

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA: You take any stand. My question is....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put the question and the answer was given.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Mr. Gupta, may I please wish you not to take matters seriously?

MR CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I will explain now. Let me explain. Sit down please. I had thought that you had put the question. But, if you have not put the question, I will allow it. But why are you shouting like this? Yes, put the question now.

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA: Sir, the answer of the Minister has been that the feeder canal will take two years' time and he has said that the Farakka Barrage which was to be completed in early 1971 will be delayed till November, 1971, and thereafter, two years will be taken. May I know from the Minister why the feeder canal cannot be constructed simultaneously and why two years' delay is necessary and whether this can be shortened? This is my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Minister.

DR. K. L. RAO: Sir, in the feeder canal, there has been some trouble with regard to labour and the work of the contractor who are doing good work had to be suspended, and that is why the delay. That's why it was delayed. We have calculated very carefully that it will still take two more years because this is one of the biggest canals in the world and involves a lot of work. The work that has so far been done is 60 per cent; 40 per cent still remains. So, two years are the minimum required.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

ELECTRICITY LEVY BY U.P. GOVERNMENT ON INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS PRODUCING THEIR OWN POWER

*750. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Uttar Pradesh Government has proposed to levy electricity duty on industrial undertakings producing their own power;

(b) the names of the other States of the Indian Union where electricity duty is levied on industrial undertakings producing their own power; and

(c) what is the ceiling for electricity duty in respect of industrial users in the different States of the Indian Union?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Uttar Pradesh Government have levied electricity duty on energy consumed by industrial undertakings from their own source of generation. This duty has been levied with effect from 1st September 1970.

(b) No electricity duty is leviable in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland. In other States, duty is leviable in respect of electricity. It is also leviable in these States, except for Bihar, in respect of power consumed by industries from their own generation.

(c) The maximum electricity duty leviable has been prescribed only in the States of Mysore, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh as indicated below:—

Mysore : 4.5 paise per unit.

Rajasthan : 6.0 paise per unit.

U. P. : 25 per cent of the price of energy.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: I am sorry to say, Sir, that the statement that has been laid seems to be factually

incorrect. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a notification of the Haryana Government, No. 671-PWII(2)-70/12090, dated the 24th April, 1970, which says that no electricity duty would be charged on self-generated power for a period of 5 years with effect from 1st April, 1970. But the hon. Minister has stated in the statement that except Bihar, this duty is leviable in all other States. Will the hon. Minister have the matter examined, because the statement is wrong?

Now, my question is this. The self-generated power which the industries in U. P. have to generate due to the failure of the Electricity Boards to supply adequate power, costs two-and-a-half to three times more. Would the hon. Minister take up this question with the Finance Ministry of the Government of India and, if necessary, arrange some kind of a special grant to the States concerned, so that this electricity duty is not charged on the self-generated power with a view to affording necessary relief to industries in the power-affected areas?

DR. K. L. RAO: The information which I have given is from what is in our files. I will find out from Haryana Government whether they have made any exemption the hon. Member has referred to.

As regards his question, Sir, I do not think it is fair. All the State Governments have decided to levy the duty on the self-generated power that is produced by the industries except in the case as I mentioned in the answer. I do not think that there is sufficient justification for us to interfere in this case, and ask the Electricity Board not levy any duty on the power that is generated by them.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: My second question. After all, the State Electricity Boards had entered into a contract. There is a contractual obligation to supply power to the industries. Since they have failed, the

industries have to produce power themselves at a cost 2 1/2 or 3 times more than which they would have incurred otherwise. Therefore, would the hon. Minister consider the desirability of installing diesel sets in areas which are the worst-affected by the power shortage in the northern region, and supply diesel power along with thermal or hydro-electric power to the industries concerned at a uniform rate, because, otherwise, the industrial development in all these areas is suffering badly?

DR. K. L. RAO: As regards the question about diesel sets, we find now that in the northern region, practically all the States, except U. P. and Punjab, have got a fairly good amount of power, and I think there will be no necessity for imposing any cut, except in the case of U. P. and Punjab. In the case of U. P. and Punjab, this has become unavoidable due, unfortunately, to the failure of rains in those two regions, and we are trying, to set up diesel sets. We have given permission to set up diesel sets in Punjab. We expect them to come into force from April onwards. But whether the rate will be the same or uniform or otherwise, I am afraid, it is left to the State Electricity Board.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask what is the consideration for the State Governments imposing an electricity duty? Many States are not able to meet the power requirements of the industries. I would like to know why in the case of Mysore it has been fixed on the basis of power unit at 4.5 paise per unit and in the case of U. P. 25 per cent of the price of energy?

DR. K. L. RAO: In regard to the first question, it is the Electricity Boards that are having difficulties to fulfil the targets due to financial considerations. They do not have sufficient money either for generation or otherwise. Therefore it is that they want to augment their resources,

श्री राजनारायण : आन ए पाइन्ट आफ़ आर्डर । एल० एन० मिश्र एक मिनिस्टर हैं, वे हमको सुनने नहीं दे रहे हैं ।

श्री सभापति : आप बैठिए ।

श्री राजनारायण : कैसे बैठें । मैं पाइन्ट आफ़ आर्डर 'जि' कर रहा हूँ कि आप सदन को काम एंड क्लाइड रखें । एल० एन० मिश्र यहाँ आकर बैठे हुए हैं, बिहार में इनकी मिनिस्ट्री गिर रही है, उसके लिए यहाँ सपोर्ट डिमांड कर रहे हैं ।

श्री सभापति : अब आप बैठ जाइए ।

श्री राजनारायण : मैं आप से रिक्वेस्ट कर रहा हूँ कि एल० एन० मिश्र से कहिए कि अपनी सीट पर बैठें । मैं आप से फिर रिक्वेस्ट कर रहा हूँ कि एल० एन० मिश्र को कहिए कि अपनी सीट पर जायें । (Interruption) एल० एन० मिश्र अपनी सीट पर जायें । सदन का नियम है कि हर सदस्य अपनी सीट पर बैठे ।

श्री सभापति : अगर बोलता हो तो, बिना बोले बैठ सकता है ।

श्री राजनारायण : आप क्या इस सदन में हर राज्य की स्थिति पर बहस चलाएंगे ? यह सदन है, सदन की प्रोसीडिंग्स में काम करो ।

श्री सभापति : मैंने आप से कह दिया कि बोलने के लिए रुक है, यह रुक नहीं है ।

श्री राजनारायण : हर जगह हड़बोंग करने का रुक है ।

श्री सभापति : आप बेकार वक्त जाया कर रहे हैं, इतने में दो-चार सवाल हो जाते ।

श्री राजनारायण : इनके टेलीफोन सुनते सुनते मेरे कान थक गए । दिल्ली से मैं पटना गया, जहाँ जहाँ मैं जाऊँ, एल० एन० मिश्र और बलीराम भगत का टेलीफोन आ जाए । देखिए प्रधान मंत्री साहिबा हंस रही हैं ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He was in Patna. Perhaps Mr. L. N. Mishra was whispering.

श्री राजनारायण : हाँ, मैं पटना में था । भूपेश गुप्त जो कर आए थे उसको हमने काटा क्योंकि भूपेश गुप्त का फाड़ हम चलने नहीं देंगे ।

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : वह तो चल ही रहा है ।

श्री सभापति : क्वेश्चन आदर में वक्त इस तरह निकल जाता है ।

SHRI N. G. GORAY: May I ask whether my friend Shri Rajnarain must make his presence felt only in this manner?

श्री राजनारायण : मैं अदब के साथ जानना चाहता हूँ श्री गोरे साहब से कि वे अपनी प्रेजेन्स किस रूप में दिखाना चाहते हैं, कांग्रेस (आर) से मिल कर, कांग्रेस (आर) से समझौता कर के, इन्दिरा गांधी की चाटूकारिता करके ?

DR. K. L. RAO: I submitted in answer to an earlier question that it is the duty of the Electricity Board to supply enough power for the contracted industries but when there are reasons beyond their control such as the failure of rain and non-filling of the reservoir, one has to resort to these methods. It is inevitable. That is how it has come about. I agree it is levied only on the units consumed or actual supplies and it is not on any theoretical bases. Duty is on the amount consumed by the industry. Therefore the duty is levied and I think it is justifiable.

SHRI A. D. MANI: What does 25 per cent of the cost of energy mean?

DR. K. L. RAO: Some States are charging on per unit basis and in other cases they have gone on so much percentage on the cost of

energy. Well, Sir, there are various ways of doing it. In Mysore, for example, the maximum rate is 4.5 Paise per unit, but actually they are levying only 1 Paisa. Similarly, in the case of U. P. they have defined it as 25 per cent of the cost of energy. This comes to about 3 Paise actually, but they are charging only 1 Paisa. These are the upper limits prescribed by the different States. This is only a method of doing it. There is no particular rule or sanctity about it.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : उत्तर प्रदेश में किसानों को अपने खेतों की सिंचाई के लिए बिजली नहीं मिल रही है और वहां बिजली की भारी कमी है। लघु उद्योगों की स्थापना में भी बिजली की भारी कमी के कारण बहुत नुकसान हो रहा है। तो क्या मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि वहां ग्रणु बिजलीघर की स्थापना में अभी तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

DR. K. L. RAO: Sir, it is true that in U. P. we are having a very heavy amount of shortage of power. Actually we are short of as much as 5 million units a day—very regrettable—and this is all because the lead growth has been much more than what we anticipated. We are taking the necessary steps and one of the steps presently under serious consideration is the establishment of a proper site for the location of an atomic energy power plant.

SHRI S. D. MISRA: The hon. Minister himself has stated that there is shortage of power in U.P. and Punjab, and he has also stated earlier that, even if the targets of the Fourth Plan are fulfilled, even then, in the country as a whole—I think he stated—there will be a shortage of 3 million kw of power. That being so, why does he not take a policy decision? And he also just now has stated that there is no finance for further generation and distribution of power. That means this shortage will continue. Then I would like to know about two points from him. There are industries which are power-intensive, like fertilizers and aluminium and

some others. Why does he not take a decision, when he cannot spend money and when his power generated is distributed in a very intensive way to these industries, that the big industries, whether in the private sector or anywhere else, should create their own power? Why does he not take such a policy decision and encourage that? (*Interruptions*). With tax or without tax. I am not saving any such thing. Let it be with tax. At least then there will be production in the country. But instead of doing that he is feeding the fertilizer factories and the aluminium factories from the Government sources of power generation and is not giving as a policy decision a direction that these factories should have their own generation of power. Why does he not do that? And lastly how is he going to meet these shortages? In U.P. alone 1200 mw will be short within three years, annually. What is he going to do? He must tell us how he is going to meet the shortage. Merely making a statement that there is shortage will not do. The shortage will reflect on agriculture and industries and everywhere else.

DR. K. L. RAO: Referring to the first question, Sir, about the fertilizers and aluminium, of course they are electricity-intensive. They take a large amount of power. It is not so much a question of what the private sector can do and what the public sector can do in the matter of power generation. On the other hand, the responsibility of the Government of India is that electricity should be undertaken in the public sector, and a private man is definitely not going to incur a loss on account of this power. So in actual effect it does not matter where it is generated, and in view of the policy of Government it is always best that the power should be generated in the public sector.

SHRI S. D. MISRA: But you have no money.

DR. K. L. RAO: If the Government does not have the money, a

private man also won't have the money to generate and supply such a large amount of power. So I do not think it will be possible by the private sector, because power requires a lot of money, a lot of capital investment. It is all right if one can generate 5 mw or 10 mw of power, but it is not possible for him to generate the large blocks of power that are required by the large industries.

SHRI S. D. MISRA: If private parties apply for such a venture, Government is not examining their proposals. So you do not give the power because the public sector is saying that there is not that much power to supply and at the same time you do not allow others to do it and thus you do not allow their products to come up.

DR. K. L. RAO: I may suggest to the hon. Member that, if he sends any such paper, I will have it examined very carefully. Now with regard to the question of U.P. shortage, it is true that originally our survey showed that U.P. shortage would be about 300 mw at the end of the Fourth Plan, but now it looks that it will be much more, and therefore it is that we are now taking up for sanction many more projects, both on the thermal side and also on the atomic energy side. So I think in the course of this year we will be sanctioning many more projects, and then it will be possible for us to reduce the shortage or to overcome it in the early years of the Fifth Plan.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Are the Government aware that the U.P. Government supplied power at half rate to a particular industrial house for years together and this concession was given at the initial stage of a factory that is the aluminium factory of Birlas and now in order to divert attention—there is a deeper design that the power generation which is in the public sector should be shifted to the private sector—in the name of scarcity of power certain parties are pressurising the Government that

power generation should be handed over to the private sector instead of having it in the public sector and may I know whether the Government have taken any action against the U.P. Government for supplying power to Birlas at half the rate when this generation was made only for serving the agriculturists in that area?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: The U.P. Government is not subordinate to Dr. K. L. Rao or the Prime Minister.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I know your deeper designs.

SHRI S. D. MISRA: I know your designs, designs of Marxists Communists.

DR. K. L. RAO: I admit that it is true that in a particular case power was supplied, is being supplied, at lower than the generation cost but that is past history. We are now definite that any further transaction that is going to take place will be such that electricity will not be supplied at less than the cost of generation. No communication has come from the U.P. Government to us and if any communication comes like that we will very definitely advise that the cost should not be below the cost of generation. And the policy of Government is that electrical generation should as far as possible be only in the public sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rajnarain, last question.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, देखिये मुझे मालूम नहीं कि श्री चन्द्र शेखर की तबियत क्या खराब है ।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछ लीजिये इसी में टाइम लगा देंगे आप ।

श्री राजनारायण : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ जैसा कि श्री चन्द्र शेखर जी ने अभी कहा है कि क्या यह सही है कि श्री बिड़ला को कंसेशन रेट पर बिजली दी गई थी और दी गई थी तो कब दी गई थी और किसकी सलाह पर दी गई थी । और क्या यह भी सही है कि जो श्री पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू की सलाह पर श्री बिड़ला साहब

को बिजली दी गई थी उसका जबरदस्त विरोध हमने किया था उत्तर प्रदेश विधान सभा में और मैं आज भी कहना चाहता हूँ श्रीमन्, कुछ बेईमान और विदेशी पैसे पर चलने वाले अखबार जैसे पैट्रियाट उसने 15 तारीख को हमारे बारे में गलत खबर छपी है।

श्री शीलमद याजी : यह कोई सवाल है ?

श्री राजनारायण : सुनिये मैं बताना चाहता हूँ मंत्री जी को कि आज हमने श्री त्रिभुवन नारायण सिंह उत्तर प्रदेश के चीफ मिनिस्टर से बात की

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिये ।

श्री राजनारायण : . . . कि क्या बिड़ला साहब को कोई कंसेशन पर बिजली देने का प्रस्ताव कैबिनेट में आया तो उन्होंने कहा कि कोई चर्चा नहीं है और यह पैट्रियाट इतना बेईमान और भ्रष्ट और दुराचारी अखबार है यह झूठी खबर दूसरे लोगों के बारे में छपा करता है ।

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल कीजिये ।

श्री राजनारायण : मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह सरकार जान ले कि किसी को भी कंसेशन रेट पर बिजली नहीं दी जानी चाहिये यह हमारी राय है और इसके लिये हम लड़ें हैं और लड़ते रहेंगे ।

श्री सभापति : अभी सवाल पूछिये फिर लड़ते रहियेगा ।

श्री राजनारायण : सवाल यही है कि उत्तर प्रदेश की बिजली की कमी को दूर करने के लिये यह सरकार क्या योजना बना रही है । उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों को खेती और छोटे छोटे उद्योग धंधे विकसित करने के लिये बिजली की सप्लाई समुचित ढंग से हो उसके लिये सरकार क्या कर रही है । और कल माननीय मंत्री जी ने वहां के मंसू के लोगों की एक मीटिंग बुलाई थी हमें वाद में पता चला वरना मैं भी वहां जाकर यह सलाह रखता ।

श्री सभापति : ठीक है आपका सवाल हो गया ।

श्री राजनारायण : तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ । एक बात यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर सरकार वहां के बिजली उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिये कोई ठोस योजना रखती हो तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि उस योजना को चलाया जाय और साथ ही साथ यह भी चाहता हूँ . . .

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल करिये यह नहीं कि आप यह चाहते हैं ।

श्री राजनारायण : वही कर रहा हूँ आप सुनिये तो । क्या सरकार बिजली के बारे में बिजली उत्पादन व बिजली वितरण के बारे में, जों गलत, भ्रामक, असत्य खबर अखबारों के द्वारा छपवाई जाती है उनकी शुद्धि के लिये . . .

श्री सभापति : आप देखिये आधा घंटा का सवाल नहीं होगा । मैं मना कर दूंगा । आप खत्म करें ।

श्री राजनारायण : यह क्या आधा घंटा हो गया ? जहां सरकार फंसेगी क्या आधा घंटा हो जाएगा ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ अखबार में बिजली के बारे में भ्रामक खबरें छापते हैं बिड़ला साहब से पैसा लेने का हथकंडा निकालते हैं इसके बारे में सरकार का ध्यान क्या गया है ?

DR. K. L. RAO: The agreement with regard to aluminium was entered into between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the party in October, 1959. It is entirely a decision of the U.P. Government. They wanted to attract industries to that State because the industries were going away somewhere else. That is how they have done it. I would submit that our great leader Panditji had nothing to do with this transaction . . .

SHRI RAJNARAIN: How do you know? It is totally wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether he is right or wrong, please do not in-

terrupt. Let him complete his answer.

श्री राजनारायण : गलतबयानी करें, तब भी ? देखिए सदन में सत्य भाषण होना चाहिए । (अंतर्बाध)

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : श्रीमन्, जरा उस तरफ के लोगो से कहिए बैठ जाइए । वह क्यों बैठो बैठो कहते है

श्री राजनारायण : बिड़ला साहब को अल्युमीनियम दिलवाया जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने बिजली दिलवाई जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने ।

श्री सभापति : राजनारायण जी बैठ जाइए । सवाल का जवाब खत्म हो जाने दो । सवाल का जवाब भी खत्म नहीं होने देते ।

DR. K. L. RAO : With regard to shortage of power in U.P. at the moment, we are trying to make it up partly from Madhya Pradesh and partly from DVC, but still there will be a certain amount of cut, because it is not possible to make up the shortage completely. In order further to ensure that the shortage is reduced as much as possible and in order to overcome it, we are now trying to sanction many more projects immediately. Five projects of about 200 megawatts each are going to be sanctioned. Also, some atomic energy plant will be established.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन् यह जवाब नहीं है । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केन्द्र की सरकार इसके लिए पैसा देगी ? पोइन्ट तो यह है । आप सरकार को कहिए कि क्या केन्द्र की सरकार . . .

श्री सभापति : नहीं, अब कोई सवाल नहीं होगा । मैंने कह दिया कि इसका जवाब दे दिया है ।

*751. [The questioner (Shri R. P. Khaitan) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 35-36 infra].

REPORT ON THE ATTACK ON THE LIFE OF SHRI JYOTI BASU

*752. **SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry report on the attack on the life of Shri Jyoti Basu, Ex-Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal, at Patna Railway Station has been received by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by what time it is expected to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Government of Bihar, the investigation of the case is in progress and is expected to be concluded soon.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: May I know from the Minister by what time the investigation is going to be completed? Actually the incident took place in last April and 1970 is going to end. It is a very important matter. An attempt on the life of Mr. Jyoti Basu was made at the Patna platform. May I know by what time the investigation is going to be completed?

SHRI K. C. PANT: The incident took place in Patna on March 31, 1970. Since then investigations are continuing. A case regarding the incident was registered immediately and taken up for investigation by the Railway Police, but the next day the investigation was taken over by the State CID. Assistance was provided by the officers of the Intelligence Bureau and the police authorities of West Bengal. Later, the CBI also extended their assistance to the Bihar police. It is difficult for me to say exactly when it will be completed, but every effort is being made to complete it soon.