

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE
> CORPORATION AND PROGRAMME
THEREOF

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EM-
PLOYMENT (SHRI JAISUKHLAL
HATHI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of section 4 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 (34 of 1948), read with rule 2-A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct one member from among the members of the House to be a member of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri R. K. Malviya from the membership of the said Corporation."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and for holding election, if necessary, to the Employees' State Insurance Corporation:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| i. No. of Members to be elected | One |
| 2. Last date and time for receiving Nominations | 14th August 1962 (Upto 3 P.M.) |
| 3. Last date and time for withdrawal of candidature | 16th August 1962 (Upto 3 P.M.) |
| 4. Date and time of election. | 17th August 1962 (between 3 P.M. and 5 P.M.) |

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 5. Place of election | Room No. 6j First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi. |
| 6. Method of election | Proportional representation by single transferable vote. |

MOTION FOR THE POWER SUPPLY
CRISIS IN DELHI

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY (Mysore): Sir, may I suggest that, in view of the importance of the motion which we are going to discuss now, we may be allowed more time and we may sit through the lunch hour? You have allotted only two hours for this debate and it is a very important debate. I suggest that we may cut out and sit through the lunch hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do hope that two hours will be sufficient.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE (Maharashtra): Sir, more time should be allotted for this very important motion and I think that a large number of Members would like to participate in the debate. The two hours allotted for this motion will be a little time and I think it should be extended, because this is an important motion and a large number of Members would like to participate in the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think they would make rather brief speeches. If many Members want to speak, they would probably oblige the House by making shorter speeches. I think two hours will be enough.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI (Uttar Pradesh): As the torture from the power cut has been very long, the debate should not be so short.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No length of time would compensate for IbSt.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO (Kerala): >*r. Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the situation arising out of the present power supply crisis in Delhi be taken into consideration."

Sir, for the past nineteen day\$ the people of Delhi are experiencing extreme difficulties due to the acute power supply crisis. Apart from the personal difficulties in this sweltering heat to the private citizens, this crisis has affected many industries and ■trade adversely. It has dislocated the normal functioning of many educational institutions and various offices. It will not be an exaggeration to say that the normal life of Delhi was in ji state of partial paralysis.

Crisis in the civic administration of Delhi is not an uncommon thing. People have ibeen facing various crises during the past several years. We had a severe water crisis in the year 1956 as a consequence of which there was an epidemic of jaundice resulting in several deaths. Then, again, in 1958, we faced another water crisis. FaiJure in power supply was an annual feature.

So, the present power crisis is not a surprise to the citizens of Delhi. We do not know what other crises we will be facing next year.

Nobody seems to be responsible for the present crisis. Nobody is bothered of setting it right at the earliest. There is no guarantee that similar crises will not be repeated. Such is the state of affairs in this capital of Congress raj. The immediate cause of the breakdown in power supply is said to be burning out of a high-powered transformer in the Rohtak Road sub-station on July 26th. As a result of this breakdown, there was shnr^ase of power to the extent ol 25 000 kilowat's. It has to b? remem-b*>re-l that there was a breakdown of another transformer in the same s»b-*tation as late as in October, 1961. These transformers

are said to have a

life of 35 years. But within a period of seven years, two transformers ia the same sub-station have gone out of commission. We have also heard of similar breakdowns of transformers in other parts of the country. Now, what are the reasons for these breakdowns? Is it the defect in the transformers, or the defect in maintenance the cause of this breakdown? If it is due to the defect in the transformer, then, who is responsible for ordering it? Has it been properly tested when it was being installed? Whatever it be, it proves the inefficiency of the administration. A thorough enquiry is called for.

Now, Sir, in spite of the failure of the transformer, it was the duty of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking to rise to the occasion and meet the challenge. They had the means at their disposal to meet the challenge. Occasional breakdowns in one system of supply are probable and they I should have been prepared to face the emergency. According to the Minister's statement, the undertaking generates its own power to the tune of 45,800 kilowatts. I understand that the installed capacity of the generators is about 75,000 k.w., while the derated capacity, that is the accounted capacity, is no more than 60,100 k.w., and the firm capacity, that is the electricity which is being supplied to the consumers, is 45,800 k.w., as the Minister has recently stated in his statement.

This shows that the derated capacity of the DESU is extremely poor. Why? Is it due to the gross negligence on the part of the administration in maintaining these g3nerators as a result of which there was a heavy backlog of replacements? I understand that there are some generators still lying idle for want of repairs.

Of course they are being repaired now, I fully understand by the paper reports. But why were they not repaired in time. Is it due to the lark of spare parts? There is an allegation that the undertaking had represented to the Central Government and I requested for the spare parts, but they

[Dr. A. Subba Rao.] were not made available by the Central Government. I want to know whether this allegation is true.

Again on the 9th of August two turbines got out of order in the power house as a result of lack of water for the cooling system. Was this shortage of water discovered suddenly? Was it brought to the notice of the authorities concerned that unless water is released in sufficient quantity in time, there is a danger of these turbines getting out of order? If so, who was responsible for this delay in releasing the required amount of water to the power house?

It is reported that the mixing of hot and cool water on account of seepage in the bund was partially responsible for this breakdown? We want to know what is the truth. All these prove the inefficiency of the administration.

There is an allegation of large scale unauthorised use of power in collusion with the officials. Is the Government aware that there is unauthorised use of power? Have they received any complaints so far? If so, why have they not instituted an enquiry earlier?

Sir, this crisis has brought to the forefront certain aspects of administration, namely:—

- (1) the utter inefficiency of the administration, be it at the Centre or at the State or at the Corporation level;
- (2) the incapacity of the bureaucratic administration, bound as they are by their red tape, to rise to the occasion in any emergency;
- (3) the tendency on the part of the various administrations who are jointly responsible to throw the blame over the others and trying to wriggle out of one responsibility;

- (4) the total unsuitability of the present type of dual control in administration; and
- (5) the urgent necessity of giving the citizens of Delhi an opportunity to form a representative Government to manage the affairs of Delhi, especially when the Union Government is too much burdened with other responsibilities.

The inefficiency part of it I have already dealt with. The incapacity of the administration to tackle the emergency was quite evident in their failure to bring in spare transformers in time in spite of their being available in plenty in the country, in their taking such a long time in repairing the transformer, in the breakdown of the two turbines in the process of coping up with the situation, and lastly in their quixotic behaviour in the shedding of power, both scheduled and unscheduled, to various parts of Delhi.

Sir, nobody seems to be responsible for this state of affairs. The Minister of Irrigation and Power disclaims the responsibility for the crisis and even goes to the extent of questioning the necessity of fixing up of the responsibility in circumstances like this—which means, in other words, that this sort of inefficiency cannot be removed. The Prime Minister later tried to shield the Minister of Irrigation and Power by owning the constitutional responsibility for this. The Punjab Government does not appear to be bothered about this. Their attitude is: "Well, the transformer got out of order accidentally. What can we do about it?" And so they put the blame on the DESU. The DESU complain that they have been always alert but that their request has not been conceded to in time by the State Government as well as the Central Government. As a result nobody seems to be responsible for this crisis and nobody is responsible for the speedy solution of this crisis as well. This proves that this type of dual control without any definite responsibility cannot work efficiently.

So, what is the solution? Is the setting up of an Enquiry Committee, which has been done, already, going to solve the problem? Was not another similar Committee appointed earlier? I think it was called the Kumai Committee. I hope it has submitted its report. But did it have any effect on the administration? The very fact that a bigger crisis as the present one recurred again proves that its recommendations have not been implemented. Of course, there should be an enquiry, a thorough enquiry, into the inefficiency of the authorities and corruption, if any. Responsibility should be fixed on the culprits and stringent action taken against them. But for this it would be better to have a judicial enquiry, in my opinion. But will even this suffice?

We hear that the Central Government proposes to invoke the provision of clause (d) of section 59 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, which empowers the Union Government to direct the Commissioner "to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed by or under this Act upon the General Manager (Electricity) or the General Manager (Transport) in his absence or in failure by him to exercise or perform the same". Will this action be sufficient? It may be all right for facing the emergency, but can it be a permanent affair? After all the Commissioner has to hand over the charge after the emergency is over. Then what is the guarantee that it will not be repeated again?

So, in my opinion, the only solution is to set up an efficient administration with the sole responsibility for the Union territory of Delhi. This is absolutely essential. We are talking about democratic decentralisation and the glorious future of Panchayati Raj. But when it is a question of handing over the power, which the Central Government has slowly taken over, back to the true representatives of the people so that they can manage

their affairs more efficiently, the Government is reluctant to part with the power. Our party has been demanding a representative form of Government for the efficient administration of the Union territories. All the political parties including the Congress have approved of it. The affairs of these areas can be efficiently managed and the responsibility squarely fixed only if there is a responsible representative form of Government. Only that can solve all the problems because they are the most affected by any lapses in the administration. I hope that the Central Government will at least realise now the necessity of a responsible representative body to manage the affairs of Delhi and accede to the popular demand. I also hope that the lessons of this crisis will be learnt and stringent action taken against those who are responsible for this crisis to avoid future crisis. Thank you, Sir.

The question was proposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment to the motion.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh):
Sir, I move:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

'and having considered that same, this House is of the opinion that the Government have been guilty of a grave lapse which has completely dislocated normal civic activity in the Capital, resulted in the loss of thousands of manhours and wastage of money and energy and, above all, irreparably damaged the reputation of the Administration and public confidence in it.' "

(The amendment also states in the name of Shri V. M. Chordia.)

[श्री ए० बी० बाजपेयी]

सभापति जी, २६ जुलाई को दिल्ली में बिजली का संकट पैदा हो गया और आज १३ अगस्त है। शासन इस संकट को समाप्त नहीं कर सका है। किसी भी स्थिति में इस संकट के लिये शासन अपनी जिम्मेदारी से बच नहीं सकता। इस बात का प्रयत्न किया गया है कि संवैधानिक दृष्टि से इस संकट की जिम्मेदारी केन्द्रीय शासन पर है या पंजाब राज्य के इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड पर या दिल्ली की इलेक्ट्रिसिटी सप्लाई अथॉरिटी के ऊपर। लेकिन एक बात स्पष्ट है कि संविधान के अन्तर्गत केन्द्रीय शासन दिल्ली की सभी बातों के लिये जिम्मेदार है। वह दिल्ली कारपोरेशन को निर्देश दे सकता है। अगर आवश्यकता हो तो केन्द्रीय शासन पंजाब सरकार को भी निर्देश दे सकता है। लेकिन इस तरह के कोई निर्देश दिये गये, यह अभी तक स्पष्ट नहीं है। इस संकट को गंभीरतापूर्वक लिया गया, यह भी समझने का कोई कारण नहीं है। २६ जुलाई को संकट पैदा हुआ और हमारे बिजली और सिंचाई के मंत्री ने ३० जुलाई को एक कमेटी बनाई। वह चार दिन तक बना करती रही, सत्र को इसका विवरण चाहिये। ३० जुलाई को भी जो समिति बनी, शासन उस समिति को बनाने का अधिकार रखता था या नहीं रखता था इसका मतलब पहलू पर विचार करने की कोई कोशिश नहीं की गई। सभापति जी, यह दृश्य देखिए—बिजली का संकट पैदा हुआ और सिंचाई व बिजली के मंत्री एक समिति बनाते हैं, उसमें पंजाब इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड के भी एक प्रतिनिधि शामिल किया जाते हैं। मगर वह समिति काम नहीं करती; क्योंकि पंजाब की सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकार को चुनौती दी और वह समिति रुक कर टोकरी में फँक दी गई। फिर पंजाब की सरकार ने एक नयी समिति बनाई। वह भी ३० जुलाई के बाद एकाग्र नहीं बन, उसे बनाने के लिये ५ अगस्त के समय का प्रवक्षता की गई। वह समिति क्या

कर रही है, इस के सम्बन्ध में सदन को कोई जानकारी नहीं है। लेकिन हम जानना चाहते हैं, जब २६ जुलाई को बिजली का संकट पैदा हुआ तब केन्द्रीय सरकार हरकत में क्यों नहीं आई? उस ने दिल्ली म्युनिसिपल कारपोरेशन को निर्देश क्यों नहीं दिये? उस ने दिल्ली म्युनिसिपल कारपोरेशन के कमिशनर को यह आदेश क्यों नहीं दिया कि वह बिजली का इंतजाम अपने हाथ में ले ले? अगर केन्द्रीय सरकार चाहती तो संकट की स्थिति घोरित कर सकती थी और बिजली का उत्पादन, बिजली के वितरण का प्रबन्ध अपने हाथ में ले सकती थी। मगर उस ने संकट की उद्भवा की वह आराम से संती रही। ३० तारीख को उस को नींद खुली, मगर उस ने गलत कदम उठाया जिस को चुनौती दी गई और उस चुनौती का केन्द्रीय सरकार सामना नहीं कर सका। वह पंजाब सरकार के हठ के सामने झुक गई और उस ने अपनी समिति की रिपोर्ट को रुक कर टोकरी में फँक दिया। फिर एक नई समिति बनाई गई। लेकिन यह संकट पहली बार नहीं आया। पिछले साल अक्टूबर के मास में इसी तरह से एक ट्रान्सफार्मर फटा था। वह ट्रान्सफार्मर ठीक क्यों नहीं किया गया? संकट के काल के लिये हमारे पास एक और ट्रान्सफार्मर होना चाहिये, इस बात की व्यवस्था क्यों नहीं की गई? और जो दिल्ली इलेक्ट्रिक सप्लाई अथॉरिटी के पैनल मैनेजर हैं उन्होंने कारपोरेशन में इस बात को कहा है कि हम यह जानते हैं कि पंजाब सरकार नये ट्रान्सफार्मर के लिये लाइसेन्स लेना चाहती थी।

पिछले साल अक्टूबर में ट्रान्सफार्मर फल गया था और पंजाब इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड ने ट्रान्सफार्मर लगाना चाहता था और इस के लिये उस ने इंडस्ट्री और कामर्स मिनिस्ट्रों को दरकवास्त भेजा कि नये ट्रान्सफार्मर मंगाने के लिये लाइसेन्स दिया जाये मगर लाइसेन्स नहीं दिया गया। दिल्ली इलेक्ट्रिसिटी सप्लाई अथॉरिटी के पैनल मैनेजर ने दिल्ली म्युनिसिपल

कारपोरेशन में यह वक्तव्य दिया कि यह लाइसेंस २६ जुलाई को दिया गया। २६ जुलाई को नये ट्रांसफार्मर मंगाने की इजाजत दी गई। मैजिस्ट्रेट और बिजली मंत्रालय से यह जानना चाहेंगे कि यह बात कहां तक सही है और यह बात कि जै-जिम्मेदार आदमों ने की? यह बात दिल्ली म्युनिसिपल कारपोरेशन में दिल्ली इलेक्ट्रिसिटी अण्डरटेकिंग के जनरल मैनेजर ने कहा कि साल भर तक नये ट्रांसफार्मर के मंगाने की इजाजत नहीं दी गई और २६ जुलाई को जब ट्रांसफार्मर मंगल गया तब इंडस्ट्री और कमर्श इलेक्ट्रिसिटी ने नये ट्रांसफार्मर मंगाने के लिये लाइसेंस दिया। मैं जानना चाहेंगे कि सरकार प्रबन्धकर्ता है, वहीं शासन चलाती है तो फिर संकट के लिये व्यवस्था कर के शासन क्यों नहीं चलाती है? जब अगस्त में संकट आया तो क्या सरकार ने उस से कोई शिक्षा नहीं ली? क्या दिल्ली डी. ई. एन. यू. ने इस प्रकार के संकट की पुनरावृत्ति न हो, इस के लिये कोई कदम नहीं उठाया? और आज जब संकट आ गया है तो सरकार अपने काम बेवस अनुभव करती है।

इस बात का भी स्पष्ट होता बाकी है कि दिल्ली में बिजली की मांग कितनी है और उस मांग को कितना पूरा किया जा सकता है। डी. ई. एन. यू. के जनरल मैनेजर ने १९६० में जो रिपोर्ट रखा वो उस में उन्होंने कहा था कि दिल्ली को राजधानी के बराबर प्लांट से ७३ हजार किलोवाट बिजली प्राप्त होती है। रोहतास रोड से प्लांट का ट्रांसफार्मर मंगल गया है, हरे २३ हजार किलोवाट बिजली प्राप्त होती है। अगर इस ७३ हजार किलोवाट और २३ हजार किलोवाट बिजली को शामिल कर लिया जाये तो ९६ हजार किलोवाट बिजली होती है। दिल्ली में कुल ९३ हजार किलोवाट बिजली का अंतर होता है। इस बात का स्पष्टकरण होना चाहिये कि डी. ई. एन. यू. के जनरल मैनेजर के अनुसार जब ७३ हजार किलोवाट बिजली हमें राजधानी

के प्लांट से प्राप्त होती है और २३ हजार किलोवाट हमें नंगल से प्राप्त होती है तो दोनों बिजली को मिला कर ९६ हजार किलोवाट बिजली हुई और फिर भी इस तरह का संकट हमारे सामने आया है। इस का क्या कारण है? दिल्ली के कारखाने के मालिकों को जितना लोड सैक्शन किया गया है उस से ज्यादा बिजली खर्च करने की इजाजत दी गई है। क्या यह सच है कि इसके पीछे एक बड़ा अछाचार का काण्ड है और सरकार ने जितनी बिजली की मंजूरी दी है उस से ज्यादा बिजली खर्ची होती है और यही कारण है कि हम बिजली की कमी को पूरा नहीं कर सकते? बाहिर है, दोनों बातें ठीक नहीं हो सकती। या तो डी. ई. एन. यू. के जनरल मैनेजर का पहला वक्तव्य गलत था अथवा आज जो आंकड़े दिये जा रहे हैं वे गलत हैं कहीं न कहीं गोलमाल होता है, मगर इस गोलमाल के प्रति कोई आग्रह नहीं है, इस चीज की तह में जाने के लिये कोई तैयार नहीं है। इस संकट को गंभीरतापूर्वक लेने के लिये कोई तैयार नहीं है। कोशिश यह की जाती है कि हमारे ऊपर दोष आ रहा है, उस को हम दूसरों के ऊपर मड़ दें, दिल्ली कारपोरेशन के ऊपर मड़ दें और या फिर पंजाब इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड के ऊपर मड़ दें। पंजाब इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड क्या कहता है, इस को हमें ध्यान में रखना होगा। उन का कहना यह है कि हम ने एक ट्रांसफार्मर लगाया और उसकी जिम्मेदारी दिल्ली इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड को सौंप दी। पंजाब के अधिकारी यह कहते हैं कि क्योंकि दिल्ली कारपोरेशन ने दिल्ली इलेक्ट्रिसिटी अण्डरटेकिंग को उस ट्रांसफार्मर से ज्यादा लोड देने के लिये कहा—जितना लोड नहीं देना चाहिये था उतना लोड दिया—इस वजह से वह ट्रांसफार्मर मंगल गया और पंजाब इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड ट्रांसफार्मर के जलने की जिम्मेदारी अपने ऊपर लेने को तैयार नहीं है। वह उसकी जिम्मेदारी दिल्ली कारपोरेशन पर डालना चाहता है और दिल्ली की इलेक्ट्रिसिटी की अण्डरटेकिंग दिल्ली कारपोरेशन से

[श्री ए० बी० बाजोरी]

समाधि है और कारपोरेशन केन्द्रिय सरकार के निर्देश में चलती है। अब इस बात को सजाया चाहिये कि सरकार इस ज़िम्मेदारी से कैसे बच सकती है? जब दिल्ली कारपोरेशन में इस बात पर बहस हुई कि इस प्रकार की स्थिति का सामना करने के लिये क्या किया जाये, केन्द्रिय सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में अपनी ज़िम्मेदारी का पालन करने के लिए क्या करे, तो केवल विरोधी दल के सदस्यों ने नहीं, कांग्रेस के सदस्यों ने भी जो सुझाव दिये उनकी कोई चिन्ता नहीं की गई। आज कांग्रेस के सदस्य भी इस बात की मांग कर रहे हैं कि इस बारे में एक उच्चाधिकार जांच होनी चाहिये। पंजाब की सरकार ने एक जांच कमेटी बनाई है। लेकिन उन्हीं तथ्यों का सही पता लगेगा, इस बात की आशा नहीं की जा सकती। इस बात की भी आशा नहीं की जा सकती कि इस प्रकार की घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति को रोकने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये जाने चाहिये, इस तरह की सिफारिश करने में वह जांच समिति कामयाब होगी। इसलिये हमारी मांग है कि केन्द्रिय सरकार इस बारे में एक अदालती जांच का आदेश दे। पंजाब सरकार, दिल्ली कारपोरेशन और केन्द्रिय सरकार इस बिजली के संकट के लिये कहाँ तक उत्तरदायी हैं, इस उत्तरदायित्व का निश्चय किया जाना चाहिये और लोकतंत्रीय परम्पराओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए, जिसका यह शासन बड़ा ढिंढोरा पीटता है, और जिसका हवाला देकर एक रेलवे दुर्घटना के होने पर श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री ने अपने पद से त्यागपत्र दे दिया था, उन्हीं लोकतंत्रीय परम्पराओं का पालन करते हुए मैं बिजली और सिंचाई मंत्री से कहूंगा कि वे अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दें। अगर वे इस्तीफा नहीं देते हैं तो मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केन्द्रिय मंत्रिमंडल कोई विचारपोष है जिसमें बूढ़ी और अशक्त गायें इकट्ठी की जायें? मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से हाकिम जी का आदर करता हूँ। अगर अपने संसदीय जीवन के पिछले

छः वर्षों में मैंने इस बात को आग्रह किया है कि वे अपनी ज़िम्मेदारी का ठीक तरह से पाला नहीं कर सके। लोकतंत्र का तकाजा है कि वे अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दें।

इस बिजली के संकट ने शासन के मुँह को काटा कर दिया है। दुनिया में हमारी प्रतिष्ठा में बड़ा लगा है। भारत की राजधानी में, कांग्रेस सरकार की नाक के नीचे अगर यह बिजली का संकट इतने दिन चल सकता है तो देश के अन्य भागों में जहाँ नई दिल्ली की नज़र नहीं पड़ती, लोगों पर क्या बीतती होगी, हम इसका सहज अनुमान लगा सकते हैं। इस संकट की गम्भीरता को हम समझें और शासन अपने कानों से इस बात का संजूस दे कि जो भी अक्षयता या अज्ञमता है, जो भी हताशता है, निरुत्साहता है, जो भी नेतृत्व का दिवांगमन है उसे बरदाश्त नहीं किया जायेगा और शासन ऐसे संकट का सामना करने के लिए तैयार होगा।

समाप्ति जी, आज जब हम बिजली के संकट पर बहस कर रहे हैं, हमारा दूसरा सदन सीना पर आये हुए संकट पर बहस कर रहा है। यह एक प्रासंगिक घटना है कि लोक सभा सीना के संकट पर विचार कर रही है और राज्य सभा दिल्ली में बिजली के संकट पर विचार कर रही है। यह संकट बाहर भी है और भीतर भी है। हमारा यह संकट शासन ने पैदा किया है, मनुष्यकृत संकट है। दिल्ली म्युनिसिपल कारपोरेशन के बिजली विभाग के जो चेयरमैन हैं उन्होंने कहा कि परमात्मा ने ट्रांसफार्मर जला दिये, हम क्या कर सकते हैं? यहाँ परमात्मा को जाने की ज़रूरत नहीं है। मनुष्य अपनी गलतियों के लिये परमात्मा के नाम को घसीटने की भूल न करे। दोष सरकार का है और सरकार अपने दोष का पश्चाताप करने के लिये तैयार है, इस तरह की अनुभूति देनी चाहिये। जैसा लोक सभा में कहा गया, अगर हम शान्ति के काज में ऐसे संकटों का दो चार दिन में मुकाबला नहीं

कर सकते, तो अगर परमात्मा न करे युद्ध हमारे सामने खड़ा हो जाये और एक अशान्ति की अवस्था पैदा हो जाये तब हम क्या करेंगे ? यह शासन परिस्थिति क अनुरूप ऊपर नहीं उठ सकता है, इस बात का संकेत दिल्ली के बिजली के संकट ने दे दिया है । क्या शासन इस सम्बन्ध में, जो लोगों की भावनाएं हैं, उनके अनुरूप कार्य करने के लिये तैयार है ? क्या बिजली और सिंचाई मंत्री लोकतंत्रीय तत्वाजों को पूरा करने के लिये तैयार हैं, आज का वाद-विवाद इस बात को हमें समझने का मौका देगा और इस वादविवाद में शासन जिस प्रकार से अपनी बातें कहेगा उससे हम इस बात का फैसला करेंगे कि किसी भी संकट का सामना करने की सामर्थ्य यह शासन रखता है या नहीं ।

धन्यवाद ।

SHKI T. S. AVINASHLINGAM CHETTIAR (Madras): Mr. Chairman, I indeed speak with a very heavy heart. In all these fifteen years I think we have never had a more humiliating day. I speak with great sorrow.

Crises happen in human lives but they are also managed. When I speak today, I do not like to repeat what the previous speakers have said, but I would like to *know*, number one, as to how this crisis happened, number two, how it was met, and number three, how it is proposed to avoid it in future.

Sir, I have read this statement of the Minister for Irrigation and Power made in the other House. Frankly, this statement put in me a sense of fear about the safety of our country. In paragraph 2 he says:

"On the 26th July, 1962, one of the aforesaid transformers failed"

and he goes on to say in paragraph 3, 561 BSD—.

"that one of its limbs had been damaged."

He has further said that another transformer had failed in October last. Sir, I am a layman and I rely on the opinions of experts about these grave matters. Let us know what Dr. K. L. Rao, who was the Chairman of our Central Water and Power Commission—fortunately he is a Member of the other House—had to say about this.

"The unfortunate occurrence that has occurred in Rohtak is very mysterious."

I want you to note that word "mysterious".

"It is very mysterious that two transformers, which must have served very robustly for a number of years, must have failed in succession in the course of one year. A transformer is an instrument where there is no motion, there is no rotation, no motion whatsoever. It only consists of three limbs on which you wind the coils, three different coils, insulated one from the other. It is a very robust machine, a very robust equipment, and it should not fail. It is surprising that one machine failed ten months back and other machine failed now. The reasons for this, of course the committee that has been appointed will go into thoroughly."

I will go into the matter of the committee a little later. Now, Sir, who takes responsibility in these matters? I say only two things can be responsible—one, the upkeep must have been so terribly bad, the maintenance should have been so terribly bad that it failed, and the other, there must have been sabotage. I cannot think of any other reason except these two, and it cannot be for any other reason. A robust machine that can and should work for 35-45 years should not have failed like this. This is not what Dr.

K. L. Rao's statement alone says; the Minister's statement also says the same thing. Normally, these

[Shri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

transformers are expected to give you useful service up to about 35 years. I can understand one failing some time but I cannot understand things continuing to fail. What is the reason? Sir, a committee has been set up to go into this matter. The Minister has given the names of the Members of this Committee. Sir, I do not know anybody in the members of the committee. But I would like only to say what has been said about the members of this committee by Mr. Frank Anthony:

".. We are nothing if we are not mealy-mouthed hypocrites. It is almost a national characteristic. So we have made an offering to this national characteristic. We have set up an Inquiry Committee. And look at the history of this Inquiry Committee. The Inquiry Committee was set up. One of the members— I will not name him—was a person who was in the middle of this very crisis."

Sir, the members of the Committee are four and it should not be difficult to trace out that person to check up this matter. It is dishonesty of the first magnitude that even in the midst of this crisis a man is appointed to judge over his own action. I do not vouchsafe for the facts because these facts have had to be checked. But I would like to know here and now whether that is true. If that is true, we stand self-condemned.

Sir, now I come to the third aspect of this bungling. I am not afraid of suffering. Undoubtedly, many millions of the people in the city and elsewhere have been put to trouble. I do not take the view of some of the hon. Members on the other side, as they put it last time, that Members of Parliament are suffering. Parliament Members are one in the community. We do not want special privileges. At

least I do not. We are part of the people. We will suffer with them, if necessary. But the point is, how did we tackle this problem? I abhor to think, at a time of crisis, when we are talking about this all the time that something may happen in the North—we talk about it in brave words—what will happen if this little thing we cannot set right, this bungling. We have been reading in newspapers that it will be all right in three days, it will be all right in four days and so on. What has happened? The embassies around us laugh at us. People have contempt for the way in which we manage things.

And last comes the very unfortunate thing, "Who is responsible?" I can understand Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim speaking as an individual as he said some time ago in his statement. I can even understand the Ministry saying, "We are not responsible". But I cannot understand a Minister of the Government saying that the Central Government has no responsibility in this matter. I read from his statement in the Lok Sabha:

"I was saying that as far as responsibility for electricity is concerned, the Centre has no responsibility."

I think any Government which has no responsibility has no business to exist . . .

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Hear, hear.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: . . . That does not mean that the people who are saying "hear, hear" are going to make a better Government.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Such a rapid somersault.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: But I say, whatever it is, Delhi is the capital of India and

whatever happens in Delhi they are responsible for that. I cannot imagine that a Constitutional examination is to be made to prove that for something that is happening in Delhi the Delhi Government is responsible. I cannot understand why the Law Minister should be invited to give his opinion on this very grave and important subject. Sir, the way in which things have been going on I hang down my head in shame. I do not like to go much further except to say one thing. My friend was telling me just now that there are so many projects working in this country, so many transformers throughout the country. Have the Government of India any information in the relevant Ministry—I am afraid to name the Ministry because that Ministry may say that it does not have the information. What is this co-ordination that is happening? Do you not have a list of transformers all over India that are not installed? If you have, you must be able to get them in no time, in three days. There is no such machinery. I say, Sir, somehow we are getting through scandals. But I take this as a warning for the future. Whatever the crisis that happens, because crises are bound to come, we will face them and face them with courage. I am not prepared to say that crises will not come. Crises in this country as in any other country in the world are bound to come but we face them with courageous action, planned action, intelligent action. That has been absent today. Brave words have been forthcoming but coordinated brain, intelligent action, has not been forthcoming. And so what I would say is this, let us accept the position, let us hang down our head in shame and let us take care that we do not whitewash this matter.

I asked somebody, "What action have you taken?" He began to say that he is a Minister. Under the Constitution you cannot dismiss anybody. True, but you could suspend

anybody. Has action been taken against anybody? I would ask the Government, when millions of people have suffered, when production of wealth worth millions of rupees has been interfered with, has any action been taken against the people responsible for this big debacle? Sir, I leave it for others to answer.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Members in this House have repeatedly said that a crisis has overtaken Delhi in the last few days. There is an extraordinary upset and a severe threat to the normal life of this great city. Sir, may I say that it is not a simple upset, it is not a simple breakdown, it is not a simple crisis. It is the very nemesis that has overtaken Delhi. For the last eighteen to twenty days what did we see? What is the picture of Delhi? Industries have stopped, artisans have ceased work, patients do not get good treatment, shops are closed and people cannot move about. And in this dark hour of the dark crisis what do you find? What is the drama that has been going on?

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL. (Gujarat): Reception to Mr. Krishna Menon.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: What is the play that is being enacted? Sir, the Minister of Irrigation and Power, in the other House, wakes up and says that he has got only a private duty to discharge under a private arrangement made privately with the Home Minister, who is unfortunately no more with us. And he feels that he is powerless in this great power crisis; he is not responsible at all for the breakdown. Perhaps, according to him, the Home Minister was responsible, but the Home Minister does not come forward and assumes responsibility. What happens? We have to wait for the Prime Minister. **The** Prime Minister comes and says.

[Shri M. S. Gurupada Swamy.] "Yes, Government has responsibility." but says that the Government has no responsibility for the power crisis. I do not understand this strange drama. With two voices he admits the responsibility of the Government and at the same time repudiates it. What an amazing state of affairs! These responsible Ministers feel responsible and irresponsible at the same time. Subterfuges are adopted. What an irresponsibility in a responsible Government!

Sir, the Prime Minister has during the course of his speech dwelt upon theoretical and practical responsibilities. In this grave hour can responsibility be an academic matter, can there be an academic discussion about responsibility? The Parliament is not a school. We are not students and Ministers are not pedagogues. We thought that there would be, as a result of the extraordinary situation created, a sense of urgency dawning upon the Ministers concerned. No. They are not moved at all in the matter. As you know, it has been brought out in the other House by the Law Minister, the responsibilities are fixed fairly and squarely on the Government of India regarding specific matters in regard to administration of the Union territories. There cannot be any confusion. There cannot be any lack of clarity on this issue. The Constitution is clear, the law is clear and the duties and responsibilities fixed on the Government of India are very clear. The powers of the Government in regard to various matters in respect of the Delhi territory have been defined or fixed by the Delhi Corporation Act. The hon. Members of the House will remember that there are various sections dealing with the powers of the Central Government vis-a-vis the Delhi Administration, viz., 486, 487, etc. These sections give ample power to the Government of India not only to inspect any works or organisation or any department of the Delhi Administration but also

give adequate powers to issue directives from time to time in regard to anything being done by the Delhi Administration. Section 488 provides for the enforcement of these directives and decisions. In a case as this, may I ask the Minister why he pleaded ignorance or inability to interfere or to take the responsibility for the present crisis? Shri Sen made an amazing statement in the other House. These are his very words:

"Under the allocation of business by the President the responsibility primarily is that of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power."

Before this, the Minister of Irrigation and Power completely repudiated his responsibility but his colleague comes and says that under the business allocation by the President, he is primarily responsible. He went on to say:

"Directions will be issued after proper facts are ascertained"

These are his words. He wants to lock the stable after the horse is stolen. He wants to issue directives, advice and instructions after the power crisis is over. After he has surveyed the facts of the situation, he wants to consider. Even in ordinary circumstances, the Centre has got unqualified power to issue instructions. When there was a breakdown, when there was a crisis threatening, when there was a threat to normal life, what do we expect as normal citizens? What do you expect of the Government? Ordinarily we expect the Government to move forward, to take control and assume authority over the whole administration. What do we find here? There is no assumption of responsibility at all. A great dialogue or debate is carried on as to who is responsible and who is not. What are the attempts made to solve this great crisis?

(*Time bell rings*) Sir, I require

about ten minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN:.. More? No. Two minutes more.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Why not extend the time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can I extend? I have a large number of speakers.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA (Bihar): He also was the co-mover of the motion?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why I allowed him to speak before others.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: We can sit through the lunch hour, so that we may have more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go on.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: As I said even before, the way the crisis is being handled has been a very haphazard one. It is done in a very erratic fashion. Take, for instance, the shedding periods. What is the position? Shedding periods were fixed. They were drawn up, and announced in the press. People were informed about it but what do we find? The schedules were only observed by violation. There were sheddings for 3, 4, 5 or even 8 hours. Even to-day there was a letter in 'The Statesman' which says that there were sheddings of power in some areas for 8 hours. In this enveloping dark crisis, what more do you find? The Chairman and the General Manager have given wrong information to the Corporation about the shedding of power. They have not been properly informed at all. I was told—it is amazing—that the Electricity Supply Committee, has not met and discussed this power crisis even till today. It is a wonderful state of affairs. There is no sense of urgency shown by the authorities. The Punjab Government takes ten months to secure an import licence to import

replacement parts for a transformer damaged in October, 1961. This is the sense of responsibility we find. After a crisis of fifteen days, the Defence Ministry moves forward. There was no crisis for them *Sav* fifteen days. After fifteen days, the Defence Ministry now comes forward and says that they would press into commission their generators. Those generators were available, they were lying idle in the military godown but were never used. Again the Prime Minister has come and made a very beautiful gesture. The generator which was lying in the residence of the Prime Minister also will be pressed into service, perhaps from today. Why were not these generators being put to use before? No authority, no Minister, nobody thought of these and nobody had a sense of crisis. At the top of all this, there is a complaint—very curious complaint—that the Punjab Government has not released sufficient water to the Jumna. It is wonderful. U.P. draws off water from Okhla and this is repudiated by the U.P. engineers. Even during the peak hour of this crisis, information regarding the fall in the level of water reaches the Commissioner of Delhi Administration 13 hours after the river started falling. What is all this? Do we take it that there is any sense of responsibility? Is the department not working all the time, round the clock? Why are these gaps, inefficiency and mismanagement? After nearly twenty days of this crisis, we are not sure whether it will be over soon and we do not know whether there will be no recurrence of the crisis hereafter. The other day the Minister said about the enquiry that judges are not competent to make enquiries into such technical subjects. Where do you find all these ideas that judges are not competent to deal with such technical matters as power and irrigation? As you know, many technical subjects go to the High Courts and the Supreme Court for decision. Judgements are made by them and usually even in the case of railway and air accidents judges are appointed to make enquiries. Technical topics have been*

[Shri M. S. Gurupada Swamy.]

entrusted to the judgment of 1 P.M. judges, but in this particular

case the hon. Minister says they are not competent. Then who is competent? Is this puppet committee that you have set up competent to deal with this matter? You shirk responsibility. That is obvious. It is patent. You refuse this because you are afraid. You are suffering from a psychosis. That is the point. If you appoint a judge, that judge may find out the real state of affairs and it will be a sort of judicial finding and perhaps it may go against you. And so you are afraid. This fear complex is responsible for this kind of an argument you are advancing. May I say, Sir, with all humility, that this disgraceful affair should not have been there? It is my opinion that this is a man-made crisis. It is not a natural breakdown. It was not a normal crisis. It was a crisis due mainly to the callous negligence on the part of the authorities concerned. Also it is due partly to the nonchalant attitude, the irresponsible attitude on the part of the Minister. I say, Sir, that it has been proved beyond all doubt that the Minister has not been able to fulfil his responsibility. My hon. friend Shri Vajpayee was saying that the Central Ministry is a *pinjra-pole*. May I say that it is not merely a *pinjrapole* but it is a miscellany of non-entities and these non-descript Ministers who are responsible for such breakdowns and such a call-ou's attitude, must gracefully make way and leave room for other competent people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2-30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at two minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at half-past two of the clock. THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

KUMARI SHANTA

VASISHT

(Delhi): Madam Deputy Chairman, it is a very sad thing indeed for the people of Delhi to have to face a very serious crisis. We have had these crises every now and then, either a breakdown in the water supply or electricity supply or some epidemic or the other. It is very unfortunate that we have to face problems of this kind which can at least be managed somewhat better and can be avoided by better planning, careful watch and quicker action. It almost becomes ridiculous that a serious thing of this kind is not taken seriously when it comes to correcting the matter or taking care of it and however much the people of Delhi may clamour for better administration and improvement in work unfortunately the thing does not get any good response. This power failure has gone on since the 26th of last month and shedding also goes on. There are no data or scientific base as to how far the shedding is working properly and with what results. The transformer that was burnt on Rohtak Road is, of course, the complete responsibility of the Punjab Government. It is a very interesting thing that within one year three such transformer's have burnt down. The life of a transformer is supposed to be thirty or forty years or more but here they have all broken down within a very short period and I personally do not think that the servicing, maintenance etc., of these transformers is done well hence this thing is happening. There have been serious complaints about the thermal plants, whether they have been kept in good order or not. The shortage of water was known to the Chief Engineer at that station on the 25th night but for exactly twenty four hours this gentleman did not do anything. He was told by the shift-incharge that the water level was going down but nothing was done about it. The next day the matter was brought to the notice of the Commissioner of the Corporation. By then the water level had fallen and the production at plant had fallen by 14,000 k.w. The next day he asked the Wazirabad Pumping

Station people not to pond the water but to release it for the level to be maintained and he was informed that the ponding was not being done and that water was being discharged; but it had been found out later on that the ponding was being done and water was not discharged by the Wazirabad Pumping Station. Furthermore, the Commissioner also did not take any prompt action in the matter. The result was this that the two turbines burnt down. He could have contacted the Okhla people on the 25th evening and could have arranged for de-silting operations earlier which they actually started two days later and he could have asked for the level to be kept up. They could very easily have contacted the U.P. or the Punjab Government and as an emergency measure should have or could have asked them to maintain the level of the water at the required level, so that the generators could function properly. Then the machinery would not have been damaged. This probably could have been avoided—this loss and inconvenience. There was a tremendous amount of loss not only in terms of the great discomfort to the people of Delhi and all those who are here from other parts of India; but also in terms of production, working of industry and various other things like the cold storage plants where it is not only a question of the plants lying idle but the various articles stored inside those plants getting spoiled. This also means a huge loss to the electricity undertaking because of non-supply of energy. One transformer had gone out of order last October but nothing was done to repair it. The Commissioner had told the Corporation that they had asked the Government for its repairs but that information is not correct. He had said that they had asked for the repair of the transformer which broke down in October last but when the records were examined there was nothing to show that the Engineer or the Commissioner of the Corporation had asked for any repairs to be done. There is no paper available there showing that any such demand for

repairs was made. So, this statement of the Chief Engineer or the Commissioner of the Corporation is not correct because no such demand was made. They should have been more careful about this thing, they should have felt the urgency of the matter and should have asked for the repairs to be carried out earlier when they knew that one of the transformers was out of order in October last but nothing was done about it and there is nothing on record to show that the Commissioner wanted the repairs to be done or had asked for some parts. I am told that this machinery was supposed to generate 20,000 kw. by 1959-60 but the capacity of this machine is only 13,000 kw. This is very sad.

As far as I can understand it, this machinery is supposed to function at a certain level; it has a certain capacity but at present it works much below that level. It means that the machine has not been maintained properly. They were supposed to change certain parts like the nozzle, fuel pump points etc. every year. They had bought these parts when the machinery was bought and those parts have been consumed also but there is no record to show as to when they were consumed, by whom they were consumed. Those parts were, however, consumed more than a year back but no efforts were made to get spare parts or their replacements with the result that the plant which should be giving 20,000 kw. of power is giving only 13,000 kw. Either they have not taken care to put enough oil and replace the parts as most machineries require or they have not taken the trouble to maintain the water level so that the machinery was damaged and some parts were burnt out. I suppose some parts require to be changed just like the power plug or

[Kumari 'Shanta Vasisht.] fuel pump, etc., in a car. These parts have not been changed with the result that we have very low capacity. An **wfficer** from the Central Water and Power Commission was appointed to find out the causes for this deterioration. The plea given by DESU was that the overhauling could not be done, the transformers were overworked and could not be serviced due to lack of time, that the spare parts were not available and Government did not supply spares etc. But on enquiry it was found that they had been maintaining the machinery very badly. There was no guarantee as to how they were maintaining the machinery. Though they said that there was no time for overhauling, there was nothing found to confirm this. There was the other plea that the generators had been overworked but it was found by the officers of the Central Water and Power Commission that the generators had been lying idle for three or four months at a time and some of the generators were working for about half an hour or **an** hour a day. So, it is not correct to say that they were overworked. On enquiry, the officers of the Central Water and Power Commission also found out that they had not been changing the parts which were supposed to be changed, parts like nozzles, fuel pump points, etc. They also found out that the maintenance system was very defective with the result that the consumption costs went up—in this case to something like 10 per cent, to 15 per cent. It really means that for the same amount of electric energy supplied, they had spent 10 per cent, to 15 per cent, more which really is a loss to the common man in terms of the money he has to spend.

Power shedding also has been very defective and has not been kept up to the schedule. It is said that they had spare capacity which they are utilising now. Almost three weeks have gone by and they have not felt **the** urgency. What could **have been**

done in three weeks was not **done**. They are thinking of commissioning another¹ generator today which will give them an additional 10,000 kw. of power. This also shows a serious lapse on their part. Machinery bought with tons of money, every costly machinery, expensive machinery, rare machinery that is not available here, should have been maintained very well, should have been serviced well and regularly. If they do all these things that should be done to keep the machinery going and in good shape, I suppose the machinery would not only last long but would serve better also. But there has been gross negligence in this and the whole thing needs to be enquired into.

Delhi needs no thermal energy, but I suppose some hydro-electric project is necessary because of the expanding population and the great industrialisation that they are expecting under the Master Plan that has been prepared for Delhi and all the townships and colonies that will grow up and the industrial estates that will come into being within the next ten years. So hydel power is very necessary for Delhi's needs. The whole thing shows that it is a very miserable crisis that has taken place and I hope that the Ministry and the Government of India would take very serious note of this crisis and do something extraordinary to improve the state of affairs in Delhi. It only shows that the Union territories are not being well managed, their affairs are in a big mess and nobody is interested in improving things in the Union territories. This is the experience in all the departments. If you look at anything . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have taken not one minute but nearly three minutes.

KUMARI SHANTA VASISHT: All right; **thank** you.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Madam Deputy Chairman . . .

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): Fireworks.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: You call a fire engine if you need *one*.

I am grateful to the Chairman for agreeing to allow a discussion on this motion and to the two friends who have given notice of this motion. It would have been possible for me also to give a similar notice but I did not know whether time would be allotted for that and I am very grateful to the Chairman for interceding and seeing that time is allotted for this discussion in this House.

I must also clarify one or two points on which I have been badly misunderstood. As I said in the House I left for Bombay and on reaching Bombay the taxi driver asked me, 'Why did you make an attack on Hafiz Sahib?'

I said I never made any attack on anyone. Similarly, Mr. Chettiar, who should have known better, utterly misunderstood what I said. I am not pleading for the convenience of Members of Parliament. I am saying that Government is very irresponsible in the way in which they deal with Members of Parliament. If they deal with Members of Parliament in this way, what happens to the ordinary people whose voice cannot even be heard here? I simply gave an example of how Members of Parliament are suffering. Members are summoned here to perform their duty and Members of Parliament and how can they perform their functions when they are not given even the ordinary convenience of light, of electricity even in the hostel that is run and managed by Government? And worse than that; the power from that hostel is cut off and taken to supply power to a place where a reception is organised for the Defence Minister. There was light in the Imperial Hotel; there

was light in the Janpath Hotel and in the Eastern Court also. Only in Western Court the light was off. Am I not entitled to point out the irresponsible attitude of the Government? This Government has been, acting most callously and indifferently in the matter of this power situation in Delhi and in many other matters and I am glad that all sections of the House have joined in this. You appoint one committee; appoint another committee and appoint a third committee. How does it help? If you put people in charge who do not know how to manage affairs or if the Government take up too many things on their shoulders, much more than they can manage, what else is going to happen to us? The Government's main function is giving us order and good Government and defending our frontiers. That is a much more important function of the Government than meddling into everything, into the day to day life of the citizen at every stage and making a mess of everything. We have in this country private firms, Indian firms, European firms, private corporations and even public corporations that have been managing and looking after the supply of power to the population and catering to the growing needs of industry. It is only when the Government steps in we have difficulties. In Bombay we had a similar experience but fortunately public opinion in Bombay is so alive that the Government had to yield. They would not allow the Tatas to expand their power for a long time but ultimately they yielded. Then they allowed the railways to have their private power station and they also put up their own station and now Bombay does not have a serious power situation as we have here. All the industries are working there but here leave alone industries; they have not even taken into account the growing population of Delhi, the large number of refugees that have come, and the larger number of industries that are coming up. Does no one ever try to sit

[Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel.] down and calculate? What is the use of having committees one after another? It is one department of this Government that has refused a licence or has not sanctioned a licence for the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking to obtain a new transformer. Why did it take them ten months to give a sanction? Why did it take them ten months to repair one transformer that went out of order? They had a spare one and they had put it in.

Now, in the Press Note that was given or in the statement that was laid on the Table it was said that one limb from one transformer was being put into another. I suggest that the Prime Minister puts in effective limbs in his Cabinet throwing out the ineffective limbs. We have been suffering this too long; at every stage we are suffering. Today it is electricity; tomorrow it is water. I do not know what will happen to food. Mr. Patil has gone and made a big deal with America and so food perhaps we will get. But when is there going to be an end for all these? What is Government doing about the essential function, of Government? What is happening on the border? Very rightly our friend pointed out that at this very juncture the Lok Sabha is discussing, that very important subject. This House should not be discussing this little thing, this power crisis in Delhi. We should be doing more important legislative business. Therefore, I was saying that if the Government was not ready to arrange for the sitting of Parliament they need not have called us; we could have been called 15 days later. Why not honestly say, "The power situation in Delhi is very bad and we cannot arrange for the sitting." We can have met a month later. What is going to happen? The Heavens are not going to fall. So the fact remains that the Government machinery has become too slow, decayed and callous. You cannot put a finger on anybody and fix the responsibility. Everybody shirks responsibility, from top to bot-

tom and at every stage. Will ever this Government be able to function properly or make the services or anyone feel that they mean business? Only a few years back we had a big hullabaloo about a senior officer and a Minister. You had a High Court Judge to enquire. And we know how the whole thing has been washed ut. The person is shunted out of the Cabinet and brought back. This is what is happening. How will you put any feeling in your services that you mean business? There is no efficiency in your services. Nobody is willing to take responsibility for any action. You shirk your responsibility; you just draw your salary according to the month. That is what your services are and that is why you are facing one crisis after another.

Madam, in the "Times of India" report on this, subject there are one or two funny things. It says that the Prime Minister .Nehru today decided not to use electricity in his residence till the present power crisis is over. It is very self-sacrificing of the Prime Minister not to draw power from the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking. But there are a few lines after that which are very significant and perhaps that would be lost on the layman. It goes on to say that a 25 kw. generator will be put into commission at the Prime Minister's house from tomorrow. What is the meaning of a 25 kw. generator, if you please? 25 kw. generator means that one hundred 50 watts bulbs can be burnt with that generator. Then the Defence Minister gives out Press Notes saying that the Army is going to do this and that. They are not going to have street lights. What were you doing all these days when this crisis was there? It is only when Members of Parliament shout here that you do these things? Why cannot you think of these? That is what I want to ask the Government, even the Prime Minister. Is there no one in charge to think about these things? If the persons in charge do not think about them, have no foresight, cannot manage them, please

sack them. That is what the country wants. And if you do not do it, we are going to go down lower and lower. In Delhi today you have invited the representatives of the whole world in your diplomatic enclaves and they are seeing how efficiently this Government is being carried on. It is a disgrace and it is a shame for any Government that has been in power for so many years, for a people, who have given their unstinted loyalty to the Prime Minister, to be treated like this—all kinds of shortages. Countries that were damaged and ravaged during the war years have built up everything. All these ten years you did not suffer from that ravage. On the contrary, you are getting a very large measure of foreign aid, much more than what is really good for you. You are putting the whole country and posterity into a burden, a huge debt. God knows whether they will ever be paid back. But with what result? If you were using the money properly, if your administration was efficient, one could understand it. But everywhere it is the same thing. It is not only in Delhi that there is a power crisis. In the management of everything, there is a crisis. Why? Because there is a crisis in the Government itself. It is time that all this was put right and we got an efficient and good Government, that the services were told about it. I do not mean the officers only. As I pointed out on the last occasion, when I made a few remarks which my friend, Mr. Chettiar, conveniently missed, it is because the plans have been such that they are vote-Plans. You have made things such that people look at you and vote for you. You do not want to take any disciplinary action, because it will displease one or two persons. Give the labourer, the clerk, the engineer, the officer, a fair wage, a living wage. Give him amenities of life, but take efficient work out of him. And you must deal firmly and harshly, if necessary, with anybody who is not efficient, who is not doing his duty properly and with a sense of responsibility. It is because you are

not doing it, because you are incapable of doing it, that this situation has arisen in this country.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I had no intention of taking part in this debate because I had thought that accidents did happen in life. But when I went back from Parliament on Friday last, I got in my post a document which is very serious in itself and if that is true, it is absolutely necessary that the Government of India should order a thorough enquiry into the matter and try to catch the culprits. I am referring to an article which has appeared in the "Flame" dated 11th August. It reads like this:—

"The Rohtak Road transformer whose breakdown has wrought havoc in the capital causing loss of crores of rupees besides immeasurable human misery was burnt down deliberately by a clique interested in importing transformers through a foreign firm, it is alleged in certain circles.

The allegation is that some important officers of the Punjab Government have formed a well-knit, well-organised clique who can hold the entire city of Delhi to ransom. It is said that some important members of the clique some time ago entered into an understanding with a foreign firm for the supply of 18 transformers. On behalf of the clique the officer concerned promised to process the deal and see that it goes through. But for putting this deal through he wanted his commission paid to him in advance. This the firm willingly did and the clique moved heaven and earth to push through the deal. But someone in the Union Government saw the absurdity of ordering 18 transformers at one stroke and put his foot down on the ground that the acute foreign exchange crisis

[Shri M. P. Bhargava.] did not permit this huge expenditure.

The story goes that the clique was in a dilemma as the firm now-wanted the commission it had paid in good faith to be returned in case the order for the transformers could not be obtained.

It is stated that the commission which ran into several lakhs was already distributed and spent. The members, it is reported, were in a great fix and did not know what to do. Then some one suggested that the clique should convert itself into a 'scuttling squad' and burn down the Rohtak Road transformer.

Thereupon 'operation scuttle', it is alleged was started in a systematic and expert manner so that nobody could easily detect the mischief.

The idea behind 'operation scuttle' was that the Delhi public when plunged into darkness and compelled to roast themselves in the humid heat of July-August will be in a receptive mood to clamour for more transformers. A demand for transformers had to be created by hook or by crook so that the promise made to the foreign firm can be fulfilled and the commission received may not have to be returned."

Now, I am coming to another part which, if true, is very disgraceful:—

"Since the gang has the full backing of some important Congress leaders from Punjab and Delhi, the members, it is understood, feel that the enquiry which the Government has ordered will achieve nothing. They do not expect to see any heads to roll down along Chandni Chowk. Some important Congressmen

have, it is alleged, asked the members of the gang to lie low and *keep* their mouths shut. They have told them that the people may blow off some steam and after that will be thankful for whatever little mercies the authorities may offer by way of shorter periods of power shedding.

The enquiry according to some observers will only be an eyewash to pacify public opinion which is indeed very critical.

Meanwhile, it is suggested in certain circles that a suit for damages should be filed against the D.E.S.U. so that all the facts may come to light and the officers, if found guilty, may be given exemplary punishment.

The consensus of opinion is that the enquiry committee as constituted at present will not be able to take any dispassionate view of the matter and that only a judicial enquiry headed by a High Court Judge will be in a position to pin down the responsibility for this scandalous and shameless exhibition of official callousness."

As I told the House, I got this on Friday evening. I had very little time to enquire into the facts. Still I contacted the Ministries concerned and I can authoritatively say that there was a proposal for importing eighteen transformers from an English firm and that was turned down by the Finance Ministry. Now, on one side is the pitiable condition that we did not have even a spare transformer. There is the pitiable condition that even the transformer which got burnt down last year was not repaired. And on the other side, we have the proposition of bringing eighteen transformers in one lot. Now, certainly there seems to be something fishy about it and my proposal to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and to the Ministry of Home Affairs is that it is too serious a matter and should

be looked into. It should be looked into by people who have nothing to do with the Union territory of Delhi and the State of Punjab. India is a vast country. We can bring experts on the subject from the South, from Bengal, from Bombay and we must

look into the matter. The 3 P.M. Special Police Establishment

should begin from the clues I have given about the rejection of the import of eighteen transformers from England. That should be the starting point for them and they should work as to how this proposal was put, what various stages it has passed through, and how the whole matter stands. Unless we do that, the faith of the public will be entirely shaken, and it will be difficult to manage things in the future. Whoever may be responsible, whether it is the highest officials of the Punjab Government or it is the highest officials of the Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking or—and I am ashamed to say this—even if they are Congressmen, they should be brought to book, and they should not be allowed to go about in the merry manner in which they seem to be going. That is my case.

Now before I sit down, I would like to say one or two things about certain observations made by my previous speakers. They seem to have made up a story or a case, if I may say so, that the entire blame lies on the poor Minister and that he must be sacked.

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA (Madhya Pradesh): He is not a poor Minister.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Well, well. So, there is the responsibility of the Minister no doubt. The ultimate responsibility is there, and Shastriji set an example when he resigned from the Railway Ministry. But in this case I can say that it is not the Minister who is to blame but it is the experts who are managing the affairs in DESU and the experts who are giving advice to the various people

who should be brought to book. Now, take the example of what Mr. Guru-pada Swamy and Mr. Dahyabhai Patel said: Why was the generator in the Prime Minister's house not started earlier? Will any of them say that it is the Prime Minister's responsibility to see that the generator in his house, about which probably he is not aware himself, works earlier?

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: It is his responsibility to see that he gets good advice.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: It is for the experts in whose hands these things are placed to advise the Defence Ministry and the Prime Minister and others to do things in time. I quite agree with the criticism that it could have been done 15 or 16 days earlier than today. There is not the least doubt about it, but for that neither the Prime Minister nor the Defence Minister should be blamed. It is the experts who have given them wrong advice who are to be blamed. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Madam Deputy Chairman, we are facing a great power crisis in Delhi. No doubt the failure of the transformer at Rohtak Road was an accidental matter. As stated by one Member earlier, accidents do occur in one's life. It is not that we are complaining about the accidental failure of the transformer, but we are complaining about the ineptitude and the incompetent behaviour of the officials as well as the concerned Minister.

Madam, let me point out at the very outset that three weeks have elapsed since the failure of this Rohtak Road transformer but, as we are informed, no steps have been taken to replace this transformer within a short time. It has been stated in the Statement which was laid on the Table by the hon. Minister that one transformer was out of order about ten months back. It is most surprising as well as disgusting that nothing has been done

[Shri B. D. Khobaragade.] to replace the parts of the transformer and to utilise it again. I cannot understand what were the difficulties in replacing the transformer. So, it is this attitude on the part of the concerned officers and the Minister we are worried about.

Now, let me point out one thing. The Minister was not even prepared to accept his responsibility in this matter. The accident took place and the transformer went out of order on the 25th July, but the hon. Minister could not make up his mind in this respect even until the 8th or 9th of August whether he was really responsible for this failure or not. Every body tried to pass on the baby to other persons. Everybody tried to disown the paternity of this child. Ultimately, the Prime Minister had to come to the rescue of the hon. Members of the Lok Sabha, to the rescue of the hon. Members of Parliament, and it was because of the Prime Minister who accepted the responsibility of the Government in this respect that we could have a discussion on this very important issue in this House.

I would point out another thing also. The information in this respect also has not been given by the hon. Minister concerned. The Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking could not get the necessary foreign exchange to replace the spare parts of the one transformer which went out of order in October last. This information was not given by the hon. Minister to this House, but this information was disclosed by some Corporation official. Why this information should be hidden from the Members of Parliament I fail to understand.

There was the failure of this transformer. We understand that thing. But what steps did the hon. Minister take? Now three weeks have elapsed, and if the hon. Minister was aware of the acute shortage of power that would be accompanied by the deep

crisis that the Delhi people are forced to face. He would have taken the measures, which he is taking today, long before. I would quote another example of incompetence. Two turbines of 5000 and 3000 kilowatt capacity have again gone out of order. What is the reason? Because the water level at Raj ghat was not high enough to supply the water for cooling the generators there. Are we now to understand that the hon. Minister or his officials did not know that the water was receding from that level? Did not the officials know that the water w

ould go down below the particular level and therefore they would not be able to supply the water for cooling purpose? If they did know, what did they do? They did nothing. Actually alter one or two days they increased the level, and instead of releasing 2000 cusecs from Wazirabad they released 3000 or 4000 cusecs. Had they done this earlier, I think there would have been no power shortage to the extent of 8000 k.w. because those two turbines would have been in order and they would have generated electricity which would have been of great help and assistance during these crisis days. Therefore, it is quite clear that all these instances clearly indicate that the Government officials are callous in their attitude. They did not take necessary action in time, and had they taken necessary action in time, we are quite sure that the extent of the crisis which we are facing today would have been definitely reduced. My friend, Mr. Bhargava, had just now stated that there is some sort of sabotage in this respect also. He has quoted from 'The Flame' weekly. I do not know whether that story published is correct or not. It is essential to find out the veracity and correctness of the story published, whether there was really some sort of sabotage or not. Is it really true that some Government officials and hi?K placed Congress leaders or workers tried to get some sort of gratification from foreign firms for selling their transformers? If they did so, then it

is a matter calling for an enquiry not by Government officials who will be always under the influence of State Governments or the Central Government, but this calls for an enquiry by an independent body which will not be influenced by any Government, Central or State. If there was some sort of sabotage, if this transformer was deliberately burnt down by some saboteurs, then it calls for an independent enquiry in this respect. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that he should not be satisfied with the Enquiry Committee that the Punjab Government has appointed in this respect. My submission is that for this purpose an Enquiry Committee which will be presided over by some High Court Judge should be appointed. Then only can we have confidence and faith in that Committee.

The second thing, as already pointed out by me and by many other hon. Members, is that ultimately the responsibility in this respect lies with the Minister as well as with the Delhi Corporation. Therefore, if the hon. Minister could not discharge his duties and responsibilities by getting the necessary help and assistance from his officers, it is necessary for him to resign his seat. If he wants to abdicate his responsibility, it is essential that he should abdicate his power also. It is the essential function of the Delhi Municipal Corporation or the N.D.M.C. to provide all basic amenities to the citizens of Delhi. If they have failed in providing these basic amenities to the citizens, then I submit that the Delhi Corporation also should be dissolved and a new competent committee should be elected in its place.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mani. Please take seven minutes.

SHRI A. D. MANI: I will take eight minutes, Madam. I will not take more time.

Speakers from this side of the House as well as the other have high-

lighted the intensity of the power crisis that has fallen on Delhi. I do not want to go into the details of the power crisis because they have been covered by the previous speakers. I should like to point out to the Minister that as far as the supply of electricity in a capital town is concerned, he should go by the example of the other capitals in the world. In Washington, in London, in Canberra, in Berlin, in all these cities, the Central Government or the government of the country has the immediate responsibility for the supply of electricity. Now, in Delhi electric supply has failed miserably during the last two weeks and no guarantee is there that with our little foreign exchange reserves, with our limited technical personnel and with the indefinite and continuous bungling which goes on in the administration these mistakes may not be repeated.

The first thing that I would like to mention in this debate is that in view of the power crisis having been a continuous feature of the Delhi Administration and in view of the essentiality of protecting the safety and security of our national leaders, the Government of India should undertake, in the Ministry of Works, the control, distribution and manufacture of electricity in the town. In other words, I am suggesting that the Ministry of Works should take over the entire responsibility for the distribution of electricity in Delhi. It is a matter of national safety.

Madam, I met some people connected with these power stations, who shall be nameless, and I understand that there is a good deal of inefficiency in the Delhi Electricity Undertaking because a large number of technical people have been indifferently chosen without proper advertisements. There has been at least one case where a man without technical qualifications has been put in a technical post. Whatever the results of the enquiry may reveal, I would request the hon. Minister to look into the matter im-

[Shri A. D. Mani.] mediately. If these men are inefficient, they should be removed forthwith because it is essential in the coming weeks or in the coming months that there should be no interruption of power supply.

Madam, I would also like to mention that there has been a good deal of misuse of managerial power in the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking which has led to the present situation. It appears that some industrialists are allowed to use more electricity than their quotas permit and that the Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking has condoned these lapses and allowed these people to exceed their quotas. If it is so, it is necessary that the industrialists should not gain an advantage over the other citizens. Further, there should be some measure of discrimination in the matter of giving special concessions. My hon. friend, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, made a reference to electricity being supplied for the reception to the Defence Minister at the Chelmsford Club. I was present at the Chelmsford Club on that day and I was told that specially the Chelmsford Club was given electricity starving the Western Court where Members of Parliament are residing in order that our Defence Minister might speak with great competence on the problems of disarmament. We would not like this special concession to be extended to any individual. If there is discrimination, the first discrimination should be in favour of hospitals, where the sick are lying and where operations are performed. To such persons the concession should be extended.

Madam, I am also told that in the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, staff relations are extremely strained. And there has been a recent case of a time-keeper who was suspended because he allowed an official of the union with which he was connected to enter the power house. There is a good deal of discontent over this matter. And instead of allowing the

ifliqinry Committee to find out the facts, the Minister himself must find out whether there is a good deal of staff discontent in the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking and if there is any such discontent, he should take steps to remove it.

Madam, I would like to ask one question of the hon. Minister. My hon. friend, Mr. Bhargava, spoke about an order for eighteen transformers. There is the Heavy Electricals functioning at Bhopal. The Heavy Electricals are supposed to manufacture transformers. I would like to ask a simple question of the hon. Minister whether any transformer has been supplied by the Heavy Electricals or promised by the Heavy Electricals to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking and whether the Government of India rely on the Heavy Electricals for the repairs to the transformer to be undertaken on account of the Rohtak Road transformer having been burnt out, because it is quite clear that the Heavy Electricals have not been able to supply the necessary transformers and the Heavy Electricals have failed in their performance. There has been a lot of fanfare and publicity that the Heavy Electricals in Bhopal are in a position to supply transformers.

May I ask the Minister to tell us in the course of his reply whether an assessment has been made of the power potential required by the city of Delhi during the next five years and whether any foreign exchange is available for meeting the requirements of the power requirements during the next five years? There has been a good deal of haphazard planning in the work of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, and it is for this reason that we ask whether there has been an assessment of the power potential for Delhi and whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking can meet the requirements of the city.

I would like to make one suggestion—apart from the suggestions that

have been made from this side of the House that the hon. Minister should tender his resignation, which is a political decision—and I would like the Minister to look into the matter and remove the persons responsible for this, people who are in charge of the administration. For the present at least, that is the first thing that ought to be done. People who are careless should be removed forthwith, and they can send for people from electricity supply undertakings from other parts of India to man this undertaking.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister will reply at 3.30 P.M. Mr. Satyacharan, please finish your speech by that time.

SHRI SATYACHARAN (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, much heat has been generated on the floor of this House with regard to the failure of electric power. It is not at all amazing—I can assess the temper of the House in relation to the inconvenience caused to the public in general—but, Madam, while speaking on this question we have to make a factual appraisal of the thing in a very detached manner. When I say 'detached manner', I mean only those aspects have to be taken which have a direct bearing on the administration, and also the technical side of it. It has been said, as far as the responsibility is concerned, that it is not the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. Well, I would go into the merit of the case a little later. At present, all I can say is that as far as the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking is concerned, it is only in the shape of a consumer that electricity is supplied to it by the Punjab State Electricity Board from its Nangal Power House.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I interrupt the hon. Member to say that the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking itself generates some electricity and distributes it, and it also distributes the electricity which comes from the Punjab?

561 LSD—6

SHRI SATYACHARAN: Thank you; I know that. As far as generating of Nangal electricity and also its transmitting is concerned, it is the direct responsibility of the Punjab State Electricity Board.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Not of Delhi?

SHRI SATYACHARAN: It is rather most regrettable that in spite of certain warnings given before there should have been dereliction of duty or of awareness for which the matter could not be rectified in time. But I was rather pained to see that some of the hon. Members, instead of placing responsibility at the right place, had been denouncing the hon. Minister for Irrigation and Power, going to the extent of asking him to tender his resignation. I would rather ask in a most humble spirit, had anyone of us saddled with power as Minister for Irrigation and Power, could have done better?

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Definitely.

SHRI SATYACHARAN: Yes, definitely orally; that I know. Now, Madam, the news I have is that as far as the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking is concerned, it generates power to the extent of 43,800 kw, and the rest we receive from the Nangal power house—to the tune of 43,603 kw. Now it is this 48,800 kw with which we are concerned at present, and because of the damage caused to one of the transformers installed there we could get only 23,000 kw, that is we have lost quite a good quantity of electrical energy because of the damage to this transformer. Madam, probably there is little awareness in the country that we do not produce transformers of that potency when has been installed at Nangal. We are in a position, sure, to produce some of the transformers of inferior quality.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): Do you really mean that they are of inferior quality, or . . .

SHRI SATYACHARAN: I mean of lesser potency. Now, Madam, as I understand it, talks had been going on for long to have a good transformer imported here. Why was it not imported in time? It is rather very difficult for me to see. It may be because of the procedural difficulties which are involved or entailed in r *d tapism. Anyway I have to suggest at this juncture that because of these procedural wrangles or procedural deficiencies sometimes a crisis is created, which has to be averted, because we have to be duly conscious in these matters. Madam, I have rather to congratulate the department; I congratulate it that, in spite of the failure of that plant, in spite of the non-working of that transformer, they could give a certain quantity of eec-tricity to us, and full specially to the essent'al services, to the sewage pumps. to the water-pumping stations, to the All India Radio, to the Delhi Milk Supply plant, to the railway stations, etc. It is also a great feat on the part of the local administration that they could commission the services of certain sources which is really commendable. They asked the local embassies, most of whom had their own generators, to have their requirements of electricity met by their own generators. They also asked some of the other agencies to help them, and it was really fortunate that they could get the necessary assistance from them. That is why probably we were not in the wake of that crisis which we have seen in some other countries where they had been victims of a greater calamity.

Now, the question of apportioning the blame comes. The legal side of the question, as Mr. Asoke Sen, our learned Law Minister, has given, is that the Central Government has no authority to direct the State Electricity Board, and because of this legal limitation probably we are not in a position to direct them in a fashion as We would have desired it I agree with some of the hon. Members that

here is a lacuna which has to be removed, and it is for the legal pandits of our Central Ministry to look into it and rectify the position. As far as the present case is, the hon. Minister was perfectly conscious of his duty. After the power failed, he at once referred it to the Prime Minister and suggested that an enquiry committee might be installed to look into the matter because of its urgent nature. The Prime Minister also realised it. Probably the enquiry committee could have been installed at the instance of the Minister for Irrigation and Power himself but for the objection of the State Government. As I understand, Madam, Mr. Kairon himself did not like that the Central Government should in any way interfere with the State Government's authority in this matter, and here lies a wrangle between the authorities of these two Governments, which has to be resolved, but here, at this stage, I would plead that the Minister for Irrigation and Power does not come into the picture at all

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:
Minister for Irrigation.

SHRI SATYACHARAN: In this connection I may say that Dr. Subba Jao in the course of his speech said something which probably deserves >ur notice. He said that there was 10 guarantee that the failure of power will not be repeated. I very humbly ubmit to him that the very fact hat all possible steps could be taken n the face of such a great crisis to naintain the continuity of power sup->ly, unhampered by the failure of he transformer at Rohtak, though tot at the normal level, is the great ruarantee.

I now refer to Mr. Vajpayee's statement. Factually, he was correct rtien he said that at the Rajghat ower-house the total capacity of the lant to produce electricity was to he tune of 73,000 kw. It is true, but

at present the output is only 43,000 kw, and taking the sum total of other plants it comes to about 55,000 kw. Madam, in this short period I have tried to explain to the House that as far as the Minister of Irrigation and Power is concerned, he has taken all available measures that could be possible in his capacity as a Minister to take and there was, therefore, absolutely no dereliction in his duty.

As far as the Prime Minister was concerned, democratically as he is constituted, he has already given an assurance that this is a Central responsibility since every Union territory is administered by the Central Government. Also the Home Minister gave the assurance that the Technical Committee appointed would make a proper assessment of the thing and those who are found culprits must be taken to task. I believe, Madam, this much of assurance is quite enough in parliamentary democracy. These statements should go a long way to assuage the feelings of the Members of the Opposition. With these words, Madam, I again congratulate the local administration that, in spite of the great crisis, they could emerge well, and this is a matter of great satisfaction to us. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM): Respected Madam, I heard the speeches made during the discussion. I could appreciate the feelings which have been given expression to during those speeches. Unfortunately, what happened in Delhi this month in regard to power was most lamentable. I quite agree there. We have been put to too much inconvenience. But, unfortunately, we so far have not been able to ascribe it to any particular person, body or individual who may be taken to be responsible for that

Madam, it has already come to the notice of the hon. Members of this House that a Committee has been set up by the Punjab Government. If I

correctly understood, there was some such suggestion in one of the speeches as to why this Committee should have been set up by the Punjab Government. In regard to that I want to say a few sentences in order that the hon. Members of this House may fully appreciate the position.

As far as this mishap is concerned, the position is like this. Punjab is supplying 48,000 k.w. of power to Delhi from Bhakra-Nangal. That power is brought to Delhi. For that purpose a transmission line has been set up up to Delhi from Bhakra by Punjab. All the material belongs to Punjab. This transformer also belongs to Punjab and the sub-station on which it was erected also belongs to Punjab. I mean to say that the whole thing, from one end to the other, from Bhakra-Nangal up to Delhi, belongs to Punjab. It is the property of Punjab. It is under the control of Punjab and it is the concern of the Punjab Government. Delhi is not concerned.

As far as the question of responsibility is concerned, I would like to refer to what has already been stated on that question by the Law Minister of the Government of India and I need not dwell on that question. So it was quite proper that the Punjab Government should have been given opportunity to look into the causes and find out the whole thing and who was responsible for it. So, they set up a Committee. About the personnel of that Committee one hon. Member said something. First I may tell you, Madam, who are the members of that Committee. The Chairman of that Committee is Shri Dharma Vira, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHLINGAM CHETTIAR: Is not Shri Brahm Prakash its Chairman?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: I have no voice or anybody else. Shri Please do not think that I am trying to

[Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim.] Dharma Vira is the Chairman of that Committee. Then one of its members is Shri S. S. Kumar, who was the Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission till three months ago when he retired. He is, I think, the highest technical officer of this country and has worked both as member and Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission. He can be relied upon very well. Then, another member is Shri Brahm Prakash, Member of the Lok Sabha. He belongs to Delhi.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Is he an expert?

श्री विनयकुमार मन्ना राजकी चोरङ्गिना :
वे उज्जने माहिरे हैं क्या ?

SHRI SATYACHARAN: It is not at all necessary that an expert should be appointed on committees. Experts are also there. It is not necessary that a Member of Parliament, who is also an expert, should be kept there.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Madam, I do not want to interrupt the hon. Minister but the demand for a judicial enquiry has been rejected on the ground that it is for the experts to enquire into this matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister continue.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: At the moment I am not dealing with a suggestion of the hon. Members as to what sort of committee should have been appointed. Here I am dealing with a Committee as set up and I am pointing out to the hon. Members our position as we are associated with it. Another member of this Committee is Shri Ishwar Chandra, Secretary to the Government of Punjab, Irrigation and Power Departments.

SHRI B. D. KOBARAGADE: In view of the serious and grave allegations made by Mr. Bhargava in his speech

just now, does the hon. minister consider this Committee competent enough to enquire into the charges of sabotage and corruption, corruption in the Government officials as well as high Congress leaders?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister may go on.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: What about the reply to the point raised?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: Madam, so many things have been said. If I take up all those things separately, I am afraid, it will take much time. Therefore, I propose to read out from my note because if I speak extempore, it will take more time. That way I will be able to finish something more. I will read it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Questions and clarifications can be put to the Minister after he has finished.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We will ask questions afterwards.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister finish his speech. Questions and clarifications can be put to him later.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: Madam, I may now explain briefly how the power crisis overtook the capital and also state the measures taken by me and my Ministry, in consultation with the authorities concerned, to deal with this situation. So many points raised during the discussion will be sat at rest by what I am going to read out

The maximum load on the system of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, including loads on account of bulk supply to the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the Shahdra licensee and the Delhi Cantonment, in the fourth week of July, 1962, was about 9*600 Kw. This was being met to the extent of 45.800 Kw. by the Undertaking's own generating plant and the remaining 48,800 Kw. by

bulk supply from the Bhakra-Nangal system. The supply from Bhakra-Nangal was delivered through two 38 MVA transformers installed in the Rohtak Road substation of the Punjab State Electricity Board in Delhi.

On 26th July, 1962, one of these transformers failed resulting in curtailment of bulk supply to Delhi from 48,800 Kw. to 23,000 Kw. As the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking's own generating plant was not adequate to carry the entire load, the Undertaking was forced to resort to immediate shedding of load for four hours in various parts of the city in rotation. The programme of shedding is decided by the General Manager of the Undertaking, in consultation with the Delhi Electric Supply Committee of the Corporation. The Undertaking, however, took steps to maintain continuous supply of energy to essential services such as the water pumping station, the sewage pumps, All India Radio, the Delhi Milk Supply Scheme, the Railway Station, hospitals, the telephone exchange and the telegraph offices.

The Punjab State Electricity Board made immediate arrangements for disconnection of the damaged transformer for inspection. Detailed examination thereof indicated that at least one of its limbs had been seriously damaged. One such transformer had failed at this very substation in October 1961. The engineers of the Board decided to replace the damaged limb in the transformer that failed in 1961, by a healthy limb from the transformer damaged now. Immediately I got to know about this unfortunate breakdown, I instructed my officers to contact the Chairman of the Punjab State Electricity Board, to find out what was being done to remedy the situation and to ask him to meet me. The Chairman, Punjab State Electricity Board met me on the 30th of July. Accompanied by him, I visited the sub-station that

day and also convened an emergency meeting of the Chairman, Punjab State Electricity Board, the Chairman, Delhi Electric Supply Committee and the seniormost engineers of the Central Water and Power Commission to review the situation resulting from the failure of the transformer, and to consider the measures to be taken for the restoration of normal supply conditions. I was told that the repair work on the transformer had been started and was going on round the clock. All technical and other help to enable the Punjab State Electricity Board to complete the work most expeditiously was offered. Because of the time required for de-hydrating the oil of the transformer, the engineers anticipated that it would take about a month to put the damaged transformer back into service after repairs.

For delivery of additional bulk supply to Delhi, the Punjab State Electricity Board had already in hand the conversion of the Nangal-Delhi transmission system from 132 KV to 220 KV. In this connection, installation of two 100 MVA transformers was at an advanced stage of progress when the present power crisis overtook Delhi. It was arranged by me with the Punjab State Electricity Board that work on the installation of these transformers would be expedited so that for the restoration of power supply to Delhi reliance was not placed entirely on the transformer under repair. As a further precautionary measure it was arranged that a 10 MVA transformer would be urgently procured from Nangal for temporary use in Delhi till the other arrangements had materialised.

I had discussions with the Chief Minister and the Irrigation and Power Minister, Punjab, on the 3rd of August regarding the desirability of investigating the causes of successive failure of the transformers at the Rohtak Road substation of the Punjab State Electricity Board. The Chief Minister agreed to appoint a Com-

[Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim.] mittee for the purpose. As hon. Members are aware, the Committee will take steps to fix the responsibility for the damage and submit its report by the end of this month.

The Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking was also advised to press into service all the generating plants available to them with a view to reducing the gap between the demand and the availability of power. Some of their generating plant had been taken out for overhaul and repairs. It was arranged that the Undertaking would take necessary steps to recondition and put the plant back into service with all possible speed. Technical assistance of the Central Water and Power Commission was also placed at their disposal. Generating capacity aggregating to some 8000 KWs has been commissioned after reconditioning the plant. With a view to reducing consumption from the general system, the Delhi Municipal Authorities requested the industrialists, the foreign embassies and other owners to commission their own stand-by generating plants.

The progress of the various measures being taken by the Punjab State Electricity Board and the Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking for meeting the power supply situation and restoration of normal supply conditions in Delhi, was again reviewed by the Secretary of my Ministry on 8th August, 1962, in consultation with the Chairman of the Punjab State Electricity Board and the Delhi Municipal Corporation authorities. He emphasised the need for all possible steps being taken immediately to meet the emergency. He offered to make available to the Undertaking all technical and other help it needed to accomplish this. As a result of detailed discussions it was agreed that work of repairing the damaged transformer and installation of new ones would be further expedited. It was indicated that the 10 MVA transformer would be commissioned by the 15th instant, and that the 38 MVA damaged transformer would be put back into service by the 20th res-

toring normal supply conditions on that date. It was further agreed that the 70 MVA transformer would be commissioned by the 25th instant at the very latest to meet Delhi's additional needs.

On the afternoon of 9th August, the General Manager of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking informed the Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation and Power, that the water level of the Yamuna river had fallen below the normal with the result that the cooling arrangements at the Delhi's 'A' thermal power station had been adversely affected. This had led to the closure of some turbines reducing the generating capacity by about 11,000 KW. The Secretary immediately arranged with the Uttar Pradesh Government the raising of the water level at Okhla to ease the situation at the thermal power station. Steps were also taken by the Municipal Commissioner to release more supplies of water from the Wazirabad Barrage. The Secretary, Irrigation and Power, accompanied by the technical experts of the Central Water and Power Commission visited the power house and the river site on 10th August 1962, to discuss the steps that were required to be taken by the Undertaking for the restoration of normal supply conditions. In consultation with the Delhi Municipal authorities he arranged for the release of 20,000 cusecs of water in the river from Tajewala to help ease the situation regarding water supply at the thermal power station. Release of a further 150 cusecs of water from Bhawana was also arranged with Punjab authorities. A Committee consisting of the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, the Municipal Engineer and a Member of the Central Water and Power Commission was appointed to take all possible steps in order to divert further supplies from the main river and to ensure that the water level at the thermal power station did not go down below the minimum required for cooling the generating equipment. They were authorised to

incur all essential expenditure. All the generating machines, except one of 3000 KW, which had been closed down as a result of cooling water shortage, were re-commissioned on the morning of 10th August 1962. The 300 KW machine had developed some trouble. Assistance of the Central Water and Power Commission engineers was offered to enable the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking to put it back into service. The technical experts of the Central Water and Power Commission were also asked to assist the Delhi Electric Supply Undertakings in checking up the generating capacities of their diesel units with a view to improving their generating capacity to the extent possible.

Senior officials of my Ministry and the engineers of the Central Water and Power Commission have remained in constant touch with the efforts that are being made by the Punjab State Electricity Board and the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking in expediting the restoration of normal supply conditions. The position has been reviewed by my Ministry daily in consultation with the Municipal Corporation authorities. I am now in a position to say that the 10 MVA transformer of the Punjab State Electricity Board is ready for being commissioned tomorrow. Work on the installation of the other transformers is also going on round the clock and they are expected to be commissioned according to the schedule. The 10 MVA transformer will, on commissioning, deliver 10000 KW to Delhi in addition to 23,000 KW that is already being received. The generating system of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking is now capable of generating about 57,000 KW. Thus, in all about 90,000 KW will be available to meet the demand of about 94,000 KW. In this way only 4,000 KW will be required to meet the demand. Taking into Account the assistance that will be available to the Undertaking from private generating plants, it can be said that the situation will be nearly normal from tomorrow.

Madam, there has been a feeling that the shortage of cooling water experienced on the 8th and 9th of August could have been averted if the Undertaking had exercised due vigilance in maintaining supplies from the river. Such difficulties had been experienced by the Undertaking almost every year in the past. It is my intention that a detailed inquiry should be held in this matter in consultation with the Mayor of the Corporation. I do not, however, want that the attention of the engineers and other officials of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, who are at present engaged on the work of immediate restoration of power supply to Delhi should be diverted from this task. The enquiry in the matter would, therefore, be held as soon as the crisis is over.

I would like to add for the information of the hon. Members that for meeting the growing needs for power in Delhi, installation of one 30,000 KW set is already in hand. I have not been satisfied with the progress it has made so far. The Third Plan provides for the installation of two generating units of 50,000 Kw. each in addition to a further bulk supply of 40,000 Kw. from the Bhakra-Nangal system. For handling the construction of the new thermal station, my Ministry has already suggested the constitution of a Control Board with the Minister of State, Irrigation and Power, as the Chairman. There has been some difficulty in getting the Corporation's concurrence in the setting up of this Board. A couple of points still require to be cleared with them, but I have no doubt that with the co-operation of the Mayor, it should be possible to set up this Board within the next few days. The Board would be in overall charge of constructing the new thermal station.

Before I conclude, Madam, I would like to say how painful this whole episode regarding the power breakdown has been. Delhi has had to go through and is still going through this ordeal for nearly three weeks, leading to great deal of discomfort, loss of

[Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim.] production and dislocation of business. I have every hope that with the efforts that have been made by all concerned, and with the co-operation of those who have installed private electric power generating units of their own, the hardship to the public will be mitigated and that the condition will be brought back to normal within the next days.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Minister finished? Mr. Khobaragade had to ask something.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: I have a little more to say.

The situation regarding power supply in Delhi was reviewed again by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power in consultation with technical experts. The 10 MVA transformer brought from Nangal is almost ready at the Rohtak Road sub-station and is expected to be commissioned on 14-8-1962. That means that with effect from 14-8-1962, the total energy available to the Capital would be about 92,000 Kw. against the requirement of about 94,000 Kw. with the result that the position would be about normal.

The progress on the installation of the 38 MVA transformer is being maintained satisfactorily. The drying process has started and normally takes about a week. This transformer is expected to be commissioned by the 20th as scheduled.

The 3,000 Kw. set of the Rajghat thermal station is being repaired rapidly. The blades of the rows of the turbine rotor and stator were sawn off yesterday. The necessary cleaning and checking up process has been started and the unit would be tested tomorrow and if found satisfactory, will be commissioned on the 15th of August. The work of the feed-water pump in the case of the 1,500 Kw. steam set at Chandrawal has been completed and the connecting pipe work is in progress. This unit is expected to be recommissioned by the 16th of this month.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Has the Minister finished?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: An article was referred to in one of the speeches here. I also heard about that article only here and for the present, what I can say is that I will need that article and examine it very well.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: I can give the Minister a copy of that article, if he wants.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: I heard of it only in this House. I will read it, the whole article, and see what should be done in that connection.

Another thing I wanted to say is this. I am very sorry to hear that those hon. Members who were in the Western Court, were put to great inconvenience. Perhaps that could not be helped. But one thing was pointed out in the course of the speeches, that at the same time, in that locality others were having electricity while the Western Court was not having it. About this also I will make enquiries and see why it was so.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I have already given the reason, namely, the reception given to Shri Krishna Menon. The other is that the Lady Superintendent who was playing with children while Members were suffering, would not even telephone the Superintending Engineer.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: It was stated that no step was taken to replace the transformer. There was no necessity to replace the transformer. One wing was damaged and that was going to be set right. After the report is available and after finding out what was the cause, we will see whether it should be done away with or what should be done.

There was a comparison made between Bombay and Delhi. About that all I can say is that Bombay and Delhi are two different sorts of cities, on the point of living on the point of development and on so many other points. Bombay has been developing since very long whereas Delhi's development has started only when the country had its own government. Before that it was not looked after. So far neither Punjab, nor U.P. nor the Britishers, did much, when they were here. So to compare conditions in Delhi with those of Bombay is not correct. Such a comparison should never be thought of. Comparison can be only between two like things. It is not a correct thing to do in this case.

There was another thing that was said during the discussion. It was said that we have got a *karkhana* at Bhopal which makes articles which are used for the purpose of generating electricity and it was asked whether these transformers that we want are not being manufactured there. Well, they are not being manufactured there. That is the position.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Then what transformers are being manufactured there, if they are not manufacturing this kind of transformers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI O. V. ALAKESAN): Such large-sized transformers are not yet made at Bhopal.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Khobaragade interrupted and wanted to put a question.

4 P.M.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister the terms of reference of this Committee and whether the allegations made by the hon. Member Mr. Bhargava about corruption and sabotage have been referred to this Committee. If it has not been referred to, I want to know whether the Minister is *intending to* enquire into this alle-

gation or not. Will this Committee go into this question or will some other Committee or some other High Court Judge be appointed?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister has replied to all that.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): He is not clear as to whether the Members . . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: What is he clear about?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: The usual thing in such cases—it is a very very long practice in vogue in all the countries of the world—is that an attempt is made to *And* out the causes. A Committee has been set up for this purpose with the following terms of reference:

"(1) To investigate the causes leading to the failure of 38 MVA transformers of the Punjab Electricity Board installed at their Rohtak Road Sub-station for supply of power to Delhi, in October, 1961 and on 26th July, 1962, and to fix responsibility therefor.

(2) To enquire into the adequacy of arrangements made by the various authorities concerned (including Punjab State Electricity Board) after the first failure of transformer in October, 1961, for ensuring continuous supply of power in cases of such emergencies."

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: I refer to a statement made by the General Manager of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking at the Corporation Meeting on the 31st July, 1962, in which he is reported to have stated that the 'Punjab authorities'—I am quoting — 'were not able to repair the first transformer because the Union Government did not give them a licence to import the necessary parts. The import licence was issued only on July 26, the day the second transformer burnt out.' May I know whether this statement has any factual basis? If not, why has no action been taken against the General Manager?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: As far as the Punjab Government are concerned, they really delayed the matter. I could go into the several stages of the matter and show the whole thing to the House and also how the matter was dealt with. If after that, there is something in that, I shall look into it. The hon. Minister of State has some . . .

SHRI K. SANTHANAM (Madras): The hon. Minister could circulate a note to us about it.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: If it is acceptable, I do not mind it. I will circulate it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please give the information.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: The first 38 MVA transformer of the Punjab State Electricity Board at the Rohtak Road Sub-station failed in the first week of October, 1961. The situation was then retrieved by bringing a spare transformer lying at Nangal. The Board had at that time in hand the scheme for conversion of the 132 KV Delhi-Nangal transmission line to 220 KV for supply of additional power to Delhi. The scheme *inter alia* involved the installation of two 100 MVA transformers at the Rohtak Road sub-station. On the installation of these transformers, the two 38 MVA transformers installed at this substation earlier were to be rendered surplus. The Board, therefore, considered it desirable to concentrate on the conversion scheme rather than taking up the work of repairing the transformer on a priority basis. The Board hoped to be able to complete this conversion by the end of July, 1962. The application for release of foreign exchange for the equipment needed for repairing the transformer was made by the Board to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, in a routine manner, on 18th December, 1961. Because of the tight foreign exchange position, all proposals for

release of foreign exchange are carefully scrutinised by the Central Water and Power Commission from various angles. The Punjab State Electricity Board's proposal was also referred to the Central Water and Power Commission for similar action. The Central Water and Power Commission addressed the Board for clarification. The Board's reply was received on 6th March, 1962. The Commission made its recommendation in the matter on 6th April, 1962. Foreign exchange was sanctioned on 8th May with the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance. The Chairman of the Board happened to mention this case to the Secretary, Irrigation and Power, during his visit to Delhi on 18th May, 1962. The Secretary enquired into the matter immediately and sent a D.O. reply to the Chairman Punjab State Electricity Board, the same day stating that the necessary foreign exchange had already been released. The Board thereafter, again took its own time to make an application for the grant of an import licence. This application was received again in a routine manner towards the end of May and the licence was granted by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports on 27th July, 1962.

It is no doubt true that the release of foreign exchange and the grant of import licence were somewhat delayed. But, it must be made clear that while making the application for foreign exchange or import licence the Punjab State Electricity Board did not indicate any urgency of the requirements. Nor was it known that the equipment was needed for the Rohtak Road sub-station. In several emergent cases it has been possible to release foreign exchange and grant import licence within a couple of days. In this case the Punjab authorities did not seem to have attached much importance to the work relating to repairing the transformer as they were concentrating on the installation of the bigger transformers, expected to be commissioned in July, 1962.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister has given a full and lengthy reply. I do not think there is any more time for further questions to be asked.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: But the reply was prepared before the speeches were delivered.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If any more explanation or clarification is needed, you may ask for that.

There is an amendment standing in the name of Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Chordia. Are they pressing it?

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Yes, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"and having considered the same, this House is of the opinion that the Government have been guilty of a grave lapse which has completely dislocated normal civic activity in the Capital, resulted in the loss of thousands of man hours and wastage of money and energy and, above all, irreparably damaged the reputation of the Administration and public confidence in it."

(Interruption.) (After

taking a count) Ayes — 20 Noes

— 64

The motion was negatived.

THE NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BILL, 1962

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, PANCHAYATI RAJ

AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA): Madam, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the incorporation and regulation of a corporation for the purpose of development of agricultural produce and certain other commodities on cooperative principles and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M GOVINDA REDDY) in the Chair].

Sir, the Bill which is before the House, namely, the National Cooperative Development Corporation Bill is an amending Bill and it has a short history behind it.

The credit movement in this country started in 1904 and it had its own difficulties since the last several decades. The main problem regarding co-operative credit has been that it has been untimely and inadequate. In 1904 the Co-operative Societies Act was passed which was later amended in 1914. Then there were certain committees appointed, like the MacLagan Committee, for instance, and they reported about the weaknesses of the credit movement in the country. In 1910 this subject of cooperation was transferred to the States after which several States passed Co-operative Acts of their own. Thereafter, in 1929 the Royal Commission made certain enquiries about co-operation and the credit movement and made certain recommendations. And till 1950 or 1951 there was very little improvement in the field of co-operation. In 1951 the Reserve Bank of India appointed the Rural Credit Survey Committee which brought out its Report in 1954. That Committee came to the conclusion that only 3 per cent, of the credit required by the agriculturists in the country was being met by the cooperatives and it made certain suggestions. It suggested that there should be an integrated credit structure in the country and said that