

V. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance) under sub-section (3) of Section 39 of the General Insurance Business Nationalisation) Act, 1972:—

(i) Notification S.O. No. 770(E), dated the 29th December, 1972.

(ii) Notification S.O. No. 771(E), dated the 29th December, 1972.

(iii) Notification G.S.R. No. 2-(E), dated the 1st January, 1973, publishing the General Insurance Business (Functions of Certain Acquiring Companies) Rules, 1973.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4232/73 for (i) to (iii)].

VI. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance) Notification S.O. No. 8(E), dated the 2nd January, 1973, under sub-section (6) of section 101A of the Insurance Act, 1938.

[Placed in Library. See No. 4238/73].

VII. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance):—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 490-(E), dated the 15th December, 1972, together with an Explanatory Memorandum thereon.

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 5, dated the 6th January, 1973, together with an Explanatory Memorandum thereon.

(iii) Notification G.S.R. No. 6, dated the 6th January, 1973, together with an Explanatory Memorandum thereon.

(iv) Notification G.S.R. No. 51, dated the 20th January, 1973, together with an Explanatory Memorandum thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4239/73 for (i) to (iv)].

I. IMPORT POLICY (1972-73) FOR NEWS PRINT

II. IMPORT POLICY (1972-73) FOR ART PAPER

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Public Notice No. 22-ITC(PN)/73, dated the 12th February, 1973, containing the Import Policy for Newsprint, for the year 1972-73.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4177/73].

(ii) Public Notice No. 23-ITC(PN), 1973, dated the 12th February, 1973, containing the Import Policy for Art Paper, for the year 1972-73.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4178/73].

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SERIOUS CRISIS DUE TO POWER SHORTAGE IN THE COUNTRY

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and power to the serious crisis due to power shortage in the country resulting in the closure of many industries in almost all the States, increasing unemployment, fall in agriculture and industrial production; and the steps taken by Government to meet the situation.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): Mr. Deputy Chairman,

[Shri Balgovind Verma]

Sir, the main reasons for the shortage of power all over the country this year are:

(1) reduced power generation from hydro stations due to shortage of water in the reservoirs;

(2) shortfall in power production from the atomic power stations;

(3) continued growth in demand for power; and

(4) shortfall in the additions to generating capacity.

This year there is a shortage of power all over the country except in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Assam. For the first time after the construction of the reservoirs, a widespread shortage of power has occurred simultaneously all over the country. This year, there has been deficient monsoons over 2/3rd of the country which is most unusual.

In a drought year, even a small power shortage gets aggravated because apart from the reduced availability of power from the hydro stations, there is an increased demand and drawal of power for agricultural pumping in order to augment the water supply for irrigation. Such a deficit in rainfall over a large area has never occurred in the past 20 years or more. Years like 1965, 1966 and 1968 were indeed bad but this year has been the worst ever. The reservoirs located in areas of deficit rainfall have not filled up. Under conditions existing in our country, we may expect that a reservoir may not fill up once in five years; but a simultaneous non-filling of all the reservoirs is exceptional. This is what has occurred this year. The shortfall in the live storage capacity in the various reservoirs has been on an average of the order of 45 per cent. The impact of the above on the power supply position in the various States would be evident from the fact that 40 per cent of the total installed generating capacity is from hydro—6.7 million kw out of 17.5 million kw. Where dependence on hydro power is larger, the shortfall has been greater.

The affected States which depend to a large extent on hydro power generation are Punjab, Haryana, Mysore, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The reduction in power generation from hydro stations this year accounts for a shortage of 18.6 million kwh per day and this will persist till the onset of the next monsoon in June-July 1973.

There had been shut-downs and lower production of power in the Tarapur Atomic Station due to the need for replacement of fuel rods and other reasons. The daily output had been as low as 3 million kwh against the normal output of 7 million kwh. This reduction adversely affected Gujarat and Maharashtra. There has been delay in the commissioning of the atomic power station at Rana-pratapsagar and full power from the first 200 MWS unit which is now under stages of commissioning is expected only in June 1973.

The demand for power continued to increase in all the regions of the country ranging from 8 per cent in the Eastern Region, 12 per cent in Southern and Western Regions, about 16 per cent in the Northern Region to about 23 per cent in the north-Eastern Region.

The total shortage in the country now is of the order of 35 million kwh a day.

Priority in power supply is being given to agricultural needs. Power supply to Nangal Fertilizer Factory has been reduced from 98 MW to 60 MW and the power thus saved is being given to meet the agricultural needs of Punjab and Haryana. Existing thermal power stations are being run for a longer period than usual. Adequate coal and spare parts are being arranged. Captive plants of diesel sets are being permitted to be installed by private industry. The commissioning of the various power generation schemes which were in advanced stage of construction is being expedited. States have been requested to set up implementation cells to monitor the

progress of projects and overcome the bottlenecks. Surplus power, wherever available, is being transmitted to deficit areas through the inter-State/inter-regional links.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: The hon. Minister's reply is an excellent chronicle of continuous failures, and the hon. Minister has the cheek to tell us that various steps are being taken to ameliorate the situation. Sir, the hon. Minister did not even care to give us a picture, or take the House into confidence, about the extent of suffering which industry and agriculture have to undergo as a result of this serious power crisis. The hon. Minister, obviously for the Government's own political reasons, has tried to whitewash the situation completely, which is as grave as the drought situation....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: May I request one thing, Dr. Kurian? You said, "the Minister has the cheek". I would request you....

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Sir, it is excellent, polite English language.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not polite; it is anything but polite.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: It is polite English language to emphasise the point that they come here showing bravado...

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Delhi): I thought the Minister had two cheeks, not one.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think you should use some other word.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: If you permit me to use some other language I will say, while Rome is burning, Nero is fiddling, except for this that now we have got feminine charm, instead of masculine charm. The main point is that a serious crisis

has developed in power supply, and the hon. Minister, Dr. K. L. Rao is reported to have stated that as a result of this power crisis, at least one thousand crores of rupees have been lost. This actually works out to 3 to 4 per cent of the national income. Three to four per cent of the national income has been wiped out by callousness on the part of the Government in generating power supply. Similarly certain papers also indicated that power-cut has resulted in substantial decline in industrial and agricultural production. I understand that this has effected practically every State. According to newspaper reports, 60 per cent cut has been imposed on power supply for industries in Punjab and Haryana. Similarly about 60 per cent cut has been imposed for industrial consumers in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Maharashtra. In the entire history of Maharashtra, there has never been such a serious power-cut. Similarly in other States like Assam, Gujarat, Mysore, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Kerala and so on. For instance, in the case of Tamil Nadu we find that there is an acute shortage and in spite of the installed capacity of 2171MW power production has been only 750 MW. The main reason seems to be that the thermal station has not been properly working. There is not only the lack of machinery, there is no replacement of spare parts. This is also a consequence of collaboration of powerful parties. All these are a result of the design of the Central Government. There is an attempt on the part of the Central Government to show that all this is by accident while I would like to show that this is by design, because the Government has been pursuing a policy of relying on foreign expertise for power generation. So long as the Government relies on foreign people, on foreign expertise, rather than on our own expertise, a situation will be created in which our own engineers, our own people, our own line-men in various Electricity Boards will not have inducement to show their best. If our domestic talent is utilised, if our

DR. K. L. RAO: I had been there recently. All that I found was that people were shouting. Why I say all this is that hon. Members from Kerala should understand the problem themselves because they are face to face

with the situation there. I would say that Idikki project is one of the best projects in the whole country. It has been delayed by more than two years ...

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Because of the anti-labour policies of the Government.

DR. K. L. RAO: I do not want to enter into argument with the hon. Member. As for his questions, financial assistance is given wherever it is necessary, especially to those projects which are in an advanced stage of construction so that, once completed, they can accentuate power supply. That we are doing. And Idikki is one of such projects.

His other question was about Punjab and Haryana. We are fully aware of their problems. In fact in order to meet their crisis on the agricultural front and to see that the rabi crop is not affected in the least by the power shortage, we are supplying power to both these States from Bhakra, even cutting down the power supply to Nangal Fertiliser factory so that we can save that electricity which we can give to both Punjab and Haryana agriculturists. We are giving highest priority to agriculture and I do not expect any trouble with regard to agricultural production in this country due to power shortage. There will be some impact, but not much.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, they are doing well except for the fact that they are not receiving 10 lakh units which they used to receive from Kerala every day. Now Kerala is not supplying ...

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Why? It is your own Government.

DR. K. L. RAO: Why they are not supplying, it is a very good question. The reason is that the monsoon

has failed and their Pamba reservoir is not filled up. Otherwise, they would have made lot of money. These are simple facts. Otherwise, both Ennore and Neyveli are doing well now. What I want to submit is that so far as agricultural production is concerned, it will not be affected. But I am very sorry to say that in the industrial field, there will be some impact. But we are trying to accelerate projects which we have taken up. Every piece of information is given in the statement. If it is not read with a prejudiced eye, he can get all the information from there. It is a carefully prepared statement. But the hon. Member does not say anything without abusing. I have only seen him abusing. I do not know why he is so much attached to me.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Even now the Minister is not giving the information as to how much damage it has done to industries.

DR. K. L. RAO: What I want to submit is that every possible step is taken realising fully the importance of power to agriculture and industry. Every possible step is taken to give as much power as is possible under the circumstances.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am very sorry to say that the Minister is oversimplifying the matter. I am fully aware that Dr. Rao is himself an efficient technocrat and he is doing his best. But the difficulty is at the other end. May I know from the Minister whether the whole crisis is due to the utter lack of planning particularly during the last two decades when Rs. 5,000 crores have been spent? That much money has spent on the creation of power, out of which only 75 per cent of the estimated capacity has been created and 25 per cent could not be created for lack of co-ordination between the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and the Ministry of Industrial Development. I am alleging that there is lack of co-ordination because the

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni.]

Central directing machinery has not been created though it has been assured time and again by Dr. Rao himself. The difficulty seems to be that the problems of generation of electricity and distribution of electricity are at loggerheads. This is because, Sir, production capacity is there, but the line capacity is not there and the State Electricity Boards are, what you may call, the biggest culprits in the present power crisis because they are vying with each other in working under political pressures and supplying electricity to places where it is not required or to sectors which are not priority sectors. This is the fact. It is also known that there is a statement issued by the Chairmen of the various State Boards that it is not an easy process to get spare parts for their generating sets. That is one thing. The other thing is that there is no co-ordination machinery at the Centre which will co-ordinate and process all the pending applications on a priority basis.

Sir, I also want to know whether there is any difference of opinion between the Irrigation and Power Ministry and the Industrial Development Ministry on the question of the capacity of the public sector units to generate power, because, Sir, it seems they are entering into an ideological question as to whether self-reliance should be guiding principle or imports should be allowed? You have to get over this now. We have lost hundreds of crores of rupees in the industrial and agricultural sectors because of power shortage. We cannot allow this. Dr. Rao once said that electricity would be made available to Haryana. I know it personally well. When I was talking to some friends from Haryana, they said that they would have produced more food grains if electricity would have been made available. So, this is the difficulty. The difficulty is there and so, a simplified reply that all steps are being taken will not help. I know that steps are being taken. But they are not co-

ordinated and are not according to the priorities.

I want to know one more thing, Sir. I want to know whether it is a fact that Dr. Rao himself has said,— I do not know whether I am right, but it has been reported—that there is a loss of nearly a thousand crores of rupees in industry and agriculture. If this statement is correct, I want to know what stopped Dr. Rao from impressing upon his colleagues in the Industrial Development Ministry to give licences for the manufacture of diesel sets to produce power up to 1-2 mw. capacity? Applications are pending for the last six years and such sets are not allowed to be manufactured in the country. But you are talking ideologically about self-reliance and other things. The failure of the public sector to produce these sets and Government not allowing them to be produced in the private sector is a dog-in-the-manger policy and you have to give up that in view of the present crisis.

Lastly, Sir, I want to know whether some States are taking political steps by announcing power shortage and power cuts. In this connection, I learn very reliably from that the Tamil Nadu Government has announced a cut of 75 per cent which is not justified. It seems to be a political pressure and the Government should not succumb to such political pressures, but see that the Tamil Nadu Government gets power for industrial and agricultural sectors there commensurate with the reduction in power available.

Sir, I want an assurance about the Central controlling and monitoring authority, whether it is going to be established or not. For the last two years they have been saying that they are going to establish it. That is all, Sir.

DR. K. L. RAO: Sir, I entirely agree with the honourable Member that the transmission lines are important and we must provide as much as possible. But the present power shortage is not due to want of transmission lines. We have got enough of lines for carrying

power, but there is no power for being carried on these lines. The Surplus power that is available is in very small quantity, that is, only in Delhi and Madhya Pradesh and this power is being utilised. There used to be some surplus power in Kerala, but that is not there now. These are the two States where some amount of surplus power is available and we are not suffering now for want of transmission lines; we have got transmission lines, but there is no power for exchange. That is the main trouble.

With regard to the other question that the honourable Member has asked, that is, whether licences to manufacture units of 1-2 mw. capacity must be given, I think it is a question which has to be decided by the Government.

Personally I feel that it is high time that we do that, because not only it will come in very handy on occasions of emergency but also there are so many inaccessible spots in India where this type of one or two MW will be very helpful. At the moment, we are trying to import some units from outside countries...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: That shows the failure of your policy.

DR. K. L. RAO: I quite agree with the hon. Member. That is why I am saying that it is now time for us to re-consider this...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Why don't you ask him: Why is he giving concessions to the Birlas in Uttar Pradesh?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You are there to stop production everywhere. I am not for that...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): Your Government has already...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt.

DR. K. L. RAO: I hope, Sir, that it will be possible for us to overcome most of the difficulties, with the hydel

power picking up. At the moment, it has gone down very much. Whatever we had in the reservoir, for example, in Uttar Pradesh Rihand Dam, is completely used up. That is why we have to cut down in Uttar Pradesh. I expect that in May or June there will be a better season this year and mostly the difficulties will be over.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What about Tamil Nadu?

DR. K. L. RAO: About Tamil Nadu, I will tell you that my own feeling is that I do not think that the press figures are correct that it is 75 per cent. From Kerala they were getting 10 lakh units a day, and that is not coming. In fact, the other day I met the hon. Minister of Kerala and asked him to see if he can restore the supply to Tamil Nadu, because Tamil Nadu can produce extra food. Moreover, they have been cutting some cement factories, and cement is required for projects in Kerala very badly and I am getting a number of SOS's on that. So I have requested the Kerala Minister of Power to consider if they can squeeze somehow and give some power to Tamil Nadu. But I don't think that the extent of figures given now is correct. I am trying to make enquiries and find out the correct information.

SHRI D. THENGARI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, while big projects are being pursued, as an immediate measure I should like to ask whether Government is contemplating any scheme to require bigger industrial units in affected areas to have their own generators, as an immediate measure. Secondly, since your Ministry is responsible for loss of wages to workers, will you consider how to subsidise through Government or joint efforts, particularly to those who are temporary, casual or Badli workers? Thirdly, will you also consider, in consultation with other concerned Ministries, shortening the working hours, i.e. from 8 to 6 hours, without any loss of wages?

DR. K. L. RAO: Wherever industries are coming forward to have production of power, which is required for their own needs, but not for supplying outside, such applications are being recommended. Such applications are coming and we are recommending them. For example, the Hindal Co. factory wanted to set up a 250-MW unit for meeting their needs. We have said that it is good and they can go ahead. We are now approving whenever these plants are asked for.

With regard to the question of wages, I want to submit that very little electricity is generated by the Centre. The power is generated by the States. We have taken up a few projects like Badarpur and Thermal Plant at Neyveli except the stations that I have mentioned, power is completely produced by the States in this country. Therefore, the question of wages has also to be dealt with by the State Governments. They have not so far written to us on this subject. About the hours of work also, as I submitted, the actual construction, running and maintenance etc. are done by the State Governments and it is a problem for them to tackle.

SHRI D. THENGARI: You can advise them.

DR. K. L. RAO: We have been thinking, at the instance of the hon. Members of both the Houses, that the Centre must take a more active part in power generation. If this policy comes through, then it will be time for us to consider the question of shortening the hours of work.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI (Maharashtra): Sir, it is a fact that the present planning of power has been based upon an estimate of 12 per cent annual increase in demand whereas the actual demand has been very much more partly due to increasing utilisation of power in agriculture and villages as well as in small industries.

Also, the supply of power has fallen short of plan targets since the beginning of the plan. The installed capacity till date is 17.5 million

units as against a projected total of 23 million units. By the end of the Fourth Plan, the installed capacity may come up to about 20 million kilowatts, i.e., 3 million units short of target and lower than that envisaged for achievement in the Mid-Term Appraisal.

There is persistent delay in the implementation of power projects. The major cause is the delay in delivery of the power generating equipment by the public sector heavy electrical plants, viz., Bharat Heavy Electricals and Heavy Electricals Ltd. These plants are at present operating at 30-40 per cent of their capacity. There is great delay in fabrication and delivery of essential components from Heavy Engineering Corporation.

There is a high rate of transmission and distribution losses. In many centres of industry as well as big cities, the distribution system is not only outdated but very seriously overloaded. The losses not only occur in the transmission system but also within the generating system itself. Such wastage has been responsible for the deficiencies in maintenance and operation. It has been estimated that for 1 per cent reduction of losses the revenue benefit is of the order of Rs. 5 crores.

In India for every kilowatt of thermal generating capacity, the energy generated is about 3500 kwh as against 5600 kwh in Japan and over 5000 kwh achieved by some electricity undertakings in private sector in India itself.

Although regional and State Electricity Boards have been established since 1964-65, lack of transmission lines between States and regions continue. By the end of the Third Plan only 39 inter-State lines were installed. During the Fourth Plan although 38 similar lines were proposed, only 3 lines have been completed so far.

Lack of inter-State co-operation has all along been a factor preventing the implementation of transmission links between various States and regional grids. It is imperative that Government should take all measures neces-

sary for completing the regional and national grids, as early as possible.

There needs to be a proper emphasis on the efficient maintenance of the systems of power supply so that the operational, technical, administrative and other man-made problems do not affect regular power supplies.

The thermal stations in many cases have been facing transport bottlenecks in transporting fuel. This shows a degree of lack of co-ordination between different agencies of Government.

May I request the hon. Minister to look into these problems and enlighten us as to what he has done and what he proposes to do?

DR. K. L. RAO: The hon. Member has very correctly scheduled all the items connected with the power industry in this country. All these various factors have been under very active consideration of the Government and we are taking every possible step in this connection. I will briefly deal with the various factors. Whereas we have been planning power increase at the rate of 6 per cent a year, the demand has increased not only by 12 per cent. but in some places by 20 per cent. This is one of the reasons why we have fallen short of power.

For example, Haryana and Punjab are straight examples where we expected a certain percentage of demand, but suddenly the demand has gone so high, and both the States are not prepared to cut a single kilowatt of power. That is why the Ministry of Irrigation and Power is insisting that the target for the Fifth Plan should be 21.8 or nearly 22 million kilowatts. That is a subject which the honourable House will have occasion to discuss while considering the Plan and I only hope that the hon. Members will fully support the targets that we are asking for. Due to financial restraints there will be a tendency to reduce the targets, but it is always better to have a target higher than the demand, because the general rule is that while

the cost of generation is only 1/8th of one part, the utilisation of power equipment is seven times more than that. That is to say, if we fall short of our power, we shall be keeping seven times the equipment idle. That is why it is better to have a little excess power instead of shortfall in power, and that is the policy followed in other countries. I think we should also do likewise.

Then, with regard to Plan targets, the hon. Member is quite correct in saying that we are going to fall short in the Fourth Plan due to various reasons, by nearly 2 to 2-1/2 million kilowatts. The reasons are that major projects like Idikki which we have expected to come up, Sharawati and Koyna—which are some of the major projects of the country—are delayed due to some reason or the other—delay in equipment, delay in civil works and delay due to labour trouble and so on.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI:
What has the Government done?

DR. K. L. RAO: I am coming to that. These are the various reasons. What the Government has done is, they have put an Implementation Cell. We are following daily, from point to point, and to some of the projects we are giving all the money required and whatever is required. We are putting in every kind of effort including the financing of some of the projects to push through as quickly as possible; every effort is being made. I want to accept the fact that there is a certain amount of shortfall at the end of the Fourth Plan.

The other point that the hon. Member has referred to is transmission losses. On that, what I want to submit is this: Often the transmission loss is high. While I accept that the transmission losses must be reduced in the country, there are some factors which have got to be taken into consideration. For example, wherever it is used for agriculture, the lines have to be taken to long distances. For example, in Punjab, transmission losses are the highest in the country—34

[Dr. K. L. Rao.]

per cent—due to two reasons. Agriculture load is the highest in Punjab. Secondly, in Punjab they do not measure the electricity supplied to the farmers. They simply calculate the amount of money they get, then so much of horsepower, and therefore, say, this is the amount of loss. The actual losses are not measured. Now I am asking my Research Division in Bangalore to install field units and observe actually what the loss is. We are installing meters and finding what actually the losses are. For example, in Orissa, the transmission losses are the lowest in the country, why, the lowest in the world. Because, there, electricity is supplied only for six industries; there is no electricity supplied to any other place. Of course, from that we cannot say that Orissa is the most efficient in the world from the point of view of transmission. In Delhi, for example, it is an urban area and the transmission loss there is 12 per cent—quite reasonable. That does not mean it is ideal; it is not ideal. It is concentrated here and due to the concentration the loss is much less. In Old Delhi there are old lines. If these old lines are removed and new lines installed, the losses will come further down. What I want to submit is: Kindly do not go by the figures that we have got. There are peculiar conditions prevailing in our country. We cannot compare with what is happening in England or elsewhere because there is an urban load and not the rural load. Here in this country, we have got a considerable amount of rural load. So, we should not straightway take it like that. We are fully aware of necessity to reduce losses. We are setting up field experiments in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to see what exactly the transmission loss is, why it is occurring and what steps should be taken. It is not that we do not know what steps are to be taken but then the amount of money that we have got has to be distributed between the generating and the transmission power.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI:
What about the inter-State lines?

DR. K. L. RAO: The Government of India is financing that. We are encouraging inter-State lines but the difficulty is that some of the States go slowly, because they think that that power will go to the other State.

About the working of thermal plants, the working hours in this country are 4,500. It is quite a good average but there are some States in the eastern parts of the country where the working hours are less. At Neyveli, due to certain special conditions, lignite not being available there, the working hours are less. In certain power stations the working hours are about 7,000.

About the maintenance, I would like to say that the transport of coal is really giving trouble. The Railways have to carry all this coal. There is some kind of trouble but we are trying to overcome these difficulties. In our country, there will always be some or other kind of shortage. So, we should not be baffled by that. We should always be ready to overcome that.

SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the power position which would be very low during lean water period is at the lowest ebb now in almost all the States of India—from the Himalayas to Cape Camorin. Who is responsible for this? Just about 2½ months back, in the same very House, we discussed in the Half-an-Hour Discussion the question of power crisis. Attention was focussed on the power crisis in all States. But the Central Government has not bestowed its attention towards this problem of power crisis. It is a pity that a Cabinet Sub-Committee was formed just one month back to solve the power crisis. It is centering its attention more towards the concentration of political power rather than the electrical power. Anyhow, instead of being anxious to help the States, the Central Government is treating all the States as

'ghulams', and with great agony I want to point out to this House that a Cabinet Minister went to Tamil Nadu and slung mud on the administration of that State Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are discussing not the political power but the electric power.

SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN: Yes, Sir. We know but why the Central Government has to throw its blame on the State Governments for the power crisis in the country. But I can say that the State Governments are not at fault. The State Governments can plan and submit its plans to the Centre. It is for the Centre to sanction. For instance, in Tamil Nadu, we have been asking for a thermal plant in Tuticorin for the last four or five years, for a nuclear power plant near about Tuticorin for the last four or five years, but the same has not been sanctioned till now. Every expert knows that even if it is okayed today, it will take further four to five years in the case of thermal plants and even 7 to 8 years in the case of nuclear plant to produce power. It is the Central Government which is responsible for the power crisis. Even in Neyveli there is every potential of starting a million kw. pitched of producing electricity only if a second mines cut is initiated there. For the last four to five years, the Neyveli administration has been asking the Central Government to replace machines with modern machineries and repair of the old machineries, but the Central Government has not come forward to do so.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, there is 75 per cent cut only from February 15 this year, not prior to that. This is said to be due to lack of transportation of coal. But even in times of agony, the Andhra brothers, we have to thank them, helped us to send a train loaded with coal...

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI (Uttar Pradesh): The discussion is not on 'political power', it is on 'electric power'.

SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN: Yes, Sir, I am asking the Centre to give us enough electric power if not more political power. Political power is attacked because there is no electric power. Due to shortage of power we have to stop industries. There is lay-off resulting in unemployment of workers and the workers then demand lay-off compensation. So labour-management problems crop up. Suppose a cement factory is shut down, immediately the workers demand lay-off compensation. So the Government must sanction and okay the plans submitted by all the States from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. They must come forward and do that.

Besides I want to point out to the hon. Minister for Irrigation and Power that the Centre has delayed and not helped the existing plants to produce power to their maximum capacity. In Ennore thermal station there is difficulty in the matter of diverting the water in the water cooling system. Instead of diverting it directly to the sea they are diverting it to the backwater which is stagnant. So far as industries are concerned they are prepared to have their own generating machinery. The Central Government must help the State Government to subsidise the industries in this regard. Some hon. Members and even the Minister said that there is loss of Rs. 1000 crores in industries. Apart from this there is a further loss of Rs. 1500 crores in exports especially at a time when we have to face food famine. Now we have relaxed our policy of self-reliance and we are prepared to import food and also foreign know-how for the manufacture of fertilisers. I would, therefore, suggest to the Central Government that they must come forward to allow import of power generating machinery, oil and diesel engines. In France electric power is imported from U.K. through

[Shri V. V. Swaminathan]
cables laid under the sea from 1955 onwards. Even if you do not import power directly at least you should not hesitate to allow imports of machinery required for power generation and supplying them to the industries in the country.

DR. K. L. RAO: Before I answer the hon. Member what I want to submit to the hon. Member is that the highest installed capacity anywhere in any State is in Tamil Nadu and if that is not able to give power it is because of reasons which we should rectify. The hon. Member mentioned about Neyveli; it is quite correct. There we have an installed capacity of 600 mw but actually we are producing only 250 and they have promised to increase it by another 50. Similarly, the Kalpakkam atomic power plant was scheduled to come into operation two years back but there have been so many difficulties and these are practical difficulties.

The hon. Member was referring to Tuticorin. The main trouble about Tuticorin is where to get the coal from. Is it to be brought by the sea via Colombo or is it to be brought by train. These are points that have to be sorted out. There is no question of not sanctioning projects. We fully realise that Tamil Nadu is using power very well and I have received a message just now. At my request the Kerala Government is giving 2½ lakhs units to Tamil Nadu. The main reason for the acute shortage condition in Tamil Nadu is the drying up of the water reservoirs on which Tamil Nadu mainly depends for its hydel power. There is no use getting worried about this. We have got to take all this in a stride. We are fully aware of the importance of supply of power to Tamil Nadu. In fact I am thinking of going to Madras and getting all the concerned authorities of Southern region together and discuss how to overcome these difficulties in the next two or three months because this position will last till about June; we will have to do our best.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shahi.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY (West Bengal): On a point of order with regard to the Neyveli power plant, the Minister did not reply to that question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order. I have called Mr. Shahi. Under the guise of a point of order you cannot put a question.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: About the Neyveli plant, he has not replied.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have called Mr. Shahi. It will go off the record. You have mentioned what you wanted to say, but under the guise of a point of order you cannot put questions. It is very clear. I am asking Mr. Shahi to put his question.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: I am not asking a question....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is all right. It is for him to get up and ask for clarification if he wanted it.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: He did not reply.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is all right. Mr. Shahi.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही (उत्तर प्रदेश) उपसभापति जी, हम मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान उत्तर प्रदेश में आए हुए गंभीर संकट की ओर दिलाना चाहते हैं। पावर कट के कारण उत्तर प्रदेश के लगभग 400 कोल्ड स्टोरेजेज के मालिकों ने कोल्ड स्टोरेज बन्द कर देने का फैसला किया है और उनकी ओर से एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल शायद मंत्री जी से भी मिल चुका है इसके सम्बन्ध में। सवाल कोल्ड स्टोरेज के बन्द होने का नहीं है, सवाल उत्तर प्रदेश में पैदा होने वाले लाखों क्वींटल आलू का है जिम का दाम कई करोड़ रुपया होता है। यह आलू अगर कोल्ड स्टोरेज में नहीं रखा

गया या उसके रखने की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई तो एक भारी संकट लाखों किसानों के सामने उत्पन्न हो जायगा। वह संकट का सामना आ गया है। आलू के खोदने का यही मौसम है। बहुत सा आलू खोद कर के घरों में आ गया है। उसको खोदने के बाद अगर उसको जल्दी से कोल्ड स्टोरेज में नहीं रखा गया और उसकी नमी समाप्त हो गई तो उसमें सड़ांध शुरू हो जायगी। इस तौर पर लाखों टन आलू के सड़ जाने की संभावना आ गई है। अगर शीघ्र मंत्री महोदय और सरकार ने कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की तो उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों को लाखों रुपये का नुकसान उठाना पड़ेगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई विशेष व्यवस्था इसके लिए वे सोच रहे हैं। अगर इसके लिए वे कोई विशेष व्यवस्था नहीं करेंगे तो उत्तर प्रदेश में पावर की जो हालत इस समय है उससे कोल्ड स्टोरेज को 24 घंटे पावर नहीं मिल सकेगी और यह संकट गंभीर रूप में सामने आएगा।

DR. K. L. RAO: It is true, Sir, that the shortage of power in U.P. is really causing us concern. The shortage has arisen because of the power practically being cut off from the Rihand dam due to want of water and some units going off at Harduaganj and Obra. We are trying to put back these machines again into order. The Bhopal Heavy Electricals have been requested to repair these machines as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, the Minister for Power in U.P. met me in this connection yesterday. I have contacted the Chairman of the Bihar Electricity Board and requested him to see whether he can spare some power to overcome the present difficulties. We are very sorry that this has occurred in U.P. which does not generally complain about power shortage. They are patient people.

श्री बनारसी दास (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
उपसभापति महोदय, यह जो विद्युत का

संकट है, उस संबंध में मंत्री कहना है कि यह मालूम था कि अनाकृष्ट है, 8 महीने पहले मालूम था और उस का परिणाम भी जो आज है वह ऐंटीसिपेटेड था। तो गवर्नमेंट ने उस को रोकने के लिए कोई प्रयास क्यों नहीं किया। अभी शाही जी ने उत्तर प्रदेश के कोल्ड स्टोरेज की तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित कराया। सब से बड़ा प्राबलम उत्तर प्रदेश में यह है कि वहां भारी संख्या में ट्यूब वेल्स हैं जिन को गवर्नमेंट केवल 6 घंटे के लिए बिजली दे रही है यानी 75 परसेंट का कट है और उन को 6 घंटे भी बिजली मिलती नहीं है। नतीजा यह है कि फसल सूख रही है। तो मैं प्रश्न करना चाहता हूँ कि इस विद्युत की कमी को पूरा करने के लिए क्या डिजिल आयाल के सेटस लगाये जायेंगे और उस में जो कमी हो, उसके लिए किसान को जो पे करना पड़े एक्सट्रा, वह सरकार सबसीडी की शक्ल में पे करे।

दूसरी चीज यह है कि जब हाइड्रिल से बिजली कम पैदा हो रही है और पहले ही इस बात की संभावना थी कि वाटर लेवल कम हो जायगा तो गवर्नमेंट ने क्यों नहीं इस बात के स्टैप्स लिये कि थर्मल पावर के जरिये से इस हाइड्रिल की कमी को पूरा किया जाय।

तीसरा सवाल मैं यह करना चाहता हूँ कि सौभाग्य से हमारे मंत्री जी इस के एक्सपर्ट हैं और उन के पास पिछले सौ साल का डाटा है और उस से एक एवरेज मालूम पड़ता है कि हर तीन, चार साल के बाद यहां एक्स्ट्रै फ़ैमीन कंडीशन्स पैदा होती हैं तो क्यों नहीं फार साइट के साथ अच्छी प्लानिंग की गयी और आज जो कठिनाई इंडस्ट्री में और एग्रीकल्चर में हो रही है उस का पहले से इंतजाम क्यों नहीं किया ?

[श्री बनारसी दास]

एक और सवाल करना चाहता हूं कि सारे देश में एक तरफ तो पावर कट है, और दूसरी तरफ उत्तर प्रदेश में वाटर वर्क्स को भी पूरे टाइम बिजली नहीं मिल पा रही है जिस के कारण नल केवल दो या तीन घंटे ही आता है और दूसरी तरफ दिल्ली में जहन होते हैं और हजारों किलोवाट बिजली का वेस्ट होता है। गवर्नमेंट ने क्यों नहीं इसके संबंध में आस्टे-रिटी मेजर्स लिये? आज उत्तर प्रदेश में एक बजे से 6 बजे तक बिजली का बिलकुल कट है और यह जुलाई तक चलेगा और यहां एयर कंडीशन्स में और लकजरी में बिजली खर्च की जाती है, तो यहां पावर कट के लिए क्या सरकार ने कोई विचार किया है?

DR. K. L. RAO: What the hon. Member has said is substantially correct. A lot of difficulty is being experienced in U.P. While UP is developing power production fairly well, it is not sufficient to meet the demand that is growing up there. Actually, I calculated that the power in the next five years should be at least double of what they are having now. Otherwise, they will not be able to meet the ordinary demands, apart from any other special demands. And the main trouble now has arisen from the fact that some of the machines at Har-duagunj and Obra have gone off. And I was in contact with the Minister for Power yesterday and he has told me that he is taking all the necessary steps to get engineers and to try to rectify them. As also, as an emergency measure, the Government of UP is trying for the import of some machines, two machines of 200 megawatts each and some diesel electric sets which can be erected in about 18 months and also some gas turbines. I am fully in agreement with that. We are trying to process those. Even so, the power will be available only after 18 months. The gas turbines and other units we can get in about three or four years.

There have been some cuts made in Delhi but not large cuts as such. Delhi and Madhya Pradesh are the only two areas in the country which have got some surplus power. Delhi's surplus power is being fed into the Haryana system. Everyday we are supplying 10 to 12 lakh units. The hon. Member is correct in saying that in Delhi there must be further cuts in regard to air-conditioners and so on. I have been persistently contacting the Lieutenant-Governor. We are trying to impress upon him to effect as much saving as possible by restricting the lights for marriages and so on and he has promised to look into every aspect which can be done to save power and to be able to spare it to the neighbouring States.

1 P.M.

श्री इयाम लाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश):

माननीय उपमहापति जी, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो बात अभी माननीय बनारसी दास जी ने पूछी उस का उत्तर उन्होंने नहीं दिया कि जब देश में बिजली व उत्पादन की योजना आपने बनायी तो उस समय क्या सरकार की दृष्टि में यह बात नहीं थी कि हर तीमरे या चौथे साल इतना भयंकर सूखा देश के किसी न किसी भाग में पड़ता रहेगा और इस बात को सामने रखकर क्यों नहीं आपने योजना बनाई। चार योजनाएँ चलने के बाद आज आप यह कारण कैसे बताते हैं कि मांग अधिक बढ़ गई? क्या योजनाओं में लक्ष्य इतना ही था कि मांग ही नहीं बढ़ेगी, और आज आपने गलती की तो क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूं कि आप ऐसी कोई योजना बना रहे हैं जिससे कि भविष्य में भी इस तरह के गलत कारण आप न बतायें जैसे कह दिया कि सूखा पड़ गया। सूखा तो पड़ेगा ही इस देश में। यह आपकी अदूरदर्शिता थी। केवल एक ग्लैमर पैदा करने के लिए आपने ये बातें कही और वास्तविक रूप में जो दिजली की आवश्यकता थी उसकी आपने कल्पना नहीं की। मुझे भय है कि आज भी सरकार बावजूद मंत्री

जी की योग्यता के जो मांग देश में बिजली की होगी उसकी कल्पना नहीं कर रही है, उसके लिए व्यवस्था नहीं कर रही है। इसलिए क्या मंत्री जी को यह ज्ञात नहीं है कि अगर बिजली नहीं बढ़ेगी तो देश में पैदावार नहीं बढ़ेगी और आप योजना के ध्येय की पूर्ति नहीं कर सकेंगे ?

दूसरी बात यह कि वाटर की कमी होती है जलाशयों में, तो क्या आपने ऐसी योजना बनाई है जिससे कि अगर वाटर की कमी होती ही रहेगी तो आप किसी दूसरे तरीके से बिजली पैदा करें, कोयले में पैदा की जाए ?

तीसरी बात आपने कह दी 'मशीन हैज गौन आउट आफ आर्डर'। आपको पता नहीं, मशीन ही आउट आफ आर्डर नहीं हो गई उत्तर प्रदेश में बल्कि वहां की सरकार भी आउट आफ आर्डर हो गई। आज वहां जनता की भावनाओं की कद्र नहीं रह गई। वहां केवल छः घंटे बिजली दी जा रही है। खेती के लिए 75 परसेंट का कट हुआ और उद्योग के लिए 25 परसेंट का हुआ है। आप का क्या ऐसी व्यवस्था करेंगे कि खेती के लिए अधिक बिजली दी जाए, उद्योग के लिए कम एल्यूमीनियम फैक्टरी के लिए जो बिजली दी जाती है उसको आपने कायम कर दिया। क्या यह भी कारण है कि जो इंजीनियर्स हड़ताल हो रही है और जो इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड में भ्रष्टाचार हो रहा है, उसके कारण भी बिजली के उत्पादन में कमी हुई। इसका कारण मंत्री जी ने यह नहीं बताया कि इंजीनियर्स और ओवरसियर्स जो हड़ताल कर रहे हैं उसमें सरकार जो बंगलिंग कर रही है, इसके कारण भी बिजली के उत्पादन में कमी हुई है। इस पर सरकार का क्या विचार है ?

DR. K. L. RAO: I am sorry I forget to answer the first question that the hon'ble Member asked me, that is, about the drought condition and whether we should not provide for the drought condition. Sir, whenever we design a hydro project we design for what is called 90 per cent. factor. That is to say, out of 100 years we take it that for 90 years there must be sufficient water. And it is for that amount of water that we plan, that we design. The amount of percentage of power in this country is hydro power about 40 per cent., and thermal about 60 per cent. That is considered the correct mixture because hydro power is very cheap whereas thermal power is nearly twice in cost. The best proportion is 40:60. What actually happened this year was something unusual. There is always bound to be drought in this country. But what happens mostly is that drought occurs in one State or two States. But this year the entire India, two-thirds of it, starting from the Bhakra right upto Kerala down to Pambra, Koyna, Sherawati, everywhere there was scarcity of water. It is a peculiar thing that has happened this year. Hirakud, Muchkund or D.V.C., no reservoir is full upto its full. All of them are full only 50 per cent. This year it is a very peculiar thing that has happened. Nobody can design for this extreme condition occurring everywhere simultaneously. What happened this year was simultaneous, throughout the country. Although you must always expect some sort of failure in one portion of the country or the other, but if it occurs throughout the country it is not possible to design for a condition of that type.

We can put up thermal power stations, but thermal power costs twice as much as hydel power. That is why we are trying to keep up a balance. Even in the Fifth Plan, we are trying to keep up a balance of 40 per cent hydel power and 60 per cent thermal power; there may be a little variation this way or that way. About the other things, it is very unfortunate that in

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

Uttar Pradesh we have this unrest among the engineers. It is true that unless a man puts in all his best, he will not be able to do his best. This problem is still worrying us and I hope things will settle down and it will be possible for us to manage as best as we can with whatever we have.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA (West Bengal): Sir, this power crisis has become a national crisis. There are allegations, complaints and charges against the Government of India that they are not fully utilising our coal resources for generation of power. It is said that if the Government of India utilised fully our coal resources, then we could avoid loss of foreign exchange. I want to know from the Minister whether the Government is considering the setting up of coal-based power centres in West Bengal and other provinces where coal is available, so that we can immediately make up the shortage of power and avoid foreign exchange loss as well.

DR. K. L. RAO: Sir, we are fully aware of the importance of coal-based power stations or coal pithead power stations because it will save us transport. That is the main advantage of it. It is not a question of thermal power versus hydel power. The question is, coal transport is very difficult in our country because of the limited rail system that we have and if we have power stations right at the coal pitheads, it will be possible to save transport of coal. But there are some difficulties in that and that is why we want to take up in the Sixth Plan coal-based power stations to the extent possible. That is why a committee has been appointed to go into the setting up of big thermal power stations. Coal pithead power stations must be very big, of one million or two million or four million units. That is why we are thinking of big power stations, two in Madhya Pradesh near coal pitheads, one or two in Bengal and Bihar, one in Andhra Pradesh, one in Maharashtra

or wherever there is coal. The idea is to generate a large block of power and transmit it. It requires transmission lines of high voltages. A lot of steel is required for the transmission towers. And the size of the machines also must be bigger. That is why we are thinking of 500MW machines. All these are under consideration and the committee has been appointed to go into this question. When the report comes, we hope to start in the middle of the Fifth Plan so that the benefits may come out in the Sixth Plan.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Statement by Minister. Mr. Shinde.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, my name is there. I would like to put one question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If I call you, I will have to call at least a dozen people.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: My name is there in the Calling Attention Notice.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Others also have given their names.

SHRI G. A. APPAN (Tamil Nadu): I have also been rising.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why I am telling Mr. Ghosh that if I call him, then I will have to call several others, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, Mr. Tyagi, Mr. Kapur and others.

Yes, Mr. Shinde.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON DROUGHT SITUATION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): Sir, instead of reading the whole statement, I will lay it on the Table if you permit me.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, with your permission I beg to lay on the Table of the House a statement on the drought situation in the country. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4179/73.]