

cluding MPs and MLAs made certain allegations against the West Bengal Congress Ministers and on the 8th Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, Chief Minister of West Bengal announced that he would appoint a Commission and he said the target will go straight to him and here is the statement of the same day published in the 'Statesman' of 9th, 1 am reading:

"Mr. Ray said he had informed the Prime Minister on Saturday of his decision to constitute the inquiry commission and would leave for Delhi on Sunday morning."

He did leave for Delhi on Sunday morning and returned the same evening to say that the Prime Minister had given clearance for everything. May I know since when it has become the practice to (1) order an appointment of commission of inquiry without going into, looking into the charges, examining them legally whether there is a *prima-facie* case and (2) when the last 32 Commissions have been appointed and none of which recommended the amendment of the Commission of Inquiry Act, in order to enable a commission of inquiry to punish the witnesses and complainants at its own instance summarily why did the Government sanction this amendment? None of the 32 Commissions so far appointed had demanded any such amendment and even the Law Commission in its 41st Report which specifically examined the working of the Commission of Inquiry Act, did not make recommendation of this kind. Was it to suit the convenience of the Siddhartha Shankar Ray's political party or some other reason?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Well, Sir, it is true the Chief Minister, West Bengal, met the Prime Minister in June 1974 and discussed various matters and it is not customary to disclose the talks a Chief Minister had with the Prime Minister . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He disclosed them. The moment he landed at the airport he disclosed everything.

12 Noon

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: As regards the amendment of the Commission of . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Prime Minister say anything on this?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Niren Ghosh, Mr. Mirdha is saying something will you first let him complete his answer?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: When an amendment was proposed by the West Bengal Government in the Act, they referred to giving the Commission the power to try certain offences summarily. That was all that they asked for and it was thought that there was nothing wrong in vesting the Commission with these summary powers and that is why the Central Government agreed to the suggestion of the West Bengal Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour over.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I request you to kindly allow half an hour discussion . . .

(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Failure of Central Electricity Authority

*96. SHRI R. K. MISHRA:

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Electricity Authority has failed in stepping up power generation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the Central Electricity Authority is primarily responsible for formulating the national power plan. Implementation of the plan is almost entirely the responsibility of the State Governments or State Electricity Boards.

The installed capacity for generation has increased from 2.30 million kW in 1951 to 18.50 million kW at the end of the Fourth Plan. There have however, been shortfalls in achieving the targets set in each Plan period for adding to the generating capacity. States could not create additional generation capacity largely because of delays in erection works, inadequacy of finance, delays in supply of equipment and material inputs like steel and cement as well as managerial deficiencies.

In the Fifth Plan, it is proposed to add 16.55 million kW to the generation capacity. To achieve this target, proposals for restructuring the electricity industry are being finalised in a manner which will help to remove some of the past deficiencies, particularly on the managerial side. The Government has decided to give priority to power projects next only to Defence in allocation of scarce materials. Supply of equipment is now being ensured largely through indigenous production and is not likely to be a bottleneck. It is also proposed to introduce effective monitoring and information systems so as to closely watch the implementation of the power projects and to take corrective action wherever necessary

Pension to Freedom Fighters of West Bengal

- *97. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications for pension to freedom fighters from West Bengal are pending with the Central Government through a majority

of those applications had been cleared by the State Pension Committees:

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in sanctioning pension to such persons who have already been receiving pension under the State Government scheme for the last seven or eight months; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to expedite disposal of such applications?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) to (c) Of the 22,913 applications received from West Bengal so far, 13,186 cases have been disposed of. In respect of the remaining 9,727, complete information was not available and efforts are being made to expedite their processing with the help of the State Government.

It is not correct that the majority of applications from West Bengal were cleared by the State Committee/State Government. Of the total 22,913, applications in respect of West Bengal, verification reports were received from the State only for 3,032 cases. Of these 3,032, 2,549 applications have been disposed of; the remaining 483 received recently are being processed.

A person who receives a State pension does not, on that ground, automatically become entitled to Central pension but has to fulfil the conditions prescribed in the Central Scheme for pensions to freedom fighters.

Letter from Secretary-General of Amnesty International

- *98. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:
DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has received any letter from the Amnesty International in connection with the recent railway strike;

(b) whether a demand has been made for the release of arrested leaders and workers; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?