whole of Calcutta ceases to be Calcutta. Calcutta grew out of two or three villages—Govindpur and Shutanpur. Now it has reverted to the old villages because there is no electricity. It has become now again Govindpur and Shutanpur. When the situation became so intolerable the Chief Minister had to admit it. Originally they said, no, there should be wayside meetings to explain to the people that there is no power crisis. But when the entire Calcutta is plunged in darkness, then wayside meetings could not be held to explain that there is no power crisis. Then the Chief Minister goes and opens a private power plant, the CAC. And then the Government-owned State Electricity Board, Government-owned Durgapur Projects Limited, are not functioning properly. There is no management there; there is no coordination there. Sir, the problem in West Bengal is that the Chief Minister is himself the Power Minister. In the Centre the Janata Government is in a happier position because the Energy Minister can blame the Railway Minister and the Railway Minister can blame the Energy Minister. These two portfolios are held by two different Ministers unlike in West Bengal where the Chief Minister is himself the Power Minister.

Sir, coal is the main source of our energy and the Minister is saying that there is no coal shortage. In

1977-78 the original target was 106 million tonnes. They could not fix the target at this level and they reduced it to 103.2 million tonnes. The actual performance was only 100.9 million tonnes, resulting in a shortage of 2.3 million tonnes in 1977-78 from the revised target and a shortage of about 5 million tonnes from the original target in 1977-78.

What is the position in 1978-79? The original target was 113 million tonnes. Later it was reduced to 106 million tonnes. The performance was 102 million tonnes representing a reduction of 11 million tonnes from the original target and resulting in a shortage of 4 million tonnes from the revised target.

It is said that every effort is made to increase coal production. Before the oil crisis came, between 1951 and 1973, the rate of increase in production of coal was 3.7 per cent. After the oil crisis started, between 1973 and 1975, the rate of increase in coal production was 25 per cent per year and the coal production from 1973 went up from 77 million tonnes to 96 million tonnes. Now we are facing the crisis and we find that the production of coal is falling. This is about coal.

What about energy and what about electricity generation? The installed capacity for generation of electricity for 1977-78 was 3,400 MW. All the money was provided keeping in mind this target. But what was the performance in 1977-78? It was only 1,956 MW. There was thus a short-fall of about 1,450 MW. The Minister is nodding his head to suggest that he is not accepting this. If he does not accept these figures, I will have to quote from official documents, namely, Annual Plan 1978-79 and Review of Plan Performance, 1977-78. I am reading from page, 44, paragraph 4:

As against a target of adding 3,400 MW to the generating capacity in 1977-78, the achievement was 1,956 MW—Vide Annexure IX(I).

This is from your official documents. What is the reason they have given for this short-fall? The reasons are self-condemnation. They say that there was delay in completion of civil works. Money was provided for the works. It is not that money was not available. They are asking for documents. The documents are not with them. They do not know what is the short-fall. The first reason given is delay in completion of civil works. There is so much of unemployment in this country and still you could not complete the works. The second reason is uneasy labour relations. Is it a compliment? The third reason is shortage of materials such as steel, cement and explosives. Steel was in surplus and cement was in surplus. There is no planning for explosives. Thermal generation of power increased only by 1.7 per cent. What is the reason? The reason given is forced outage which was 13 per cent in 1976-77, but it increased to 19 per cent in 1977-78. Outage is increasing. Sir, so far as coal is concerned, particularly which is the source of our energy, the position is that when they presented the Sixth Plan—they call it as fresh Fifth Five Year Plan—in their document they said—if the Minister contradicts me, I will give again references from that document—they say that no difficulty is expected in meeting commercial energy demand in the next five years. In 1979 they said that. When, they came, coal production was surplus, and in the first two years of the Fifth Five Year Plan the production exceeded the targets. In that document they say:—

“The performance of the coal industry in the recent past...”

When they came in.

“...inspires confidence that it can meet the increasing energy demand arising in the coming years”.

Sir, in this Plan of 1978—83 they say that because of the performance

the coal industry can meet their demand, and in the last year there is a shortfall of 11 million tonnes from the original target and in the previous year in the first year of the Janata Government, there is a short-fall of about 5 million tonnes from the original target. And in this particular document they have said:

"The coal based thermal power stations account for the bulk of the addition to capacity in the Plan period."

Therefore, Sir, money was allocated. But this shortage has aggravated the energy situation. Sir, the energy position is very critical. Unless some corrective actions are taken, the position will worsen.

Thank you, Sir.

श्री भीष्म नारायण सिंह : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, किसी देश के लिये ऊर्जा उसकी आर्थिक प्रगति का मेरुदंड है। जो राष्ट्र ऊर्जा का उचित उत्पादन नहीं कर सकता वह निश्चित ही अपनी प्रगति का द्वार बंद कर देता है। महोदय, आप ने देखा कि हमारे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने, लगभग सभी ने इस बात की आवश्यकता महसूस की कि राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर ऊर्जा नीति का निर्धारण अत्यन्त आवश्यक है और मेरी समझ में रक्षा मंत्रालय के बाद यदि किसी मंत्रालय का सब से ज्यादा महत्व है तो इसी मंत्रालय का है। इसलिये राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण से यह आवश्यक है कि ऊर्जा संबंधी एक राष्ट्रीय नीति निर्धारित की जाये। मैं माननीय मंत्री श्री रामचन्द्रन जी और अपने राज्य मंत्री, दोनों से अभ्यर्थन करता चाहूंगा कि आप को इस मामले में स्वयं इनीशियेटिव लेना होगा और जो परिस्थिति देश में कायम हो रही है ऊर्जा के संबंध में उस को ध्यान में रखते हुए आप इस में कोई विलम्ब न करें क्योंकि आप को कोई अवसर

अब नहीं मिलेगा जिस की वजह से आप सोचते विचारते रहें। इस में सब से पहले पहल करने की आवश्यकता है आप के लिये और उस में आप दोनों का इनीशियेटिव सब से आवश्यक है। आज आप देख रहे हैं कि हालत क्या है। मैं खुद बिहार से आता हूँ जहाँ देश की 41 परसेंट मिनरल वेल्थ है। खनिज पदार्थों की दृष्टि से उस को पूरे देश का हृदय कहा जाता है और वहाँ बिजली के थर्मल स्टेशनस भी हैं और कुछ एक दो छोटे मोटे हाइड्रल स्टेशनस भी हैं। उस राज्य से मैं आता हूँ कि जहाँ पर इतनी अनुकूल परिस्थिति है लेकिन वहाँ भी अभाव का वातावरण है। तो आप सोच सकते हैं कि देश की, पूरे देश की परिस्थिति को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या हो सकता है। बंगाल की यहाँ काफी चर्चा की गयी और अन्य राज्यों की चर्चा भी की गयी। कहीं भी पर्याप्त मात्रा में बिजली की बात नहीं की जा रही है। जितनी वहाँ होनी चाहिए उतनी बिजली कहीं नहीं है और इसीलिये समय रहते मैं आप को सूचित करना चाहता हूँ कि समय रहते आप को कौन-कौन से कदम उठाने हैं जिस से कि अंधकार सामने न आने पाये। यह पूरे राष्ट्र का सवाल है, यह किसी राज्य विशेष का सवाल है। इस दृष्टिकोण से आप को सोचना पड़ेगा। यह बात ठीक है कि राज्यों के अधिकार भी हैं, लेकिन इस बात को कहकर आप इससे मुकर नहीं सकते हैं।

हमारी चीज जो कमेटीज आपने बनाई है, उनकी रिपोर्ट आपके सामने हैं। मैं उनके रेलवेड पोर्शन कोट करना चाहूंगा। कोयला या पेट्रोल पर निर्भर करके बहुत दिनों तक ऊर्जा का उत्पादन नहीं किया जा सकता क्योंकि एक न एक दिन वह ऐक्जास्ट होकर रहेगा, 50 वर्ष में या 100 वर्ष में ऐक्जास्ट हो जाएगा। तो आपको नान-कंवेशनल सोर्सेज का पता लगाना पड़ेगा और जैसा मैंने कहा कि बाबेजा कमेटी और

फ्यूल कमेटी जो आपने बनाई थीं उन पर आपको ध्यान देना पड़ेगा। उनका कहना था—

“Unconventional sources of energy such as solar, wind, geo-thermal and tidal are still in the process of development and are not likely to be available for commercial exploitation in a major way in the near future.”

इस ओर आपको साथ ही साथ ध्यान देना पड़ेगा। चूंकि माननीय श्री विपिनलाल दास जी ने इन पाइंट्स को डिटेल् में कहा है, इसलिए मैं ज्यादा समय सदन का नहीं लेना चाहूंगा लेकिन मैं भी यह जरूर कहना चाहूंगा कि नान-कंवेशनल रिसोर्सेज का आपको पता लगाना चाहिए।

नौमरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यह आपको देखना पड़ेगा कि यह जो मजदूर इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड्स में काम करते हैं उनके वेतनमानों में बहुत अन्तर है। मुझे आश्चर्य है यह देखकर कि महाराष्ट्र के इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड में जो मजदूर काम करते हैं और बिहार के इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड में जो मजदूर काम करते हैं उन दोनों के वेतनमानों में जमीन आसमान का अन्तर है। उनमें कोई यूनिफार्मिटी नहीं है। नतीजा यह है कि उनका खराब असर पड़ता रहता है और आप को स्ट्राइक्स फ्रेम करनी पड़ती हैं क्योंकि उनमें समता नहीं है, नीति में समता नहीं है। तो आपके विभाग को वेतन के लिए भी राष्ट्रीय नीति बनानी पड़ेगी क्योंकि आपका विषय बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण है। आप उसको इग्नोर नहीं कर सकते हैं। डिस्पेस्टिडज होंगी तो डिस्पेस्टिफिकेशन होगा। अगर डिस्पेस्टिफिकेशन होगा तो इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड्स में स्ट्राइक्स बगैरह आपको फ्रेम करनी पड़ेगी। मजदूरों को आप इग्नोर नहीं कर सकते हैं क्योंकि उत्पादन के मुख्य स्रोत वही हैं, इसलिए डिस्पेस्टिडज को आपको हटाना पड़ेगा।

हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश है। भारत के सभी हिस्सों में, तमिलनाडु में भी मैंने देखा कि आपने बिजली का काफी विस्तार किया है, बड़े बड़े कुएं बना करके किस तरह से लोग लिफ्ट इरिगेशन या ट्यूबवैल लगाकर वहां सिंचाई करते हैं, बिहार में भी वही हालत है। हर जगह इसकी मांग है। इसलिए इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए मेरा यह विचार है कि जैसे बिहार के बारे में मैं देख रहा हूं कि बहुत सारी स्कीम्स खसकर हाइडल पावर की जो सी०डब्ल्यू०पी० सी० के पास पड़ी हुई हैं, वहां से क्लियरेंस नहीं हुई। इरिगेशन प्रोजेक्ट्स लोगों ने लगाये हुए हैं लेकिन आप लोगों ने उस ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया है। आपके इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड्स ने भी इस पर ज्यादा जोर नहीं दिया है। तो ये जो हाइडल प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, ये सारी स्कीम्स को आपको क्लियर करना पड़ेगा। बिहार में नदी और घाटी दोनों हैं। हम लोग जो छोटा नागपुर के इलाके से आते हैं, वहां पर नदी भी है, घाटी भी है, बहुत सारी सिंचाई की योजनायें हैं और हाइडल प्रोजेक्ट्स भी बने हुए हैं लेकिन उनका स्वीकृति न मिलने से कोई प्रगति नहीं है। नतीजा यह है कि बिजली की शॉर्टेज है। इसलिए उन सब प्रोजेक्ट्स, जो सी०डब्ल्यू०पी०सी० या भारत सरकार के सिंचाई विभाग में पड़े हुए हैं, को स्वीकार करना चाहिए। हमारे राज्यों की भी ऐसी ही योजनायें लम्बित होंगी। तो ऐसा मैं मानता हूं कि हाइडल प्रोजेक्ट्स पर भी आपको विचार करना पड़ेगा तभी विद्युत क्षमता को आप बढ़ा सकते हैं। कोयले की बहुत बात की गई है और कोयले पर आज कार्लिंग अटेंशन भी था। इसका अभाव है यह सब जानते हैं, इसलिये कैसे हम आपकी सराहना करेंगे। एक सदस्य ने कहा था कि 1976 में फ्रांस को और दूसरे देशों को हम कोयला एक्सपोर्ट करते थे जबकि आजकल कोयला मंगाने की नौबत आ गई है। जहां से कोयला निकलता

है, प्रोडक्शन होता है वहां से मैं आता हूं। मजदूरों की कोई कमी नहीं है। जो आपका टारगेट था, जो आपने फिक्स किया हुआ था, 102 मिलियन टन अब वह घट कर 90 मिलियन टन हो गया है कोल इंडिया के माध्यम से। यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि प्रोडक्शन की कमी भी नहीं है। या तो आपके यहां कोआर्डिनेशन की कमी है या वैनगन र फिशियंट मात्रा में नहीं हैं। आपको कोआर्डिनेशन की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि सी०सी०एल० की जानकारी मुझको है। कर्मपुरा इलाके की जानकारी मुझको है। काफी मात्रा में कोयला निकलता है, काफी उत्पादन होता है कोयले कालेकिन आप उसको देश के विभिन्न भागों में नहीं भेज सकते इसलिये बदनामी आपको निश्चित रूप से मिलेगी। इस पर आपको ध्यान देना चाहिये और आपस में कोआर्डिनेशन होना चाहिये।

चूंकि बिजली विभाग आपके पास है इसलिये मैं आपको कहना चाहता हूं कि कोयला उत्पादन में फिक्स्ड ट्रिपिंग का असर पड़ रहा है। इसका इलाज आपको निकालना पड़ेगा। इसके चलते आपको बाधा पहुंचती है। इसकी वजह से प्रोडक्शन में भी असर पड़ता है। काज को हेम्पर करता है। हमारे माननीय सदस्य श्री कल्याण राय जी ने भी चर्चा की कि ठेकेदार और अधिकारी ठीक नहीं हैं। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि सारे अधिकारी अच्छे नहीं हैं, बहुत से अधिकारी अच्छे भी हैं। मैं यह जानता हूं। लेकिन आजकल जो कोल फील्ड में कांटेक्टर्स और कुछ अधिकारियों की सांठगांठ से एक नया माहौल खड़ा हो गया है उससे राष्ट्रीयकरण का जो उद्देश्य है वह विफल होने की स्थिति में है। मुझे बहुत सारी कम्प्लेंट्स मिली हैं। इसमें एक यह है कि छोटा नागपुर में अन-अथोराइज्ड माइनिंग हो रही है। कांटेक्टर्स और अधिकारियों की सांठगांठ से कोयले को इधर-उधर भेजा जा रहा है, यानी चोरी

हो रही है। ये जो बातें हो रही हैं इस बात की सूचना आपको भी मिली होगी। इन चीजों को आपको रोकना होगा। ये जो लूपहोल्स हैं इनको आपको बंद करना होगा। इसमें स्ट्रिक्ट होता होगा।

माइन्स में जैसा मुझको अनुभव हुआ है कि आपका इंस्पेक्शन प्रोपर्टी नहीं होता है। इसकी शिकायत हमको काफी मिली है। मेरा कहना है कि माइन्स इंस्पेक्शन प्रोपर्टी होना चाहिये। प्राइवेट कांटेक्टर्स के जो इंजिनियर्स होते थे वह माइन्स इंस्पेक्शन करते थे। अब इसमें कमी नज़र आती है। प्रोपर इंस्पेक्शन न होने की वजह से माइन्स में विस्फोट हो जाता है, मजदूर मारे जाते हैं। इन सारी परिस्थितियों पर आपको ध्यान देना होगा।

जहां तक मजदूरों का सवाल है कल्याण राय जी की भावना से हम सब सहमत हैं। काफी सेन्टीमेंटल थे जब वह बोल रहे थे। उनकी बातों में कुछ तथ्य है। आप देखें कि 75 के बाद से कोयला फील्ड में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की मजदूरी में कोई इज़ाफा नहीं हुआ है। वे बहुत रिस्क लेकर काम करते हैं। जिन बातों की चर्चा हो चुकी है मैं उनको दोहराना नहीं चाहता। रामचन्द्रन जी बहुत सुयोग्य और सुलझे हुए व्यक्ति हैं। राज्य मंत्री जी भी जनसेवी हैं और सुलझे हुए व्यक्ति हैं। आपको काज को सिम्पेथेटिकली देखना चाहिये। ऐसा कोई मौका नहीं आना चाहिये जिस कारण से उनको हड़ताल करनी पड़े। कोयले की शोर्टेज है यह सब को मालूम है। अगर हड़ताल हो गई तो क्या परिस्थिति होगी यह आप स्वयं सोच सकते हैं। इसलिये मेरा कहना है कि ऐसा मौका न आने दीजिए। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि उनकी जो मांगें हैं वह जेनुइन मांगें हैं उनकी दूसरों से तुलना मत करें। अपने जीवन को खतरे में डाल करके खानों में जा करके काम करते हैं। दूसरे

किसी पब्लिक सेक्टर में इस प्रकार का रिस्क नहीं है जितना कोल फील्ड में है। इसलिये जो उनकी जायज मांगें हैं उनको आपको देखना चाहिये और जहां तक संभव हो उनको मान लेना चाहिए। इन शब्दों के साथ जिन बातों की तरफ मैंने आपका ध्यान आकर्षित किया है उनकी तरफ, मैं आशा करता हूं आप निकट भविष्य में ठोस कदम उठावेंगे। इससे उनकी समस्याओं का समाधान निकल जाएगा।

(Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair)

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र) : उपसभापति महोदय, इस सदन में कई माननीय सदस्यों ने कोयला उद्योग के बारे में बहुत दिलचस्पी दिखाई और जितने भी विचार रचे हैं वे अपनी जगह सही हैं। थोड़े बहुत आकड़ों की गड़बड़ जरूर हो गई है। मैं केवल इसी बारे में सफाई देने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूं। बिजली और एनर्जी के बारे में श्री रामचन्द्रन जी बोलेंगे और अगर हमसे कोई बात कोयला उद्योग के बारे में रह जाए, तो उसका भी वे जवाब देंगे।

हमारे बुजुर्ग साथी श्री विपिनपाल दास जी और दूसरे लोगों ने यह बताया कि इस साल कोयले के उत्पादन का लक्ष्य 113 मिलियन टन था, लेकिन 102 मिलियन टन ही उत्पादन हुआ है। यह बात सही है कि शुरू में लक्ष्य 113 मिलियन टन का था, लेकिन जब वह लक्ष्य संशोधित हुआ तो 106.30 मिलियन टन ही रह गया और उत्पादन 102 मिलियन टन हुआ। इस तरह से करीब-करीब 5 मिलियन टन लक्ष्य से कम कोयले का उत्पादन हुआ। इसके कारण भी हम लोगों को जान लेना चाहिए। आज सुबह ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव का जवाब देते हुए मंत्री जी ने बताया था कि सिंगरौली कोलियरीज में हड़ताल और अप्रत्याशित वर्षा और बाढ़ तथा बिजली की कटौती के कारण उत्पादन पर बहुत आघात हुआ।

मैं सदन के सामने यह बात भी रखना चाहता हूं कि जो विस्फोटकों की कमी हुई और एक्सप्लोसिवज कारखाने में हड़ताल के कारण इनकी कमी हुई थी, उसने कोयले के उत्पादन में .3 मिलियन टन का नुकसान हुआ। बिजली की कटौती के कारण 2.8 मिलियन टन कोयले के उत्पादन में कमी हुई। सिंगरौली कोलियरीज में अप्रैल-मई, 1978 में हड़ताल के कारण .6 मिलियन टन कोयले का कम उत्पादन हुआ। बाढ़ से बिहार और बंगाल क्षेत्र में 2.5 मिलियन टन कोयले का कम उत्पादन हुआ। इस तरह से करीब 7 मिलियन टन कोयला इन बाहरी कारणों से कम पैदा हुआ। इस प्रकार हम अपने लक्ष्य से 5 मिलियन टन कम पड़ते हैं। मैं यह बात भी सदन के सामने साफ तौर पर रखना चाहता हूं कि चाहे हमारी पार्टी सरकार में हो या कोई अन्य हो, इसका सवाल नहीं है। हमारे सामने सवाल यह है कि हमें वस्तु-स्थिति को देश के सामने रखना चाहिए। एक तरफ तो इस प्रकार की स्थिति रही और दूसरी तरफ जैसा कि शुरू से ही चर्चा चलाई गई कि इस मामले में परिवहन की भी दिक्कत रही। इन दिक्कतों के चलते पिछले साल सन् 1977-78 में पिट हैड पर, खदान के मुहाने पर, कोयला 10.85 मिलियन टन था और इस साल वह करीब 13 मिलियन टन हो गया है। उसको हम उठा नहीं पाये हैं। बहुत-सा कोयला ऐसा होता है कि अगर जमीन से निकाल दिया जाता है तो उसकी लाइफ के अनुसार छः दिन के अन्दर या एक महीने के अन्दर या चार महीने के अन्दर उस पर अपने आप आग लग जाती है। हमारे लिए यह एक समस्या बनी हुई है कि उसको पानी में भिगो कर कैसे रखा जाये और हमें उसको पानी में भिगो कर रखना पड़ता है। इस प्रकार से उसको प्रिजर्व करने में अतिरिक्त खर्च होता है। मैं समझता हूं कि कोयला उद्योग बनाम रेलवे उद्योग का विवाद निरर्थक है। अक्सर इसकी चर्चा चलती रहती है कि पिट हैड पर तो कोयला है,

[श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र]

लेकिन रेलवे साइड पर कोयला नहीं पहुंचता है और यह कहा जाता है कि कोयला उद्योग इसकी जिम्मेदारी ले। रेलवे साइड पर कोयला वैनो के द्वारा पहुंचाया जाता है। मैं यह सदन के सामने कहना चाहता हूं कि आमतौर पर रेलवे साइड के ऊपर कोयला पहुंचा दिया जाता है। कहीं-कहीं इसमें दिक्कत पड़ती है। रेलवे विभाग की तरफ से कह दिया जाता है कि वैन बिना कोयला लिये ही लौट आया। इसके कुछ कारण हैं। कहीं पर बिजली नहीं रहती है और इस कारण से वैन भरे नहीं जाते हैं। रेलवे का कुछ इस प्रकार का नियम है कि रेलवे साइड पर वैन पांच घंटे तक रह सकता है। अगर पांच घंटे तक बिजली गायब रह गई तो वैन खाली लौट आएगा। इसी प्रकार से जहां पर कोयला भरा जाता है वहां पर आमतौर पर यह नीति बनी हुई है कि खदान के भीतर तो मर्द काम करेंगे लेकिन खदान के ऊपर औरतें मजदूरी करती हैं। रेलवे ऐक्ट में मैंने बताया कि यह है कि पांच घंटे साइड पर वैन जायेगा। उसके बाद पायलट आकर अपना वैन ले जायेगा। यह सब व्यवस्था को गलती है। यह हमारी गलती है और रेलवे की गलती है, इसको हम स्वीकार कर रहे हैं। हम पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं—रेलवे विभाग से सम्पर्क करके और कुछ अपने विभाग से कह कर कि इसको ठीक किया जाये। यह गलती आज से नहीं है, बहुत दिनों से चल रही है। कोयले की लोडिंग के लिये औरतें रहती हैं। मान लिया जाये कि वैन 10 बजे रात को आता है तो इसके लिये उन औरतों को रोका नहीं जा सकता। वह दिन में ही रह सकती हैं। बरना खराफात होने का डर है। इसलिये कुछ ऐसी दिक्कतों का हमें सामना करना पड़ता है जिनको कि मैंने आपके सामने रखना अपना कर्तव्य समझा।

यहां पर परिवहन की चर्चा चली है। मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि दो महीने

पहले हमको कोयले की लोडिंग के लिये रोज करीब 12 सौ वैनस कम मिला करते थे और आज 705 वैनस प्रति दिन कम मिल रहे हैं। यदि हम यह कोशिश करते हैं कि ट्रकों से कोयला भिजवायें तो दूर तक कोयला भेजने में वह इतना महंगा पड़ जाता है कि कोयले से ज्यादा दाम का डीजल जलाना पड़ता है। मैं पहले पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्ट्री में था और मैं डीजल का भाव भी जानता हूं और कोयले का भाव भी जानता हूं। दूर तक ट्रक से कोयला भेजना बहुत ज्यादा महंगा हो जायेगा और किसी भी उपभोक्ता के लिये उसको खरीदना मुश्किल हो जायेगा। हम समझते हैं कि पिछली जो बाढ़ आई थी या बरसात आई थी उसको देखते हुए कोयला उद्योग की तारीफ होनी चाहिए थी कि उसने बाढ़ और बरसात का मुकाबला किया। अक्टूबर 1978 में जहां 3 लाख 10 हजार टन प्रति दिन कोयले का उत्पादन होता था वहां मार्च, 1979 में 4 लाख प्रति दिन कोयले का उत्पादन हो गया। इसकी तारीफ होनी चाहिए थी। लेकिन हमने देखा कि सदस्यों को इसके बारे में लगता है कि या तो जानकारी नहीं है और अगर जानकारी है तो वे इसको कहना नहीं चाहते थे। इधर खान मुहान और वाशरी से रेलवे साइडिंग तक जहां बिजली से कोयला नहीं भरा जाता था और प्राइवेट कान्ट्रेक्टर के ट्रक जिसको ले जाया करते थे उसके लिये कोयला उद्योग और सरकार ने तय किया है कि उसका पूरा विभागीकरण कर दिया जायेगा। उसके लिये ट्रक खरीदने पड़ेंगे और बड़े पैमाने पर खरीदने पड़ेंगे। तो यह समस्या सामने है और इस पर तत्काय फैसला हुआ है। यह सही है कि इन कान्ट्रेक्टर्स के कारण एक अजीब विस्म की अड़चन कानून और व्यवस्था में आती है। केवल कान्ट्रेक्टर्स के कारण ही नहीं बल्कि कोयला उद्योग के सामने जो और दिक्कतें हैं वे हमें बिरासत में बहुत कुछ मिली है। बहुत सी कोयला खदानें अर्धज्ञानिक तरीके से खोदी गई हैं और आज उनको कन्ट्रोल

करना मुश्किल है। चासनाला की चर्चा की गई, वह चासनाला इसी तरह की खान थी। इस तरह की कितनी ही खदानें हैं जिनको वैज्ञानिक तरीके से चलाने में दिक्कत महसूस हो रही है।

बवेजा कमेटी की यहां पर चर्चा की गई। बवेजा कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में बताया कि इस समय कोयला उद्योग में 50 हजार मजदूर सरप्लस है। कल्याण राय जी होते तो मैं जरूर उनसे पूछता कि इस सरप्लस लेबर के लिये करीब 40 करोड़ रुपया सालाना कोयला उद्योग का खर्च हो रहा है। कोयला उद्योग को गिना कर रहा है कि इस सरप्लस लेबर का मुकबला किया जाये लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ यह भी निर्णय लिया गया है कि हम किसी की छुट्टी नहीं करेंगे यदि अपने आप कोई रिटायर हो जायेगा तो उसकी जगह पर भर्ती नहीं करेंगे बहुत सख्ती से भर्ती करेंगे, भर्ती पर कंट्रोल करेंगे यह निर्णय लिया है। इसका नतीजा यह हुआ है कि हर साल रिटायरमेंट के कारण 5 हजार लोगों की तादाद कम हुई है। यह हमें बताना इसलिए जरूरी था कि इस पर भी बहुत से ट्रेड यूनियन के लोगों को एतराज था। उन्होंने एतराज किया था कि हम से सलाह लिये बिना बवेजा कमेटी ने यह रिपोर्ट दे दी। उसका काम था कि वह हम से पूछते। लेकिन हम समझते हैं कि कभी किसी उद्योग के बारे में जब कभी कमेटी बैठती है तो वह किस तरह से अपनी राय तय करती है। इसके बारे में हम उसे कहने नहीं जाते कि किस से पूछना और किस से मलाह लेना। यहां पर और चर्चा चला करती है। यह चर्चा आम तौर से ट्रेड यूनियन मूवमेंट की तरफ से होती है। जब कभी भी कोयला उद्योग में हम लोग मशीन लगाने की कोशिश करते हैं तो उस समय कहा जाता है कि यह मजदूर बेकार

हो जाएंगे। उस समय गांधी जी का नाम लिया जाता है। जनता पार्टी की नीतियों की भी चर्चा की जाती है। अगर मशीन लगा दी गई तो मजदूर का हाथ कट जाएगा, वह बेकार हो जाएगा। यह मैं बहुत ही साफ कहना चाहता हूं कि मशीन केवल मजदूर का हाथ काटने के लिए नहीं बल्कि हाथ को सहारा देने के लिए लगाई जाती है। अभी मैं मोनीडीह में गया था...

श्री कल्याण राय : हां हमने देखा वहां पर तीस-तीस गाड़ियां आपका स्वागत करने के लिए खड़ी थी। This was the austerity I saw.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : हमको लगता है कल्याण राय जी वहां पर स्वयं नहीं थे। वहां पर शायद एक या दो गाड़ी ही दिखाई देती थी। हम जहां भी गए हमारे साथ एक के अलावा और कोई गाड़ी नहीं गई। हम तो उनको रोकने की कोशिश करते हैं। आप जाकर वहां से पूछ लीजिए कहीं-कहीं पर पुलिस और सिक्युरिटी के लोग हमको गार्ड आफ अनार देना चाहते थे लेकिन हम उनको बिगुल बजाने से पहले ही कह देते थे कि खबरदार बिगुल मत बजाइयेगा। अपने देखा ही नहीं वैसे कहा है। वहां लाग वाल माइनिंग से कोयला निकलता है। पहले बोर्ड एंड पिलर सिस्टम से कोयला निकालते थे। वहां पर एक शीयरर मशीन लगाई है। यह काई करीब साढ़े तीन करोड़ रुपये की मशीन होगी। उस मशीन से अपने आप कोयला कटता चलता है। आज भी हिन्दुस्तान में ब्रिस्कटकों के जरिये, एक्सप्लोसिव के जरिये कोयला काटा जाता है। हम समझते हैं कि यह बहुत ही अवैज्ञानिक और आधुनिक ज़िन्दगी के लिए बहुत ही खतरनाक है। दूसरे मुल्कों में कोयला खदानों में एक्सप्लोसिव का इस्तेमाल

[श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र]

कम होने लगा है लेकिन हमारे यहां कम नहीं हुआ। लेकिन जो शेयरर मशीन आई थी उसमें भी यहां कुछ लोगों ने एतराज किया था कि अगर यह मशीन कोयला खोदने के लिए लगाई गई तो मजदूरों का हाथ कट जाएगा, मजदूर का हाथ कमजोर पड़ जाएगा। जब हम बाहर निकल कर आए तो बहुत से मजदूर वहां पर खड़े थे। बहुत से मजदूरों ने कहा कि हमारी फलां फलां दिक्कतें हैं। लेकिन एक आदमी जो नेता नहीं लगता था, वहां पर इन्कलाब, इन्कलाब बोल रहा था। कल्याण राय जी, मैंने देखा उसकी गंदी बनियान में से उसका जनेऊ झलक रहा था। तो मैंने उसने कहा कि तुम ब्राह्मण हो। तो उसने हमारी तरफ देखा और कहा कि आप कैसे समझ गए। हमने कहा हम तुम्हारा जनेऊ देख रहे हैं। वहां पर और भी थे, भील भी थे, आदिवासी भी थे लेकिन वे बोल नहीं रहे थे। बोलने के लिए वहां पर केवल ऊंची जाति वाला खड़ा हो गया। जहां पर एक तरफ कोयला उद्योग में एकम्प्लाइडेशन की, शोषण की बात आप करते हैं वहां पर मैं इतना जरूर कहना चाहता हूं कि इस समय जो कोई भी नेतृत्व करता है वह ऊंची जाति का हुआ करता है। यह जाति भी शोषण की जड़ है। केवल बड़ा आदमी ही बोलेगा। मैं उस घटना का जिक्र केवल इसलिए करना चाहता था कि वह जो जनेऊ पहने था वही बोल रहा था क्योंकि वह ऊंची जाति का था बिना जनेऊ वाला बोल नहीं पाया। इस वस्तु स्थिति को आप अपने दिमाग में रखियेगा।

आपने दुर्घटनाओं के बारे में कहा, आगजनी के बारे में भी कहा। दुर्घटनाओं के बारे में मैं इतना ही कूंगा कि कामगारों की सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से जब से कोयला उद्योग सरकार ने अपने हाथ में

लिया तब से यह मैं नहीं कहता कि यह साल बहुत ही अच्छा था लेकिन पिछले सभी सालों के मुकाबले में बहतर था। अब इसके आंकड़े मेरे पास हैं। दुर्घटनाओं में मृत्यु दर 1976 तक बढ़ती जा रही थी अब वह घटने लगी है। 1978 में यह संख्या 151 रही जबकि 1976 में 249 और 1977 में 157 थी। कोयला खानों में सुरक्षा के बारे में एक विस्तृत रिपोर्ट शीघ्र तैयार करने के लिए एक कमेटी बैठ गई है। इसके साथ ही राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद जो सुविधायें कोयला मजदूरों को दी गई हैं उनमें 44 हजार से ज्यादा मकान उनके लिए बनाने की बात हुई। हम कई कोयला मजदूरों के मकानों में गए। जानबूझ कर गए, यह देखने के लिए कि उनकी क्या हालत है। कभी आप वहां के अधिकारियों से पूछिएगा, हम उनके क्वार्टरों में वैसे ही घुस जाते थे। ऐसा नहीं है कि हम उनकी हालत से वाकिफ होने में अपनी कोशिश में कोई कमी नहीं रखते थे। उनके लिए 44 लाख से ज्यादा मकान बनाये गये। कोयला खदान के पास कुआ नही खुद सकता है, पहाड़ी इलाका होता है, पाईप लाईन बिछाने में सरकार को विशेषकर राज्य सरकारों को दिक्कत पड़ती हैं परन्तु वहां आठ लाख लोगों के पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था की गयी, पानी पहुंचाया जाता है कुछ पाईप के जरिये और कुछ दूसरे ढंग से जबकि पहले उनके पानी पीने का कोई इंतजाम नही हुआ करता था, वे नाले और गड्ढों से पानी पिया करते थे। कल्याण राय जी का गुस्सा मैं समझता हूं कि उनकी हालत को देखते हुए बहुत कम है। हमारे मन में भी उनकी हालत को देखते हुए गुस्सा, हमदर्दी और कुढ़न जागती थी लेकिन गुस्से में हम दो या तीन मोटरों को 30 नहीं देख सकते हैं। कल्याण राय जी जो हमारे अच्छे दोस्ते हैं उन्होंने

गुस्से में कह दिया कि कलकत्ता में कोल इंडिया के तीन गेस्ट हाऊस हैं लेकिन मंत्री महोदय ने पहले ही आदेश दे दिया था कि उन तीनों को बंद करके केवल एक रखा जाये और दो हाऊस बंद कर दिये गये। वे काफी दिनों से बंद कर दिये गये हैं। हम चाहेंगे अगर कभी आप कलकत्ता जायें और पायें कि एक से ज्यादा हाऊस चलते हैं तो जिस किसी अधिकारी ने गलत सूचना दी होगी उसके खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जाएगी। हम यह चाहते हैं कि किफायतसारी के जरिये कोला उद्योग के संकट का मुकाबला किया जाये। ऐसा नहीं कि हम गुस्से में कुड़न में नाराजगी में अपनी बात कहते चले जायें। यहां एक चर्चा चलती है घाटे के बारे में माननीय सदस्य श्री बिपिन पाल दास जी ने कहा कि हमने बयान दिया था कि 170 करोड़ का घाटा होने वाला है। यह बयान हमने करेंट इयर के लिए दिया था, आज से 10-15 दिन पहले परन्तु आज जो जोड़ घटाना हुआ उसमें यह पता लगा कि 170 करोड़ नहीं बल्कि करीब-करीब 182 करोड़ का घाटा होने की संभावना है। हालांकि वह अभी जोड़ा जा रहा है। कुल घाटा कोयला उद्योग का साढ़े चार सौ करोड़ से ऊपर चला गया होगा। लेकिन इस साल का घाटा मैं बता रहा हूं कि यह क्यों हुआ। इस घाटा होने के पीछे कई कारण हैं। एक कारण तो यही है कि कोयला 20 रुपये पर टन के नक्सान पर खदान से विक्रता है। 20 रुपये का नक्सान हर टन पर खदान से निकलते समय कोयले को झेलना पड़ता है। हमें इस घटक को दिमाग में रखना चाहिए कि ऐसा क्यों हुआ, इस पर चर्चा करनी चाहिए। जब कोयला उद्योग हाथ में लिया गया उस समय जो इनपुट्स के दाम थे चाहे वह मजदूरी हो, बिजली का दाम हो, सीमेंट का हो, टिम्बर

का हो, डीजल का हो या मजदूरी वेजेज हों, वे किस रफ्तार से बढ़े हैं और कोयले का दाम किन रफ्तार से बढ़ा है, इस पर चर्चा करनी चाहिए। इनपुट्स के दाम ढाई गुना ज्यादा बढ़े हैं और आउटपुट के दाम 75 ज्यादा बढ़े हैं। यह एक अजोब स्थिति है कि आज भी कोयले का दाम अगर बढ़ने की बात चले तो पूरा देश कहेगा कि कोयला भी महंगा करने जा रहे हो। सरकार ने एक कमेटी, सरकारी उद्यम आयोग के निदेशक की अध्यक्षता में बैठायी है। उन्होंने कुछ सिफारिशें दी थीं और उन सिफारिशों के मुताबिक सात या आठ सैंकड़ा कोयले के दाम में कमी, किफायतसारी करने की तजवीज पेश की गयी थी। वह तजवीज और उसके साथ-साथ इस समय जो कोयला घाटे पर चल रहा है, ये दोनों स्थितियां सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं। मैं थोड़ी देर के लिए श्रमिकों के बारे में बात करना चाहता हूं क्योंकि हमारे मित्र कल्याण राय जी बैठे हैं इसलिए उस पर चर्चा करना मैं अपना कर्तव्य समझता हूं। सन् 1978 में 623 हड़तालें हुई थी जबकि सन् 77 में 340। इसका नतीजा यह है कि 3,15,584 की तुलना में 7,01,082 मैन डेज का नक्सान हुआ, इससे उत्पादन में भी कमी आयी और 3,59,209 टन की तुलना में 7,22,537 टन की हानि कामबंदी वारदातों के कारण हुई। यह हड़तालें मुख्य रूप से ट्रेड यूनियन के आपसी झगड़ों के कारण हुई हैं। ट्रेड यूनियन के आपसी झगड़ों .. (Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN ROY: It is totally wrong. I can demand his resignation. Every dispute is because of the failure of the local management to settle it. The Minister has sent a special circular. I have got the circular here. It has been sent to each of the M.Ds (Managing Directors) that they should not unnecessarily go in for litigation. Mr. Janeshwar Mishra is new to his Department. But let him not resort to falsehood.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : इन लोगों के आपस में झगड़े . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Even about the guest houses, I challenge him. More guest houses were opened in last years than ever before in each of the coalfields. Let him accept the challenge. I had not much time. I might have mentioned about Calcutta I challenge him that in each of the coalfields of these five subsidiaries more guest houses have been opened. I challenge you. You accept the challenge. (Interruptions).

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : आपने कोल इंडिया लि० के गेस्ट हाऊस का अभी कहा, मैं रिपोर्ट बूंगा। लेकिन इन्होंने . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN ROY: You should be properly briefed. He should not mislead the House. After all he is a Chela of Mr. Charan Singh. We do not expect this from him.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : इन्होंने पहले कोल इंडिया के गेस्ट हाऊस की चर्चा की, उसके बारे में रिपोर्ट ले . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Let a Committee of the House take any dispute. Even on the question of refusal to give an ambulance, they went on strike. Because a worker's child was killed and no ambulance was available, the workers went on strike. Is it justified or not?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : अब मैं चूँकि ट्रेड यूनियन की आपसी राइवलरी की चर्चा कर रहा था, इसलिये जान-बूझ कर इसको छेड़ना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि इन्होंने चुनौती दी है . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN ROY: It is less bitter than your fight with Mr. Morarji Desai and Mr. Vajpayee. It is less

acrimonious, less ugly than the fight you are having in the Cabinet.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : असल में ट्रेड यूनियनस की प्रतिद्वन्द्विता इस सीमा तक है कि एक यूनियन का नेता दूसरी यूनियन के नेता की गर्दन काटने की बात करता है . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALAYAN ROY: Who belongs to your party. It is a Janata MLA of Bihar. He has got the biggest contract.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : वह हमारी पार्टी का हो या आपकी पार्टी का, मैं नहीं कहना चाहता।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please. Please don't interrupt like this. This is not the way.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Whatever language he speaks, he should understand things.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : इस समय उसके चलते ही ईस्टर्न कोल फील्ड और भारत कोकिंग फील्ड, खास तौर से जो आपस में झगड़े होते हैं, उसके चलते कानून और व्यवस्था को भी खतरा है। इससे गाहे-बगाहे तो नुकसान हुआ करता है। इस चर्चा को मैं छेड़ना नहीं चाहता था क्योंकि बहुत ही अप्रिय चर्चाएँ थीं। श्री कल्याण राय हमारे मित्र हैं, हमारे नेता हैं, साथी हैं, इन्होंने धमकी दे दी कि हस्प हड़ताल करने के लिये मजबूर हैं। अभी बात चल रही है। हम लोग अपनी तरफ से उम्मीद करते हैं कि कोयला उद्योग के अधिकारियों और मजदूर यूनियन के अधिकारियों में समझौता होगा, सम्मानपूर्ण ढंग से समझौता होगा।

हमारी सरकार मजदूरों की विरोधी सरकार नहीं है, हमारी सरकार न मजदूर विरोधी सरकार है और न हमारी सरकार उपभोक्ता विरोधी है। दोनो बातें दिमाग में रखते हुए हम लोग पूरी कोशिश करेंगे कि कोयला उद्योग के अधिकारियों को यह निदेश दिया जाए और आप से भी चाहेंगे कि आप भी अपना पूरा सहयोग दें ताकि कोयला उद्योग में हड़ताल न होने पाए। कोयला उद्योग की हड़ताल, आज

जो माहोल है, एनर्जी क्राइसिस पर जिस प्रकार बहुत दे- तक इस सदन में चर्चा हुई और पूरे देश में हो रही है, एक प्रलयकारी हड़ताल है जिसके बहुत खराब नतीजे निकलेंगे हम समझते हैं कि आप भी उस खराब नतीजे को पसन्द नहीं करते हैं, ट्रेड यूनियन भी नहीं करती और न सरकार और देश की जनता करती है। इसलिये हम चाहेंगे कि इस तरह की बात से न हम आपको धमकाएं और न आप हमको धमकाएं। कोई रास्ता निकाल लिया जाए। आपने कुछ अधिकारियों के भ्रष्टाचार की चर्चा की थी, श्री कल्याण राय जी ने, ये सारे के सारे भ्रष्टाचार के केसेज में से ज्यादातर, जब से जनता पार्टी सरकार में आई है, उसके पहले के हैं। जनता पार्टी ने भ्रष्टाचार के बारे में एक बहुत ही सशक्त किस्म का विजिलेन्स गठित किया है ताकि कोयला उद्योग के भ्रष्टाचार की जांच की जा सके। हम समझते हैं कि कल्याण राय जी कोयला उद्योग के भ्रष्टाचार का निर्मूल करने के लिए सरकार जो कदम उठाने जा रही है उसमें हम लोगों के मददगार होंगे।

श्री श्रीकान्त जी हमारे बहुत दिनों के दोस्त हैं। उपसभापति जी, जब ये कांग्रेस में नहीं थे, हम लोगों के साथ थे, तब के दोस्त हैं। इन्होंने मंत्री जी को पुअर मिनिस्टर कहा, यह कहा कि इनकी तो कई बात चलती नहीं, केवल दो-तीनों की चलती है—प्राइम मिनिस्टर की और डिप्टी प्राइम मिनिस्टर की। तो मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ, इस सरकार में दो-तीन लोगों की बात चल भी जाती है, आप जिस में थे उसमें केवल एक की बात चला करती थी। तो अगर हम लग पुअर हो जाएंगे तो आप लोग पुअर हो जाएंगे और इस तरह का कमेंट आम तौर से देना नहीं चाहता। हम आपको पुअर नहीं कहने वाले हैं और न हम अपने को पुअर मानने वाले हैं....

श्री श्रीकान्त वर्मा : मैं तो नहीं कहता, आप कहते हैं चरण सिंह जी की नहीं चल रही है।

श्री जनेश्वर प्रसाद मिश्र : उस पर मैंने बताया, यह कोयला उद्योग के सामने जो कई तरह के संकट आए हैं, इस सदन से मैं गुजारिश करूंगा इस संकट से निपटने के लिए इस उद्योग के कुछ ऐसी तजवीज दें, देश के हित में दें, और सरकार उनकी तजवीज को अंगीकार करने के लिए तैयार रहेगी। धन्यवाद।

PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH (Gujarat): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thought this debate on the working of the Ministry will offer positive suggestions to the acute power crisis which is engulfing not only West Bengal but Maharashtra and Gujarat also. I am, therefore, sorry that my friend, Mr. Kalyan Roy, should have chosen the occasion of discussing the working of the Ministry in a manner which would aggravate the crisis rather than resolving it. No doubt some of the problems he raised are problems which must be attended to immediately, and if there are genuine grievances of the labour, particularly in view of the hazardous working in the coal industry. I entirely agree with him that we must give the topmost priority to their problems. But while sympathising with the genuine problems of the mining labourers, I would say that we must keep in mind that if we aggravate the crisis of coal supply if we do something which will further worsen the position of coal supply it would affect all of us and it would virtually become a question of survival of all of us, the entire nation. I would, therefore, not say anything more than that and I would appeal to the Minister that he should look into this problem without losing time and if he finds that their grievances are genuine he should do something immediately.

[Prof. Ram Lal Parikh]

Sir, the working of the Energy Ministry should be rather considered in totality, not from one aspect or the other only. I have read through the reports of both the Departments of Power and Coal and I too have some comments to make on the working of the Ministry. But I would nevertheless say that the goals which the Ministry has set up for the purpose of future development are the right goals, the correct thing that they have chosen.

For example, 12.6 per cent increase has been achieved in one year in power generation. This, I consider, is a splendid achievement. In spite of several bottlenecks, the Ministry of Energy has been successful in achieving from 83,658 million units to 93,838 million units of power generation. This is certainly a splendid achievement, and this is in accord with the Janata Party's policy to give high priority to power generation and to accelerate the development of power generation in such a way that we are able to cover all our 575,000 villages in the shortest possible time. As most of the Members who have been following the developments in the Planning Commission, know that rural electrification has been made a part of the Revised Minimum Needs Programme (RMNP), and, therefore, the Ministry's efforts in this direction are certainly very admirable. Although the problem is so stupendous that the achievement falls far short of what we really need. That is a different thing. But the effort has been made—a sincere effort has been made. Mr. Ramachandran, who is presiding over this Ministry, is a dedicated and honest public worker, and has made a sincere effort.

But the Power Department is not alone in its functioning. The Department has to depend on several factors, several conditions and several agencies to implement its programmes. There are constraints, all-

round constraints, within which it has to function. In spite of that, it is really a matter of satisfaction, that Rs. 360 crores were provided in the year under report for rural electrification covering more than 40,000 villages and also that a decision was taken to ensure in the coming five years—let me say four years because we have already completed one year of the Sixth Plan or the mid-term Plan, whatever we say, but I prefer to call it the Sixth Plan—that 50 per cent of the rural population will be covered under the rural electrification programme. This also is a very important and significant decision which will effect reordering of our economy.

Sir, if you look at the Sixth Plan proposals for the development of power generation, particularly in the rural areas, Rs. 1,450 crores have been provided and that in addition Rs. 300 crores will be available from financial institutions. This is certainly a very very bold effort to overcome the crisis of power generation in our country, which is not new, which has not suddenly developed this year and which we have been facing for the last several years in one or other form at every intermediate period. Almost every alternate year we have been facing this kind of crisis.

The Department of Power in the Ministry of Energy is not only devoting its entire attention to the programme of generating more electricity but is also trying to engage its attention for finding out alternative sources of energy. This is more important and more crucial than that if you want to protect our future. And here I would say that the Ministry perhaps has not taken it as seriously as it should. While it is engaged and involved in the development of bio-gas, solar energy, tidal power, wind power and nu-

clear energy, I do not think the efforts put in this area of developing alternative sources of energy are adequate enough or even serious enough. I would, therefore, plead with the Minister that it is high time to read the writing on the wall that mere dependence on electricity generation through thermal power stations or hydro-power stations is not going to solve our problems. We must learn a lesson from our experience of the last 30 years and give very urgent attention and a very great priority to the development of alternative sources of energy. I was rather amazed and astonished that my learned friend, Mr. Shrikant Verma, ridiculed the ideas of bio-gas and solar energy. The world over, scientists, technologists and experts have come to the conclusion that even a country like the United States and even a country like Soviet Russia cannot afford an uncontrolled use of electricity, an unrestrained use of electricity in their life. These great cities, these great metropolitan places are, in fact, consuming so much electricity wastefully and using it in such a bad manner, in such an ugly manner for making advertisements and all kinds of unwanted things. Even these nations are feeling that this has to stop. They have realised that the time has come when they cannot depend only on electricity. And in our country, 50 per cent of our villages are yet to be electrified, and according to the estimates prepared by the experts of Energy Ministry, it will take another 15 years to cover all the villages. In this situation, the demand for electricity would go on increasing and by that time, it would rise so high that it would be impossible to meet the demand of electricity through thermal power stations or other power installations. Therefore, Sir, I would plead with the Minister that it is high time that the problems of generation of bio-gas, solar energy, tidal power and wind power were attended to very very seriously and urgently,

particularly bio-gas. Let us not forget that all the electricity generation that we have done for so many years, and in the last two years very rapidly, is mostly going for industrial use and recently, for energising pump-sets. But the poorer people of our society, who constitute our real society, are not benefiting from the electric power and the facilities arising out of it. Therefore, Sir, it is important that we must have some kind of decentralised, locally produced energy available for consumers' use. To that end, I think, the bio-gas is the most effective, most modern most ultra-modern, I would say, most scientific and most technologically advanced solution, the world over. It would be a folly to consider this as backwardness. It would be the height of our ignorance if we say that development of bio-gas is going to lead us to backwardness. It is bio-gas which is going to answer some of our most difficult problems of energy.

Then there are proposal for tidal power development. And one such proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Energy by the Gujarat Government, for developing tidal power on the coast of Saurashtra. I am surprised that it has not received the response that was expected. When you are faced with serious power crisis and when Gujarat Government is willing to conduct research, even the research proposal for tidal power has not received the kind of support which it should have received. It has not been cleared yet. This is where the Ministry is not as serious about developing alternative sources of energy, as it ought to be. Then comes the question of wind power on our coasts. On our coasts adequate sources from wind power are available but we are not harnessing them.

Then solar energy. I would say that research has established, and I am glad to find in the report, that a 10 Kw power station of solar energy has been successfully invented now

[Profess Ram Lal Parikh]

This is an achievement on which I congratulate the Department. But even here I would warn the researchers and the experts that if they were going to have solar energy also converted into traditional mode of centralized electricity, then they would not succeed; that would again create more problems.

Nuclear energy is excellent. We welcome it. We should do everything possible to develop atomic energy, nuclear energy. But we must remember that the centralisation and concentration of nuclear energy and atomic power stations, creates certain serious problems. Recently the leakage in Nuclear power station in the United States created a panic in the whole of the United States and the whole of Europe. Atomic radiation that flowed from a small leakage from the nuclear energy would be hazardous. It would be worse than famine or earthquake. It would be disastrous and catastrophic. So these problems should be looked into. We must try to build locally produced sources of electricity and energy at least for consumers' use.

I was also happy to read that Rs. 4.5 crores have been provided for specifically electrifying Harijan bastis. This is indeed a very significant and important step.

Coming to the Coal Department, I feel that the position is really not clear. On one side there is a claim in this report that coal production has slightly increased, and on the other side we find statements that coal production has gone down. It is difficult to make out the correct position. I have read both reports and I have got more confused after hearing our friend, Mr. Janeshwar Mishra, the Minister of State. I hope the Minister will clear this confusion. If coal production is going up, even slightly, then what is the problem? We do not know what the problem is. Gujarat has been facing an acute crisis. Last month there were days when we had only one day's coal with the three major thermal power stations: Gandhi-

nagar, Ahmedabad and Ukai. And the Minister admitted in answer to my question yesterday that they could supply only 57 per cent of the coal allocated for Ukai thermal power plant. With all these things, the picture does not seem to be clear as to what really is the bottleneck and where we are stuck. I am told by the Railway Minister that they have sorted out all the problems and there is no misunderstanding between the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Railways. The Ministry of Energy says that there are no problems so far as coal supplies are concerned. Now, Gujarat has asked for more wagons. If there are no wagons, please allow it to be lifted by ships, through sea route. The Gujarat Government has made a representation to the effect, but it is not being acceded to. You cannot supply us railway wagons, and you would not let us have the shipping lines to lift it. Then what are we going to do? And now the position in Gujarat is not easy. It is a very, very difficult position. Against the requirement of 10,000 metric tonnes of coal per day, we are getting only 6,000 metric tonnes of coal per day. This is the average worked out. If this is the position, I think the industries in Gujarat are also likely to close down very soon and that would create a big economic disorder, unemployment, shortage of goods, and what not. All these are very serious problems. Ministry of Energy is not an isolated Ministry. A small lapse here and there, a small miscalculation here and there, can affect the whole economy. The figures supplied by the Ministry themselves show that they are not able to make adequate supplies as were allocated. Even allocated supply is not being given to Gujarat. This is a very serious thing. This is one part of it.

Secondly, the requirement for electric power in Gujarat is increasing very fast. The State Government have submitted to the Centre seven new projects for meeting their electric power needs for the coming five years. Gujarat needs 3,900 MW

[Profess Ram Lal Parikh]

power whereas it has only 2,500 MW. To meet this gap it has submitted plans for additional generation of 1,400 MW power. All these proposals have to be agreed to and cleared. Otherwise, in spite of all the serious and sincere efforts and genuine efforts of Mr. Ramachandran the problem will not be solved. I know he is trying very hard. He is leaving no stone unturned to meet the power requirements of States like Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal. But he should work on three fronts. First is that alternative sources have to be tapped. New programmes submitted to him have to be very quickly cleared on a priority basis. Even alternative routes should be immediately allowed. The suggestion that we can lift coal by trucks is not workable because of the prohibitive cost.

The problem, therefore, is very serious. I am sure he knows that it is very serious. He is not the kind of person who will say that this is no problem. He would accept that this is a very grave and serious situation which requires all of us to join hands together and cooperate together to find an immediate solution. The time has come when a very specific programme to resolve this crisis must be drawn up in consultation with all and if necessary by having a conference of all affected State Chief Ministers, the Chairmen of State Electricity Boards, the other concerned Departments of the Government of India, like the Coal Department, Shipping Department, Railways, Ministry of Steel and Mines and the Ministry of Energy. All of them must together find out a solution. It is no use blaming each other. All should work together. Nobody should work in an isolated manner, independent of each other. But on the whole, looking to the totality of performance the Ministry of Energy has done very good work in the last one year. The crisis that has been generated is not a crisis that has been generated because of one factor, but because of a

multiple factors the solution of which requires the leadership from the Energy Minister. He should take initiative in marshalling all these multiple factors together so that the problem can be solved in all its multifarious dimensions that have been unfolded. With these few words, I congratulate the Minister once again.

*SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman. On behalf of my Party, I would like to express some opinions on this discussion on the working of the Ministry of Energy.

Nobody can deny that Power and Energy are essential for the prosperity of our nation; but I regret to point out that the working of the Ministry has not been satisfactory. We expected that the production of 93,838 units of power on All-India basis by the end of February 1979. We should have then an increase of power to 12.12 per cent. Since it was not so, there is a power-crisis everywhere. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the press-report that the appointment of generalists, who were not experts in power-technology, as the Heads of Electricity Boards caused the power-crisis. There is also a complaint that the fuel oil was not supplied properly. Had the co-operation of Department of Petroleum been taken, we could have had the oil to the extent of 15,60,000 kilo-litres and the power-crisis would have been averted.

It has been reported that the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station is to be closed in the absence of supply of nuclear fuel. How is the Government going to face the situation? As the still-born baby is declared dead, the power-station has been facing the crisis. I feel so sorry for this. I request the Minister for arranging to get the nuclear fuel from anywhere and save the Atomic Power Station.

If the crisis continues this way,

*English translation of original speech in Tamil

[Shri E. E. Krishnan]

will it be possible to increase the production to 44,500 MW from the present 26,000 MW? I appreciate the Minister on the occasion of achievement that he has taken necessary efforts to develop KORBA SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT, TATA ELECTRIC COMPANY and TROMBAY EXPANSION PROJECT with the financial assistance provided by the International Development Association and the World Bank. At the same time I wish to express my regrets also that no action has been taken by the Minister in regard to the power-projects recommended by Tamil Nadu Government. For the past one year, Tamil Nadu Government has been seeking permission to instal a Third Unit of 110 MW at Mettur Thermal Power Station; but the permission is yet to be given. Similarly, additional power proposal at Ennore Thermal Power Station also is yet to be given the required consideration. If all the proposals of Tamil Nadu Government are accepted, I am sure, there would be no power crisis in Tamil Nadu.

It was said that power-production to the extent of 3022 MW was increased during the second year of Janata rule; but it became a matter of controversy. All-India Power Engineers' Federation has questioned the claim. The Federation is of the opinion that only 1522 MW was actually commissioned and the remaining 1500 MW was added taking the units in turning gear. The Chairman of the Federation issued a statement that there was an increase in the production only up to 16 per cent, not 23 per cent as claimed by the Government.

Is it not correct that there has been a power-cut up to 40 per cent in all States? Tamil Nadu itself has to impose the power-cut up to 50 per cent. It has been reported that on account of acute power-crisis in West Bengal, holiday was declared continuously for six days from Monday (9-4-1979) by the Industries. Each holiday would affect the production to the tune of Rs. 105 crore. Even Delhi is affected

on account of the power-crisis. West Bengal is badly affected. I would like to know, Sir, what are the steps going to be taken by the Government to avert the crisis.

It may be correct that there is an increase in the generation of power; but the demand for power has also been increasing. Power is required everyday for industries; since the demand was not met, the production cannot be considered as high. The demand from the South is estimated to be of 44,300 million units. I would like to know, Sir, how is the Government going to meet the deficit.

There has been unnecessary delay in launching new power-projects. I request the Minister for taking necessary steps to launch the new projects with farsightedness. The Minister may be aware that all the water-resources for generation of power have been already brought into use in Tamil Nadu; hence, the Minister may, now, make efforts for installing Atomic Power Stations in Tamil Nadu. If the Ministry functions properly, it can bring credit to the Government and the industries will also have a satisfactory production. There are about 10,060 industries functioning in Tamil Nadu employing lakhs of persons. Goods worth crores of rupees are being produced and sold in the country as well as exported. But, the production has not been in full swing recently, on account of power-cut and the shortage of coal and diesel. If the production is reduced, it is natural that the prices may go up and the problem of unemployment may arise. I, therefore, request the Minister for taking necessary steps in order to avert the crisis.

It may be seen that the Hydro-power projects in the generation of power are not given due importance. Since these projects keep off the pollution and are based upon the natural resources without causing any damage to the basic elements, I re-

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quest for importance to be given to these projects.

Many power-stations are not in good condition. The Minister may be aware that while answering a question in this House yesterday, it was admitted that Nangal Pipra Station in Assam was not in good condition. Ennore Power Station in Tamil Nadu also was not in good condition and the remedial measures were recently taken. The generation of power is reduced at Neyveli Power Station. I request the Minister for paying his attention to improve the situation.

It is said that the Fast Breeder Reactor Project has been going very slowly. If it functions speedily there is a possibility of using thorium available in a large quantity in India. It may be noted that Germany and France are going ahead in the development of Fast Breeder Technology.

Regional Electricity Boards were established with a view to 6 P.M. introducing economy in power.

In order to implement the policy of economy, Load Despatch Centres were also established. With a view to getting the required scientific equipments, tenders were called for by the Northern Regional Electricity Board; it was found that one tender was lost during onward transmission to the Central Electricity Authority. Hence the order had to be given to SIEMENS causing a loss of Rs. 90 lakhs to the Government. I hope, the Minister would enlighten us on the reasons for the loss.

As regards coal, since the transport is not made available, it is stated that the movement of coal is not up to the mark. This Janata Government is represented by one Janata Party. All the Ministers holding the portfolios of Railways, Energy and Petroleum belong to one ruling party. Hence I request that all the three Ministers meet together and remove the hurdles in coal movement.

After nationalisation of the collieries, COAL INDIA faced a heavy loss. What is the reason for the loss of Rs. 170 crore? Was not the coal sold at high prices? I hope, the Minister would give the necessary explanation on the point. I am sure, if the authorities in COAL INDIA work sincerely there will be room for a good profit.

The Director of Industries and Commerce in Tamil Nadu Government wrote to the Director of Rail Movement, Calcutta on 5-7-1978, pointing out the shortage of coal. Since the steam-coal was not received in the required quantity, the production in industries was affected; the production of bricks and tiles was too affected; more than 100 foundries will have to be closed in Coimbatore District, if the required coal is not supplied immediately.

We require 131 wagons per month for our small industries; but only 57 to 65 wagons are being provided. I have to point out that this kind of negligence is not commendable. Even though the Singaren Mines at Kothakudam, Dellampalli and Ramagundam produce 30,000 tonnes of coal, I have to point out that the production is affected both at Ennore Thermal Power Station and the Cement Factories as the required coal is not made available.

There is a co-ordination wing linking coal and power in the Ministry of Energy. If the co-ordination is extended to the Department of Petroleum and the Department of Railways a way may be found out for proper movement of coal and the required generation of power. Can the Minister take any steps? What can a poor Minister do, unless the officers in the Department also extend their co-operation? The Ministry of Energy is a vital one for the development of industries, and has to function vigilantly in the interest of the welfare of 70 crores of Indians. Hence I request the Government for speeding up the activities to meet the deficit in power. In the previous month,

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the movement of trains was affected in Tamil Nadu due to non-availability of coal. Once the Nilgiri Mail was delayed by three hours on account of shortage of coal. I request that the Department of Coal should function efficiently. I request the Minister once again for taking up the proposals forwarded by Tamil Nadu Government for consideration and for implementation of those schemes in the interest of the nation. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON (Kerala): Sir, I will not take much time because the issue has been discussed from various viewpoints. One thing has come out clearly, namely, the lack of long-term vision and the lack of co-ordination are the main ingredients for this power crisis. Although from various political angles each party tried to ventilate its own opinion and certain people said that it is because of labour troubles and people from West Bengal felt that it was because of the present Ministry, the question remains why such a development has taken place? Such a development has taken place because after we got freedom and all that we should have some kind of long term vision about these things. We lacked it. It is a fact. We have to recognise it.

Sir, I come from a State which is not on this map of power-crisis States. We are rather giving power to other States, the neighbouring States. Sir, I remember one discussion between the Members of Parliament and various Ministries, the Industry Ministry, the Irrigation Ministry and all that about the Idikki project and the generator to be bought or manufactured for it in India. On this question we had a discussion. We all M.Ps. from Kerala, without any political differences, said that after all this BHEL has not manufactured any generators and so we will not allow it to manufacture for us. We said that it was our money and we were going to purchase it. The Irrigation Ministry

supported us although the Industries Minister opposed it. Finally the Prime Minister had to interfere and we got our generator from outside. Sir, I am saying it because if you approach these issues with a long-term vision and build up certain things, they will be helpful. With the Idikki project we are now in a position to help some other neighbouring States also.

Sir, there is a proposal before the hon. Minister about the Silent Valley Project. According to us it will also give us some more power and with that we can help others. But the hon. Minister is not giving us any clearance in the name of deforestation, which he says is bad and on such other theories. The point before us, Sir, is that the crisis is there. Whether a Communist Minister like Mr. Jyoti Basu rules or some other Janata Minister rules or some other party rules, the problem is there and the question is how to solve it. And, we have to face the problem on a war footing. Instead of doing that, everybody is putting the blame on others and they want to find a scapegoat. This is not correct. I can answer each and every point of Shri Sankar Ghose that he raised. But I am not going into all those details. The fact remains that in West Bengal there is crisis and in other States also there is crisis. The question is how to solve it, how to co-ordinate this work? What is the machinery that has been visualised by the Minister? The Centre alone can solve it actually because the Damodar Valley Corporation is also there. Everything should be co-ordinated from the angle of the Centre, the Railways, the Electricity Authorities and other Ministries. The Centre must take the initiative and the Centre must take it above politics. Today Mr. Jyoti Basu may be in power but tomorrow Mr. P. C. Sen also can come into power but Bengal will be Bengal. Is it not? The problems will be the same. Without going into the problems as such they are putting everything on politics and

confusing the issues. Sir, I was trying to understand Mr. Mishra when he was talking about the coal employees, because I know Mr. Mishra as a disciple of Mr. Ram Manohar Lohia and I know him from 1967 onwards when he was in the Fourth Lok Sabha. But he was repeating things written by the bureaucrats. He should study the things that happened after the nationalisation in Coal India. I know that he has got much time in the Ministry. Already there is a crisis; there is a situation that has developed. After six or seven meetings with the Central union of this Coal India, no compromise has been arrived at. There is a strike from the 18th. I thought some concrete suggestions will come from Mr. Mishra but he was trying to justify the bureaucrats who are predominantly corrupt. That problem has been highlighted by Mr. Kalyan Roy and I do not want to go into all those things. But my humble request is that in order to save the situation, you should solve this problem. Besides this power crisis, if there is going to be a strike of coal employees also, what will be the position? I would request the Minister to study the situation seriously and try to solve it.

Sir, on the whole, the problem must be taken on a national scale. Although some States like Kerala and Andhra Pradesh may be having some power, but if there is no rain in Kerala, then there also you are going to have this power crisis. But the problem is there. How to solve it? There should be a vision and there should be a scheme and there should be co-ordination of all these forces. I do not want to go into it because everybody else has said about it. One Minister says that he is not getting the wagons; another Minister says he is not getting the coal. All these things are there. The coal must come from the coal mines and the coal miner should work for it. But you have to give him some satisfaction. It is a fact that in the pub-

lic sector undertakings, apart from this Coal India, the employees have got better facilities. If the coal miner feels that he should be given better facilities, accommodation, more pay and other amenities, is there anything wrong? So, Sir, I will not be taking much of your time . . .

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: These people have closed a project by the name Gundu at Ranchi and for the last 11 months, the employees have not been paid their wages. They are small and petty workers and they have now threatened to go on hunger strike from 10th before the office of the Divisional Commissioner of Chota Nagpur.

SHRI VISWANATHA MENNON: Such serious things are there. I would request the Minister to be more vigilant about it and I hope Mr. Ramachandran will take the initiative to solve all these problems. I am sure he can solve it within one day. At least he must have that intention and he must come forward. If he does that, others will co-operate.

On the question of West Bengal, I have got a lot of material but the only point I would like to stress upon is, party consideration should not be there. Whether the Government is run by this party or that party, should not be a consideration. The problem is a problem for the State of West Bengal, whichever party be in power, just like any other State in the country. It also has got its own problems and that problem must be taken as a national problem and it must be solved and I hope that the Minister will take the initiative. I request Shri Ramachandran and Shri Mishra to take the initiative and get the co-ordination of Mr. Madhu Dandavate and Mr. Biju Patnaik, if necessary, to solve the problem. If it comes to that, he should study the problem on the whole and with a

[Shri Vishwanatha Menon]

long-term vision he should visualise these things and he should study how this industry can be developed. Finally, I would request him once again about our Silent Valley Project in Kerala. He should give his green signal.

DR. MALCOLM S. ADISESHIAH (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, in view of the lateness of the hour, I would refer only to the annual report of the Department of Energy and make four brief points.

Firstly, I found that during last month, in the month of April, except four States, namely, Kerala, Orissa, A.P.—which entered for the first time this group—and Punjab, in all other States, there have been power-cuts and severe power constraints. Now, I would like to quantify this for the Government on the basis of my calculations. In the month of April, as a result of the power-cuts, this power crisis as it is called, all over India, except in these four States, I found that in manufacturing industry, we had lost Rs. 200 crores, in agriculture, we had lost Rs. 50 crores and in integrated rural development and the tertiary sector, we had lost another Rs. 50 crores. My calculation is, in the month of April alone, the country had lost Rs. 300 crores. Taking our monthly GNP of Rs. 6,500 crores, in the month of April, our GNP has gone down by 4 to 5 per cent. This is the importance of the power-cuts which this Ministry and the Department represent for the whole economy. In relation to this, what we need to note is that in this case, in the case of power, the sources of power in our hands are totally indigenous. One is hydel power and we have had four years of continuously good monsoons. Just as we have had four years of continuously good harvests, we should have had continuous improvement in our hydel generation which we have not. The other is coal, thermal generation, coal or lig-

nite and that again is all indigencous in our hands.

My second point is that the annual report does not reflect the kind of crisis which has been raised in Parliament by all of us and Mr. Minister himself is aware of this. It is too rosy a picture which is painted here. I would like to say here that one important achievement last year, as we see in the annual report, is that this Ministry, under Mr. Ramachandran's leadership, has been able to cut back on the time lag the gestation period in regard to the construction of power projects. This is a great achievement. We, engineers and economists, were crying about the long time which is taken to complete power projects. Now, in one year, namely last year, 2,000 MW was constructed and the target this year is 3,000 MW. This represents a very great breakthrough. Apart from that, I do not believe, this annual report reflects the concern which has been shown by all of us.

My third point which is a question that I would like to ask Mr. Ramachandran is: What is the percentage of actual generation in relation to the installed capacity? We have an installed capacity of 26,000 or 29,000 MW. What is the actual percentage of generation in relation to installed capacity? My calculation is—he can correct me if I am wrong—it is not more than 40 per cent. Forty per cent of our capacity is being actually generated. If this is so, this is the area where there should be serious, quick and large technical improvement.

I end with my last point, which is what Mr. Menon just now mentioned and it is that we need an integrated programme, an integrated plan, which would both be horizontal, covering all departemnts of the Government, as well as vertical, covering all States vis-a-vis the Centre, because the

actual implementation of this programme is in the hands of the State Governments. I do not believe that between the Central and the State Governments vertically or horizontally between the Ministry of Energy, Railways, Shipping, Industry, Steel and Mines and Agriculture, we have developed an integrated power development plan and action programme. I believe that the coal-supply situation which is the input for thermal production is a serious problem. Our maintenance is a still bigger problem. And Mr. Deputy Chairman, our transmission loss in the country is still on an average 18 to 20 per cent. It should not be more than 10 to 12 per cent. And this is not the Centre's responsibility. It rests with the States. So, I hope very much that in accordance with the suggestions that have been made, the Ministry would be able to give thought to a national integrated power development programme which will be both horizontal and vertical, to meet this crisis.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in the debate and made suggestions for the better performance of the Ministry. Energy being one of the major inputs to the economic development, naturally the House always concerns itself with regard to the functioning of this Ministry. In this country, when we talk of power development, at the time when we achieved freedom, the installed capacity was only 2000 megawatts. At the time when the Janata Government came to power, the installed capacity was about 24000 megawatts. There was a growth of 22,000 megawatts in the last 30 years, after freedom. But after this Government came, we saw the reason and also the importance of the power development. So, we tried to expedite the ongoing schemes and also tried to sanction new schemes. By expediting and also sanctioning the new schemes we have set before us an ambitious programme of deve-

lopment and in that direction, in the course of the last two years, even though we fell short of the targets we set before us, we have improved the installed capacity from 24,000 megawatts to 29,000 megawatts. I hope the hon. Members will agree with me that it is no mean achievement. Not only that, there was a deficit in the power availability in this country. It was more than 15 per cent in the last year, i.e. in the year 1977-78. So, in addition to the growth that we had achieved, nearly 6 to 7 per cent in the country, the deficit has been brought down to less than 10 per cent in the year 1978-79. I hope the hon. House will agree that it is no mean achievement. When I say all these things, I am very anxious to see that the power development grows to match the demand in this country, but that cannot be achieved overnight, as hon. Members will understand, because power development means long gestation period, capital intensive long gestation period and also various other factors which go into power development. Those factors must also function efficiently, including the equipment suppliers and various other sources. Unless you have this coordinated effort, it is not possible to add more capacity in this country. That is why, in the course of the last one year I have taken directly the responsibility of monitoring this power development and tried to meet the equipment suppliers and the Ministers in charge of power of State Governments. Both at the national level and at the regional level we have tried to have meetings to see that the targets are achieved.

A reference was made that the programme is very ambitious, whether we will achieve it. I am hopeful that we will achieve the targets that we have set before us. In the coming four years we want to add another 15,500 megawatts to the existing capacity, thereby raising the total installed capacity to 44,000 megawatts in the country. Even beyond that, we want to see that the installed

capacity rises to the tune of another 20 to 25 thousand megawatt between the years 1983 and 1988. In the course of the next 10 years—or 9 years to be precise—we want to see that the total installed capacity is raised to nearly 69 or 70,000 MW in this country, thereby trying to wipe out the power deficit in this country. That is one part.

The other part is, we want to see that even the existing capacity is utilised better. That is also another direction in which we are moving. Today the installed capacity may be anything, but the capacity utilisation is not as high as we desire it to be. It is only roughly about 49 to 50 per cent and in some States it is lower. But I am not taking shelter by saying that this is a State subject where I am not going to interfere. But one thing is to be appreciated—that we are trying to discuss with the State Governments also to see how best they can increase the capacity utilisation in the States also.

Unfortunately, at times there is a public criticism that the utilisation is very low in this country and that is why there is inefficiency and all these things. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that the installed capacity is one, capacity availability is another and the utilisation is the third. Installed capacity is something. But all the units will not be available. There may be planned outage, forced outage and unforeseen backing of generation in the various units. Because we have to take down these machines periodically for maintenance purposes, that means that that machine is not available for some time—may be one month, two months, or even three months. That is why we always see that about 15 to 20 per cent of capacity is not available, not because we want to see that it is not available but because of planned maintenance or forced maintenance. Because we are handling machines, at times they go wrong whether we want it or not.

Out of the available capacity, the utilisation is very good in our country, comparable to other countries in the world. Today the problem is that we do not have additional capacity, or surplus capacity in this country. That is why we try to see whether we can generate maximum power and distribute it to the people. So these things have to be understood before we criticise the power development in this country. That is why capacity utilisation has to be understood in the proper perspective.

Then the next question is, when we say the power development is on one side, the other thing is whether hydel power has been exploited or investigated to the maximum extent possible. Unfortunately in this country, hydel potential is concentrated in certain areas—mostly in the northern region as well as in the north-eastern region. In other regions, most of the power projects with hydel potential have been investigated and they are also being used for the whole country. According to our rough estimates, we have got a potential of about 75 to 76,000 MW of hydel power in this country. Out of this, about 20,000 MW we have got in the North-eastern region and the balance in the northern region and other regions. There was some criticism about the hydel power. It is true that it was neglected in the past. But after this Government came to power, we have tried to create a Cell in our own Department and tried to investigate the various hydel schemes in this country. We have tried to sanction these and see also that power is generated as quickly as possible. In this context, one has to understand that hydel schemes take a longer time than the thermal schemes. That is why even from the States there is a demand for more and more thermal schemes to be sanctioned so that they can get the power quickly. In fact, gas-turbines are demanded because you will get them commissioned in the shortest time possible. So the people are impatient. That is why they want quick-yielding results from the power stations. That

is why there is greater demand for thermal projects in this country.

Also there was discussion about alternate sources of energy and there are criticism that Government is not paying enough attention to the other alternate sources of energy. I would like to point out here that this Government is trying to develop alternate sources of energy and also do some research in the various fields. Everybody is talking about solar energy, tidal energy, wind energy and ocean temperature difference energy. All these things are being talked. But nobody talks about the cost of these systems of energy when it is developed. Today we want cheaper energy. If you want cheaper energy it can only be hydel energy. Next is thermal energy.

There are other sources of energy like biogas which we are developing. We are going in a big way to develop biogas also so that the rural areas can be supplied with this energy so that the electrical energy which is costlier can be saved for other uses.

With regard to tidal energy about which our hon'ble Member from Gujarat was referring, in fact, we received a letter and we are going into it. Now, in the whole world there are not many places where this tidal energy is being experimented. If I remember correctly, it is only in a country like France where there is one unit functioning. Further, we have found out that it is not only complicated, it is also very costly. But in spite of this hurdle we are trying to see how best we can go into this question in this country.

With regard to solar energy, we are trying to develop it. But we can use it for certain purposes only. But to commercially exploit that energy it will take. Not only time, we have also to study the cost factor. Merely mentioning alternate sources of energy and saying that the Government has not done anything does not offer any solution. We are trying to

go into all these sources of energy. At the same time we are trying to see how best we can generate power from all these alternate sources which will be cheaper and which can be useful for the people.

With regard to energy policy, a reference was made. A group has been set up already to go into the question of energy policy. As soon as that group presents its reports, I will come before the House and announce the policy that we are going to pursue in this direction. It is not that we are not alive to this problem. We are alive to the problem. Experts are going into the question and the group will submit its report as early as possible. Then I will come before the House to announce the policy.

Apart from these things we are also trying to develop these energy resources. Also the rural areas have to be given power in the shortest time possible. That is why, as hon'ble Members mentioned, in the current Plan of five years we have got schemes under which we are going to spend about Rs. 1,750 crores to electrify the villages. Out of the 5,76,000 villages in this country so far we have electrified only about 2,26,00 villages. We have covered only less than 40 per cent of the rural areas. Even though some States have achieved cent per cent, some States have achieved 90 per cent or a slightly more, our overall achievement is only about 40 per cent. Our intention is that after taking into consideration the availability of resources and also the plans in the States we are hopeful to say that we would be able to electrify the entire rural areas by the year 1994-95. That is our ambitious programme, and we want to see that the rural areas get power because in our scheme of things we have to see that rural employment is generated. For that also we need power in the rural areas.

And there were a lot of points raised by the hon. Members about the Coal Department. Of course, my colleague, Mr. Mishra has already intervened and explained about the Coal Department. But I want to add one or two points. With regard to coal we have a problem now to produce coal required by the consumers in this country. Everybody always criticise that coal is not available at the consumer end. It is a nationalised industry, and because it is a nationalised industry, naturally the criticism will be more than normal. When coal was in the private sector and was not available, nobody complained, and everybody said that coal was available. Today, in spite of various hurdles that we are facing, coal is produced in the country. I would appeal to the hon. Members of the House not to fall a prey to the vested interests who want to malign the coal industry which is in the public sector today. Sweeping remarks are made very often about the functioning of the coal industry, saying that everybody is corrupt. Can we not see at least one per cent good in the coal industry that is functioning? If everyone is saying that everyone in the industry is corrupt, where am I to go to run the industry? This is a sweeping remark. I am afraid it is neither fair to the coal industry nor to the people who are involved in the industry.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: The industry is sick.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: It may be sick or it may not be sick. Nobody talks about the sick industries in the private sector. Everybody only looks at it. There are hundreds of industries in the private sector which go sick. Even there public money is spent. But nobody talks about the private sector. Just because there is some drawback somewhere because of the problems that confront us beyond our control

you simply say that it is a sick industry, should it be condemned? And nobody says a word about the private sector.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: When you fall ill, we will feel concerned.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Thank you for your concern. Let there be a fair criticism. That is what I want. If there is a fair criticism, I will try to rectify it, but if you are going to say that there is nothing good that you can see in the industry, what can I do? That is why I would appeal to the House that when you make a criticism, let it be a constructive criticism. Do not make sweeping remarks condemning the entire industry which is trying to do its best. In spite of the natural hurdles, we have been able to produce a little more than what we did in the last year. Not only that, but we have got pit-head stocks. Some Member said that it was not a correct estimate. I have offered the Members of the Estimates Committee to visit the coal mines to see whether the stocks are there or not. That is what we have offered, and we have even taken the railway officials and the power officials to go to the coal mines to see for themselves whether the stocks are available or not. Why I say this is that we are not trying to shelter any inefficiency in any part of the Ministry or the industry. We want to see that it is exposed to the public; that is our intention. That is why I have invited the Members to go there. If any Member wants to go to the coal mines and see how they are functioning, I am prepared to co-operate with them and am prepared to make arrangements to visit them. That offer I am making and have made to the Members of the Consultative Committee.

With regard to the Labour problem, particularly Mr. Kalyan Roy, was almost shivering in tension when he spoke about the entire coal industry.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: You have made him come to that state. Please see that that tension goes away as early as possible.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: You see, the labour problem is there. And negotiations are taking place. In fact, we are very anxious, not only very anxious, we want to see that the strike is averted at any cost. But one-sided action will not help. So, I would like the trade union leader friends also to co-operate and see that we sort out this problem and avert this strike so that the economy will not suffer. If there is a strike in the coal fields, it will affect power generation, it will affect the industries and the entire economy will come to a grinding halt. Do you want such a situation to arise in this country? At the same time, reasonable demands will be considered very sympathetically.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: The answer should be given by you—whether you want it or not.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: No, no. I do not want the strike. But just because I do not want the strike, if you are going to put forward unreasonable demands, what am I to do? The industry must be in a position to sustain it. We must also consider that the industry must be able to bear it. Unless the industry is able to bear it, how am I to pay? With all these constraints, in fact, we are going all out to see how far we can go and sympathetically consider the demands and see that the problems are sorted out. We are trying to do that. I want the co-operation of the trade union leaders also in this respect. I cannot do it one-sided. There must be some helping hand coming from the other side also. So I will take this opportunity to appeal to my trade union friends to come to some settlement as early as possible so that we can, both of us, avert this strike which will put the entire nation into jeopardy.

Sir, I do not know whether I should take more of your time. Some of the points have been answered. About power generation, I tried to say whatever I could. Now, I will make a general observation on this. As I told you, there is demand for more schemes being sanctioned in various States. That demand is very common. All the States invariably want it. You see, when we plan for additional capacity in the country, we have to take into consideration the resources. That is the first thing. Also we have to take into consideration the demand of a particular period of time for power in the country. That also you must take into consideration. Resources and demand—both these criteria must be there. *(Interruption)* Also in regard to Kerala's Silent Valley, as he himself mentioned, there is an ecological problem. That is being sorted out. We will try to see whether some quick result will come out of it.

One more point which I left out is—most of the Members have mentioned about it—the power crisis in the eastern region. Here I want to make one or two points. Every Member was mentioning about Bengal. Here, you see, when in the entire country there is an increase in power generation and power cuts are not very many in very many States, there is a crisis in West Bengal. The hon. House has to understand why this crisis is there. You have got more than 1,350 MW of installed capacity in West Bengal. And they are generating only 600 or 700 MW in that State. That is one part of it. The second part of it is, there are schemes which have been sanctioned to the tune of 1,500 MW—1,460 or 1,470 MW. Some of the schemes were sanctioned even as early as 1972 or 1973. And work has not progressed. The machines are lying there. If they complete these schemes, the problem will not be there. In spite of these things, the Centre is trying to help them by getting power from various neigh-

bouring States. Here also one other point I want to make very clear. Power is mostly the responsibility of the States. They have to add to the capacity, generate, maintain and also operate efficiency. If the agencies which do all these things fail, what are we to do? We can only help them. If there is a request from a State Government saying here is a problem, you come and help us to solve it, we will do that. But simply because there is a forum in Parliament, if everybody starts talking about the Central Energy Ministry for the problems that arise entirely in the States, problems that are entirely for the States themselves to solve, what are we to do? At the same time, of course, I am not trying to wriggle myself out of the problem. We are trying to do our best to help every State. Even in Bihar there are schemes pending. They are not being implemented. Work is not progressing there as fast as it should. When I am trying to bring down the gestation period of the power plants in the country, in some of the States some of the schemes are taking more time than they should normally take. What am I to do then? The States must place enough resources at the disposal of the respective Electricity Boards or the concerned project authorities; they must make available the various inputs that are necessary. Then only the projects can be completed on time. Otherwise how do you expect that the projects can be completed on time? There will be delay, there will be power crisis. So this is the role of the States, and the Centre is willing to help them in all fields. As I told you, last year I personally took monitoring meetings. I went to the State capitals myself. I went to Calcutta, I went to Madras, I had a meeting in Delhi. I also went to Bombay. I visited the north-eastern region also—I went to Shillong. I visited all the five regions; I had five regional meetings and discussed with the regions what their problems were, where the Centre could help them. And in the current

year's commissioning programme we are having our first meeting tomorrow. I am meeting the equipment suppliers and our own Power Department to sort out whether there is any delay in the supply of equipment. Then I am going region-wise to discuss with the States what their problems are, where to help them. I am taking all these steps. Why I am saying all this is we want to see that the programme that we have set before us must be completed at any cost. That is why, even though it is a State problem, we want to go and help them to the maximum extent possible. And whenever there is a demand from a State for a new power project, we go into the necessity for it and wherever we feel that there is a necessity for that we do not hesitate to sanction more schemes. Mr. Krishnan was mentioning about Tamil Nadu. We will not hesitate to sanction schemes if they have got the necessary resources, if they have got enough resources and if there is demand. That is why I say there will be no problem about these things.

With these words, I once again thank all Members . . .

PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: What about coal?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: About coal I thought my colleague has spoken about it and I need not dwell on that. As regards coal supply again I have to say that even yesterday the Power Ministers from Gujarat as well as Maharashtra both met. In fact, they wanted *ad hoc* allotments from some of the coal fields which are not linked to the power stations there. I have directed the Coal Department to give them *ad hoc* allotments. And if they want to move it by ship, by sea, we said we will make *ad hoc* allotments wherever coal is available. But then even there the ports must have the capacity to handle coal, because

certain ports are not developed in that way as to be able to handle coal loading in a big way for power stations. And coal has to move from coal fields to the harbours. That is also a problem. In spite of all these constraints we are willing, the Coal Department is willing, to offer coal from fields where it is available, from where they can move either by sea route or by rail. In fact, with regard to Gujarat and Maharashtra even my colleague, the Railway Minister, has agreed to place at the disposal of the Coal Department additional rakes to move coal from the fields from where new *ad hoc* allotments are made. So, we are trying to solve this problem in all possible ways; we are every day having coordinating meetings with the Railways Coal Department is also in the picture. Coal, power and Railways, they are sitting together everyday and are discussing the problem. We will try our best to see that the problems are solved. The generation is going up. Normally the demand for coal also will go up. We will naturally produce more coal. We will not only produce, but will move coal also. With the best of cooperation from all of you, I hope to solve this problem very soon.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Special Courts Bill, 1979

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 101 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to inform you that the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Special Courts Bill, 1979, at its sitting held on the 21st March, 1979, were taken into consideration and agreed to by Lok

Sabha at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 8th May, 1979."

Preamble

1. "That at page 1, after line 17, the following be inserted, namely:

'And whereas all powers being a trust, and holders of high public or political offices are accountable for the exercise of their powers in all cases where Commissions of Inquiry appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 or investigations conducted by Government through its agencies disclose offences committed by such holders.'

Clause 3

2. "That at page 2, for lines 27 to 29, the following be substituted, namely:

'(2) A Special Court shall consist of a sitting Judge of a High Court nominated by the Chief Justice of the High Court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the Special Court is situated, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of India.

Explanation.—Any reference to a High Court or to the Chief Justice or Judge of a High Court shall, in relation to a union territory having a Court of the Judicial Commissioner, be construed as a reference to the said Court of the Judicial Commissioner or to the Judicial Commissioner or any Additional Judicial Commissioner, as the case may be."

Clause 5

3. "That at page 2, line 34, the words during the period mentioned in the Preamble hereto be deleted."