

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.] vention. And I feel that the Government should keep that thing in view, because it is always good to have accord and harmony between the Government and " the municipal body over such a vital matter as the appointment of Commissioner.

Then, Sir, provisions are not there for elected majorities in certain bodies of the Delhi municipal organisation. Now these provisions cannot be altered. Yet at the same time, when the Government makes an appointment to such bodies, care should be taken that trie appointments are endorsed and liked by the municipal organisation. There again we could strike a synthesis between the Government and the elected representatives who will be sitting on the municipal organisation. This is my another suggestion. And I make this suggestion in all seriousness because there is a tendency on the part of the Government to flout the will of the people and to disregard the wishes of the elected people, and even of their own partymen.

Then, Sir, with regard to finances, provisions have been made, but I would like the Government to take a generous view of the matter. The Delhi Municipal Corporation would be in considerable financial difficulty if it were to fulfil the functions expected of it, and I hope the Government will be generous in finding the necessary resources for it. Powers of taxation have been decided in this Bill, but I think it will be possible for the Government to strengthen the finances of the Delhi Municipal Corporation by advancing moneys to it for carrying out the responsibilities that are placed upon it. That is my another suggestion. And that is another way of how the Government can set some of the matters right.

Now, Sir, finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the existing municipal councillors and others of the Delhi municipal body who have been extremely helpful in working out

their case. We have learnt from them so many things and we have tried in our\_ humble way . to voice their demands, although for some reason or the other, those demands got somewhat suppressed in the ruling party. It fell on our shoulders to uphold the cause which had been put forward by the Congressmen in the Delhi municipal body. After all it is a body with most of its members being Congressmen. Therefore I would like them to note that wa of the Communist Party do not give any partisan approach t6 this matter. Sometimes, it is we who champion the cause which they cherish, and the other side—the Mem bers opposite—does not. Here was an example how we tried to the best of our ability to champion a cause which emanated from the Congress quarters, but which was let down by the hon. Home Minister and the party in power. Let this be an inspiration for all those who would be in that Delhi body to work together for carrying forward the struggle that they have been waging all these years. After all, if the}' i 'her\*, what they have been demanding will be obtained by the power, will and the unity (if the citizens of Delhi, Thank you. S'r.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, I have nothin;;' more to say.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.B. JOSHI): The question is.

"That the Bill be passed". The motion was adopted.

#### **THE DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957**

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. K. PATIL) : Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to amend **the** Damodar Valley Corporation **Act**, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Vice-Chairman, after a very heavy legislation that the House has laboured through for more than seven and a half hours, I have now brought before it a very small, a very straightforward and a non-controversial piece of legislation. It is not the body of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act that we are amending. We are amending only one section of it, and that too a part of it, with a view to have greater efficiency and mobility of functioning.

As the House remember, Sir, the Damodar Valley Corporation Act was passed in 1948. Section 5 of that Act lays down that all members must be whole-time members of the Corporation. Under the Act, Sir, the Corporation is composed of three members—one Chairman and two members—and all of them are or must be whole-time members. That is a kind of rigidity that we had introduced in that Act. That rigidity was perhaps all right in the beginning. But now having worked that Corporation for the last eight or nine years, we have come to a stage, after a good deal of experience, when we feel that that rigidity need not now remain, and some measure of flexibility should be there to give freedom to the Central Government to appoint whole-time or part-time members according to the requirements of work. It is proposed that that particular part should go so that Government should be free to have either wholetime members or part-time members, or one of them whole-time and the other two part-time, as the occasion or the necessity of work might call for.

Now, Sir, in this small Bill I need not go into details as to why we have come to this conclusion. But I have got to explain as to what were the main purposes of the D.V.C. Act, how many of them have been fulfilled, what remains to be fulfilled, and in future what kind of set-up we must have for the D.V.C. That is the purpose of this little amending Bill. We

92 RSD—8

are also contemplating some time in future, if it becomes necessary, Mr. Vice-Chairman, to bring forward a bigger measure where the other amendments can be brought in. But that is not the purpose of this particular legislation today. The Damodar Valley Corporation, mainly, had two big functions apart from various others, namely, the construction of several projects that are there and the development thereafter. The House will know that we have nine major schemes and they are, as many of you will remember, as follows:

The Tilaiya Dam Project and Hydroelectric Station which is now complete. The Konar Dam Project which also is 100 per cent, complete. The Panchet Hill Project and Hydro-electric Station which is not still complete and possibly St little work, nor more than 20 per cent., remains to be done. Maithon Dam Project and Hydroelectric station. The dam is now complete and was opened by the Prime Minister recently. The Hydro-electric station is also partly finished—it remains *to* be finished, and a littl\* work remains to be done. Dureapur Barrage has been completed. Canal system is mostly complete but some parts remain, Bokaro Thermal Power Station. Three units have already been working and fourth is under preparation. Durgapur Thermal Power Station will be completed by 1960. Transmission system—wherever the power has been available, it has been completed and the rest of it is being done.

I am merely pointing out to you that so far as D.V.C. is concerned, 80 per cent, or round-about of the construction work is already complete and only 20 per cent, remains and it is in the process of completion. There remains the development work and the development work is a great work and surely on the success of the development work depends the success of the Corporation, not merely because something has been constructed but when the people are accustomed to making

[Shri S. K. Patil.] use of it and they actually derive the benefits that were intended from the Corporation, then only we can say that we are successful. But so far as development work is concerned, it will be a work which will be mostly under the guidance of the State Governments namely, the Bihar Government and the Bengal Government. Of course, the D.V.C. will be, there and it will be composed of, apart from the Chairman, the members that are given or chosen in consultation with the Bihar Government and the Bengal Government as the case is even today. Therefore for that work we need not have three full-time officers. What is happening today is this that although we have got three members who are whole-time members, except the Chairman, when it comes to other members, the States sometimes ask us, or request us that they want to withdraw their first-class men and give somebody else. We cannot say 'no'. That is happening today and both the States have done that. In actual practice you find that the original purpose of having the very first-class men for the Corporation really does not revert, not because the blame goes to any particular Government but because those Governments have realised just at the present time that they have not got enough funds or we have not got enough funds to carry on the development work. As and when the funds become available, and projects of the development work will commence, then naturally this could be attended to. At that time the States themselves will say that they want a better man and a full-time man and it is not precluded. What we are trying to do is that today we are precluded from appointing anybody who is not a whole-time member of the Corporation. Now, that part of the rigidity we are taking away and we are introducing a flexibility. If we want, we can have all three full-time or anyone of them as full-time and the rest part-time.

As the House will remember, this was one of our earliest schemes—by

far the earliest—and a lot of enthusiasm was naturally created because we were doing something very big and on the model of the Tennessee Valley Authority in the U. S. A. We have largely succeeded in doing so because if the Members have gone and paid a visit to all these projects, they will come to the conclusion that we have done a very marvellous work indeed. Now when I say that, that is only so far as construction goes but when it comes to development, that work remains to be done.

Now so far as electricity is concerned, that is a very hopeful sign that long before the electricity is generated or produced, it is sold in the market because there is a ready market for that because in these States, the State wants it and everybody wants it and this House will be pleased to know that at one time we were imagining that if we really generated something like quarter of a million kilowatts, whether there will be consumers for that large quantity. Today I am in a position to say that not only one kilowatt will not remain out of this quarter of a million kilowatts but even if we have 100,000 k.w. more just now, there are consumers to make use of it, so that, that part of it is immensely successful and we are thinking of some plan by which we can augment that electricity if not immediately, during the next few years.

So far as irrigation part of it is concerned, the House .....

SHRI AWADESHWAR PRASAD SINHA (Bihar): How much electricity you have produced?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: When I maintain that, I mean that we shall be producing ultimately the quantity I said. Today we might be producing somewhere about 120,000 k.w. I am talking, subject to correction but when the one plant of 89,000 k.w. in Bokaro will be completed, when Maithon

plant of about 40,000 k.w. is completed, it will ultimately come to quarter of a million kilowatts—a little more or a little less—but that is exactly what we are aiming at.

Now, I come to irrigation. So far as irrigation is concerned, we have produced the facilities although the delta and other parts have yet to be attended to but it will be ultimately more than million acres that will be irrigated. But so far as irrigation is concerned, it is not as enthusiastic a report that I can give as for electricity and nobody particularly is to blame for that because in this country we have got yet to learn, our farmers have yet to learn, they have to be trained how to use or make use of the facilities of irrigation everywhere and we must not be despondent because they have not immediately done so. You will see that in Punjab and in the South where 50 years back when irrigation came, it took us 10, 15 or 20 years by the time all the facilities that were created for irrigation were utilized by those people because a lot of social service is necessary in order to train the farmer as to why he has to do so. What really applies to irrigation, also applies to fertiliser and many other things. Therefore, it is a continuous process of social services working along with the Government in order to train the millions of our farmers to make use of this irrigation. Therefore sometimes, When we are very hasty in our judgement and say that like electricity, irrigation is not so used immediately and therefore we have not succeeded in, it, that is a wrong conclusion to arrive at because in other countries too— I am not talking of this country 'only! in other countries • too where there is irrigation, particularly in . countries like the United States, China and other places, the irrigation projects are not so immediately successful as the power projects because the power is immediately taken away. Irrigation takes a little longer time. It all depends on demand . It goes in geometrical proportions, that in the beginning we require a longer time, more

time. As the people get accustomed to the use of it, they will require less and less time and I am quite sure that as the irrigation facilities are made available, not only in this part of the country but in almost all parts of the country the farmers will realize that it is to their advantage and to the country's advantage that these irrigation facilities must be taken advantage of.

It was not very necessary so far as this particular amendment is concerned but the House would like to know as to how we are progressing in that direction. I am satisfied personally that being the first programme and we had not got all the requisite experience that was necessary for a gigantic programme of that description, taking all that background, I am satisfied that the progress made so far is satisfactory and if the State Governments, namely, Bihar—of course it has very little to do with irrigation and irrigation, mostly 90 per cent, of it, is in Bengal—if they take to it as they have taken to it, in another 5 or 10 years we could find that every acre of the land that is commanded by these D.V.C. projects will be made use of, and if not entirely, at least in a large measure, our food shortage will be overcome.

With these words, I commend the motion to the House. I do not think there is anything controversial in this particular change that I am trying to make and I request the House will be pleased to consider and ultimately pass this Bill. "i

THE 'VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. B. JOSHI) : Motion moved; ' >

"That the Bill to amend the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

I am afraid not more than ten minutes can be allowed.

[श्री अवधेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह]

करता हूँ, खासकर जब उन्होंने इसको साफ कर दिया कि अमेंडमेंट मंजूर होने के बाद भी फुल टाइम मेम्बर रखे जा सकते हैं और चेयरमैन रखे जा सकते हैं। लेकिन इस मिलमिले में कुछ बातों में उनके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। सब से पहली बात जो मुझे याद आती है वह एक शोकमय बात है, दुख देने वाला प्रसंग है कि इस दामोदर वैली में वर्षों तक जी जान लड़ा कर और जान निमारी से काम करने वाले बिहार के जो प्रतिनिधि, श्री फूलन प्रसाद जी वर्मा थे, वे कुछ महीने हुये स्वर्गवासी हो गये। जितने वर्षों तक उन्होंने दामोदर वैली में काम किया और जिम लगन से, जिम मुस्ती से, जिम आदर्शोपामना से उन्होंने काम किया, उसको बिहार गवर्नमेंट, वेस्ट बंगाल गवर्नमेंट और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट नीतों जानती हैं। जनता भी इसको जानती है। वे कई बार उसके चेयरमैन भी रहे। यह मौका हमें मिला है कि हम उनको श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करें।

अब मैं मिनिस्टर महोदय का ध्यान कुछ बातों की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। अभी हाल में १२ दिसम्बर को पाटिल साहब को मालूम होना चाहिये कि बिहार विधान सभा की बैठक में दामोदर वैली के विषय पर सारे दिन बहस हुई। मेरे पास "इंडियन नेशन" की प्रति है। मैं उनको दे दूंगा और उनमें दरखास्त कहेगा कि बिहार गवर्नमेंट से या बिहार विधान सभा से पूरी स्पीचों की कापी मंगा करके देखें। उसमें विरोधी पार्टी के लोगों ने और कुछ कांग्रेस के लोगों ने, इंडिपेंडेंट्स ने और मिनिस्टर ने भी बहुत सी बातों की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है और उसकी ओर उन्हें देखना चाहिये।

सब से पहली बात जो मैं पाटिल साहब को बताना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि वहां के जिन आदिवासियों को स्थानांतरित किया गया है, उनमें से बहुतों को बसाया गया, लेकिन जो बहुत से बसाये नहीं गये उनको

काफी तकलीफ है। वहां पर भाषणों में कहा गया कि जिन आदिवासियों को बसा दिया गया है, उनको काटेज इंडस्ट्रीज दी जायें, उनको अस्पताल दिये जायें, उनके बच्चों के लिए पढ़ने लिखने की सुविधा दी जाये। जो रिट्रैबिलिटेड नहीं किये गये हैं उनको जगह दी जायें, उनको बसाया जाये और उनको भारी सुविधाएं दी जायें। साथ ही यह भी कहा गया है कि पंचत हिल के नजदीक मंथाल लोग भी स्थानांतरित हुये हैं और उनके लिए भी यह सब किया जाये। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि कुछ किया नहीं जा रहा है, बहुत कुछ किया जा रहा है, मगर बहुत काम अभी करना बाकी है। यह पहली बात है।

दूसरी बात जो उन्होंने बताई कि बिहार में इरिगेशन उतना नहीं हो सकता, उससे मैं साफ कहना चाहता हूँ कि वे मेरे मित्र हैं, बड़े भाई हैं, हमारे नेता हैं, परन्तु मुझ को बहुत तकलीफ हुई। मैं देख आया हूँ कि आज बिहार में कितनी दिक्कत है। जहां दामोदर की अपर वैली है उसमें पानी नहीं पहुंच सकता, लेकिन कोनार डैम में तरह तरह की स्कीम बनीं। पहले यह कहा गया कि एक लाख एकड़ जमीन पट सकती है, पाँछे यह कहा गया कि २० हजार एकड़ जमीन पट सकती है, फिर यह बताया गया कि १२ हजार एकड़ जमीन पट सकती है। इसमें मिनिस्टर का दोष नहीं है। यह इंजीनियरों का विचार है। तो इस इरिगेशन के काम की ओर भी मंत्री महोदय को देखना चाहिये। मैं पाटिल साहब को जानता हूँ कि जो चीज वे करना चाहें उसको वे कर सकते हैं। उनमें लगन है, उनमें योग्यता है और उनमें मुस्ती भी है। लेकिन उनके सामने एक नई स्लेट है। अभी वे आये हैं। अब उनको इस तरफ देखना चाहिये कि बिहार में इरिगेशन का खास काम रहता है। आज भी वहां देखिये कि छोटा नागपुर में अनावृष्टि के कारण क्या हालत हुई। मैं मिनिस्टर साहब को आगाह करना चाहता हूँ कि जब पिछले जनरल इलेक्शंस

हुये तो कांग्रेस के विरोधियों ने यह कहा कि उम डैम में और फ्लाई डैम में पानी जमा है लेकिन बिहार गवर्नमेंट और जवाहरलाल जी की गवर्नमेंट कहती है कि किसानों को पानी न दो। उन्होंने समझा कि जब पानी जमा है और मिलता नहीं है तो इसमें जरूर कोई बात होगी। नतीजा यह हुआ कि हमने हार खाई उन जगहों में। इससे हमारे विरोधियों को भी उम बात का मौका मिलता है कि वे हमारे बरखिलाफ प्रचार करते हैं। इसलिए जहां तक रिट्रैक्टेशन का सवाल है, इरिगेशन का सवाल है, इस पर मंत्री महोदय का पूरा ध्यान जाना चाहिए और उनको मालूम होना चाहिये कि जितनी बिजली इसमें वे पैदा करते हैं उसका आधा बिहार में खपत होता है। ज्यादा भी अगर वे देना चाहें तो हम बिहार में उसको देने को तैयार हैं।

अब रहा सवाल यह कि ८० मैकड़ा काम हो गया, २० मैकड़ा बाकी रहा। मुझे ख़ुशी हुई जब मैंने मंत्री महोदय को यह कहते सुना— दो बार उन्होंने इस चीज को दोहराया कि ८० मैकड़े की बात केवल डैम और बिजली के लिए लागू है। परन्तु डेवलपमेंट का काम जो हो रहा है उसके लिए नहीं। वह डैम बनाने से क्या फायदा हुआ जब उममें डेवलपमेंट के काम में फायदा नहीं उठाया गया। इसलिए ८० और २० मैकड़ा वाली चीज को उन्होंने बार बार माफ करके बहुत अच्छा किया क्योंकि नहीं तो थोड़ी अस्पष्टता रह जाती है। यह डेवलपमेंट के लिए लागू नहीं है।

मैंने इस दामोदर वैली कॉर्पोरेशन के बारे में काफी सोचा है। मैं दामोदर वैली में भी गया हूँ और वहां जाकर चीजों को अपनी आंखों से देखा है। गम्भीरतापूर्वक सोचने के बाद मेरा विचार है—और मैं उसको उनके मामले बहुत आग्रह के साथ और वित्त के साथ रखना चाहता हूँ—कि कम से कम सवा बंप तक—मार्च १९५६ तक, गन् १९५८ के फाइनेशियल ईयर तक—एक चेयरमैन और

एक एक मेम्बर बंगाल और बिहार के, नको परमानेंट रखें तो वह ज्यादा अच्छा है। विल में तो उन्होंने उल्लेख नहीं किया है लेकिन सेक्रेटरी को वे काफी पावर देना चाहते हैं। उममें मुझे ऐतराज नहीं—जितनी पावर देना चाहें वे, जो मुनासिब समझें करें, उममें मुझे ऐतराज नहीं, लेकिन उतने दिनों तक उनका परमानेंट मेम्बर रखें। मेरा अपना खयाल यह है कि इसमें बिहार और बंगाल के डेवलपमेंट में ज्यादा तेजी आयेगी। इन दिनों में उममें ताकत आ जायेगी और वह आगे बढ़ेगा। ८० और २० मैकड़ा की जो बात है वह भ्रामक है।

4 P. M.

मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान बिहार असेम्बली की बैठक में जो कुछ चीज आई उनकी ओर खींचूंगा कि किस तरह बिहार पर खयाल नहीं किया गया। मैं चाहता हूँ कि वे वहां की प्रोमीडिज को पढ़ें। मैं नहीं जानता कि जितनी सारी बातें वहां आई उनमें से कहां तक सही हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि उन पर खयाल किया गया होगा और अगर खयाल किया गया है तो लोगों को उसकी जानकारी हो जानी चाहिये। इसी सम्बन्ध में मैं यह चाहूंगा कि कभी ऐसे मोर्के पर जब बिहार की असेम्बली बैठती है या हमारे उपपुक्त मांकों पर पाटिल साहब पढ़ने आये और उन सभी लोगों से बातचीत करें जो इसमें इंटरैस्ट लेते हैं, जैसे कि छोट्टा नागपुर का इलाका है वहां के लोगों को बुलायें। हाथी साहब पहले मिला भी करते थे। इस तरह से अगर मंत्री महोदय वहां के लोगों से मिला करें और उनके दिलों में क्या शिकायत है उसको सुनें और रफा दफा करने का कोशिश करें तो उममें वहां के लोगों का कल्याण होगा और जिन मतलब से दामोदर वैली बनाई गई है उसकी पूर्ति होगी।

इन्हीं सब बातों के साथ मैं इस एम्पेडिंग विन का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the hon. Minister has said that this is a very small and simple Bill giving some discretionary powers to Government, to decide whether to have full-timers or part-timers. Therefore, I suppose one cannot have any objection against such a Bill, provided the hon. Minister keeps in view that as and when required, sufficient number of staff will be employed for looking after the affairs of the Damodar Valley Corporation fully.

Sir, it is on a Bill like this that we get an opportunity for considering really the activities of the Damodar Valley Corporation, its purposes and its achievements. I have some time back asked for a discussion on a motion on this subject and the hon. Mr. Chairman directed me to raise this question at the time of the Budget. Sir, in a discussion on the Budget, we do not have any time to really consider this subject. This is one of the biggest of our national projects on which I have only an old report. It is now December 1957 and we are supplied only with the report till March, 1956. That is to say one year and eight months have elapsed and we have not had the latest report. So if my information is a little outdated, the blame should not rest on me, because I have nothing else to go by. I have only got my information from this one report. According to this report, we have spent Rs. 86 crores till March, 1956, and possibly within this period of one year and eight months we must have spent some more money.

And possibly in this period of a year and so many months, something more must have been spent. That means, we have spent about hundred crores of rupees and now the hon. Minister says that we have completed 80 per cent, of the work and that only 20 per cent, still remains to be done. If 80 per cent, of the work has been completed, then it must be bringing in large amounts of money. The hon. Minister says that we are producing

about 150,000 k.w. of energy and if this power is sold regularly, this should bring in about five to six crores of rupees as income. If we manage the D.V.C. properly, we should have sufficient staff and a little saving in the salary of one Chairman or one assistant is nothing compared to the immense loss that may be accrued if there is no proper supervision. It is a commercial undertaking and it has got two sides, one is the generation of electricity side and the other is irrigation. I whole heartedly support the remarks made by the hon. Member who preceded me. He pointed out that in the case of Bihar, the Bihar Assembly had been discussing this and had come to the conclusion that the interests of Bihar so far as irrigation is concerned have been sacrificed, that the engineers wavered and changed from plan to plan with the result that the area to be irrigated in Bihar was slowly and gradually brought down from one lakh acres to ten thousand acres and subsequently it was brought down to nil. Eastern Bihar often suffers from drought and areas which suffer from drought should be given irrigation facilities. I have read in this report that the West Bengal Government who are the main beneficiaries as far as irrigation is concerned, have not been able to utilise anything of the water. The hon. Member says that we should wait for another ten or twelve years. This D.V.C. came into existence in 1945 and already twelve years have elapsed. We have not done anything. It is a common practice and is nothing new in this case. I know something about the Tunga-bhadra project. We have got dams there. The lands which are to be irrigated have got to be (developed and) a large amount of money has to be spent on it. The hon. Minister sort of wants to first put up the dam, to have the canals and then take up the question of developing the land which will take another ten or fifteen years. All that time, Sir, we should be going on importing foodgrains from the foreign countries. What is the purpose of this D.V.C. scheme, **I should like to ask . If 80 per cent, of the**

work has been completed,, I would like to know how much of land has been irrigated and what has been the net increase in food production consequent to that irrigation. Has the production of food gone up on account of this? If it has gone up on account of good monsoons, better rainfall, it is no credit to the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister can only claim credit when he can prove to this House that on account of irrigation facilities provided, the lands which were producing so much before are now producing so much. The farmers will get used to having these irrigation facilities and will start using fertilisers and after about twelve years we might be able to produce something extra. Hundred crores of rupees have been spent and I suppose some more has to be spent on it before it is completed. The Bihar and the West Bengal Governments have subscribed to this. Those Governments have not got plenty of money; they will have to pay interest charges and everything. Where is the money going to come from? Unless and until the D.V.C. starts giving results, they will be in difficulty. We have modelled the D.V.C. on the Tennessee Valley Authority. The Tennessee in U.S.A. is no charity show. It earns money and it makes profit. We have modelled this on the Tennessee and so, this should make profits which means that the water rates\* the power generation rates should bring in this money. The hon. Member said that even if we could produce a little more than a quarter million k.w., that is about 350,000 k.w., all this energy would be consumed. I should like to know how much the sale of electricity has brought to the D.V.C., at what rate it is being sold and which are the industries which are utilising this power. After reading through this Report, I find that there are applications, there are people who are prepared to take it up but nothing has been supplied to them.

I now come to the question of land acquisition. So long as the construc-

tion work was going on, those adivasis were employed. They are the people whose land is submerged by the dams. They were employed and they were getting some employment and were quite happy. Now that the work is being slowed down and they are not required to the same extent as before they will have to be provided with alternative employment. They either should get land or cash as compensation. Barely two-thirds of the people have received compensation and still one-third remains to be compensated. They must get the compensation. They have not been rehabilitated. Now that the work has been slowed down, there is a good deal of unemployment. I should like to know from the hon. Minister whether all the workers who were formerly employed in the D.V.C. have been found alternative employment or whether they have been given lands in lieu of the land that has been submerged by the construction of the dams. They should be given some cash compensation to set up some cottage industry. All these things are related and this is the only opportunity when we get a Bill of this type to talk of such things. In the general discussion on the Budget, we hardly get fifteen minutes and if we devote all that time for the D.V.C., we will have no time for other subjects. Either the hon. Minister should give us more time for discussing it or at least when this Bill is being considered, he should reply to some of the points. First of all, after the project is completed, I want to know whether the Minister thinks that part-timers will be sufficient to run this Corporation. I maintain that not three but five officials will be required to look after the electricity generation side, especially when we are going to generate about a quarter of a million k.w. and are going to provide irrigation facilities for an area extending over two lakhs of acres of land. The second point is, he should tell us in detail the actual amount of money realised from the sale of energy that is being produced by the D.V.C., the water rates that are being charged from the land that is being irrigated,



[Shri Kishen Chand.] in short, the balance sheet, the income and the expenditure so far as this scheme is concerned. The third point is as to what steps are going to be taken in order to provide irrigation facilities for those areas of Eastern Bihar which are continuously suffering from drought.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I think the hon. Minister has not been right in presuming that the Bill is an absolutely non-controversial one. If I take the mere words of the Bill as to whether the person should be a full-timer or a half-timer, there is very little scope for controversy but we are dealing with, in this connection, the administration of the D.V.C. and I think that raises a measure of controversy which howevermuch the Government might like to evade, we cannot escape. We have been told by the I.an. Minister that provision is being made in a flexible manner. Well, any gesture in the direction of flexibility on the part of hon. Shri S. K. Patil is certainly not only welcome but in many ways reassuring. And I hope that this liking for flexibility will be cultivated in other spheres as well of his thought and action.

Now, Sir, it has been suggested that the Government does not necessarily require whole-time personnel for the Corporation and it has also been suggested from this side that it may require even five whole-timers. I do not like to go into the controversy because very much depends on how the administration is run, what are the functions before it and what are the responsibilities that remain to be still discharged. We have been told that 20 per cent of the construction work is yet to be completed, and then will follow the development activity of the Corporation. Therefore, Sir, I take it that the Corporation will have still certain very important responsibilities and functions to fulfil. It is from that angle I view the proposal of the Government.

Sir, quarrel with the Damodar Valley Corporation is not because it has got some whole-timers. After all the three whole-timers by themselves do not eat up most of the money that goes to the Damodar Valley Corporation from the Centre or from the States. The economy has to be practised elsewhere, as to **how the** resources are handled and utilised. Our complaint against this Corporation has been that it has been reckless in its expenditure, in spending public money. We are conscious that to a certain extent the rise in the cost of the constructions was unavoidable, but we are yet to be convinced that the hundred crores of rupees or so that had been paid was absolutely the minimum that was required. Reports have appeared in the press and elsewhere of shady contracts being entered into by the authorities of the Corporation with certain favourite children of some men in position. Complaints have been made in public and in the press, and it has always been the trick of the Government to evade a straightforward answer and meet the allegations that had been made. This is the main point that I want to make in this context. We would also like to know as to what kind of personnel they have in mind. If it is Mr. P. S. Rau, the present Chairman of the Damodar Valley Corporation, whole-time or part-time, I would not at all like him to be in that position. If he is a whole-timer we object to it on the ground that part of his time is used in doing things which had better not be done. If he is a part-timer then he will have hardly time to do anything good because a lot of things he is doing is not acceptable to us and has been the subject matter of very strong criticism in the country. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us in this House as to how he views the allegations that have been made. I think it was Dr. B. C. Roy speaking in the West Bengal Assembly, who said that there 'is' something wrong somewhere, and he was speaking on the Damodar Valley Corporation. I generally do

not quote Dr. B. C. Roy, as you know. I have not got any particular fascination for the Chief Minister of West Bengal, but even a person like him, who is a past master in shielding all kinds of shady transactions, had to come out with an open public statement on the floor of that House and tell the country that something 'is' wrong in the Damodar Valley Administration. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he has ever had an opportunity to discuss with Dr. B. C. Roy as to how he looked upon the affairs of the Corporation and what he had to say in support of the suggestion that he made on the floor of the West Bengal Assembly. We are interested to know and we are interested always in knowing what passes between the two great men like Shri S. K. Patil and Dr. B. C. Roy.

Now, Sir, it is a very serious thing and the hon. Minister should tell us as to how he is going to rectify the Damodar Valley Administration assuming that something is wrong there. If he does not assume that at all and if he is sure that everything is absolutely right there, there is nothing to complain about or to worry about much. Then of course we are utterly helpless, helpless in the sense that we would not g<sup>^</sup>t an approach made which will put matters right because it rests with the Government to take the necessary steps to improve matters.

Now, Sir, here I have got three issues of the Bengali paper 'Jugantar' One is of 31st March this year, another of 7th of April this year and the third one is 8th of April this year—three papers. These are Bengali papers and I think I should mention what the paper is. This is a paper which supports the Congress, the biggest campaigner and supporter of the Congress in West Bengal. The son of the owner of this paper is a Deputy Minister in the West Bengal Government. He has not been lucky enough to be a full-fledged Minister yet. As I have said,

92 RSD—9.

the owner of the paper personally is a great friend of the Government and of Dr. B. C. Roy. This is all common knowledge. Now, even this paper had to fill its columns with criticisms and allegations and charges against the Damodar Valley Administration. Now, Sir, it will not be possible for me to convey what has been written here in full because it is all in Bengali, but here you see column after column appearing containing charges against the Damodar Valley Administration. Not only that. Facsimiles of cheques issued by the Damodar Valley Corporation have been published to show that certain irregularities had taken place even in the matter of travelling allowance. All these things have been done. I do not know if the hon. Minister is aware of these charges, but I do know sometimes he has been asked about certain concrete charges, and I should like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he cared to institute any kind of enquiry. I know a public enquiry has not been instituted in order to find out exactly where the matter stood, but he has always been interested, being a good man that he is perhaps, in giving good conduct certificates to the Chairman of the Damodar Valley Corporation. Every time he is asked about some of the misdeeds of that Corporation and of its Chairman in particular, Mr. S. K. Patil, redoubtable that he is, comes out with a statement saying that according to him everything is absolutely right, and the Chairman is a person who is above all suspicion. We are not satisfied. We are not satisfied not because we have a personal axe to grind against him— We do not know him at all personally —we are not satisfied because very serious allegations have been made from all quarters in the Bihar Assembly.

*(Time bell rings.)*

I have yet to say things, Sir.

Now very serious allegations have been made from all quarters in the Bihar Assembly, in the West Ber'jal

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.] Assembly, in the press of Bihar and West Bengal, and yet I find the Government, not taking due note of what is being said. Here is Mr. Rau himself writing in the 'Statesman' of 28th of September: "In the execution of the project there have been some delays, there have been underestimations both in terms of money and time. Some mistakes have also, no doubt, been committed." So, even Mr. Rau does not deny that mistakes have been committed. What are the mistakes? I know the expenditure has exceeded the targets originally set, but when the Chairman is saying that mistakes have been committed and when the whole country is pointing towards him as the real person responsible for very serious lapses and mistakes, I think the hon. Minister while sponsoring this Bill owes the country and Parliament an answer as to the nature of this mistake. Now, Sir, it seems that Mr. P. S. Rau is fond of travelling. He lives in Calcutta. I am mentioning this thing because you would not like to have a repetition of these charges and I would like to have a refutation of these charges. It seems that the Chairman of the Damodar Valley Corporation lives in Calcutta and goes to the project areas four times a week by car covering about a thousand miles or so; and according to my information and the information of this paper the expenditure came to about Rs. 36,000 in petrol alone in the year 1955. It also appears that these travels do not cover only the project areas. He goes to Puri and other places for a sea bath and I believe for 'darsan' in the Jagan-nath temple. These are also covered, I am told, in the travelling allowances that he charges, Puri, Trivandrum and Madras. *(Time bell rings.)* Let me **finish**. Time is there, Sir. You allow me; this is the opportunity that I have got. Puri, Trivandrum and Madras—what takes him there? What takes him to Puri sea beach? I do not know of any project being constructed there; nor do I know of anything being imported from there. He goes to Trivandrum. He goes to Madras. For

these the expenses have to be borne by the Damodar Valley Corporation.

Then, he went to Srinagar to attend a particular irrigation seminar. Sometimes they attend such things. And there again a heavy charge was made on the exchequer. Allegations were made and these have not been properly answered. Then, again, he bought certain boats from the Kashmir Government and then allegations were made with regard to that. Serious charges were made and **the** boats were not of very much use. There again it has been stated publicly in the press that in this connection even before he was duly authorised to enter **into** negotiations, he started discussion, started negotiations over this matter with the Maharajah of Patiala. We would like to know how **such** things happen?

Then, Sir, again you will find **that** there are serious allegations **about** patronage and nepotism under his reign. One officer who was rejected when Mr. Mazumdar was there, even for a job on Rs. 600 per month was appointed by him and I believe he is at the moment getting Rs. 1,200 or Rs. 1,800. There has been at least **one** case where the rise in salary, in a matter of eight years or so, had been **of** the order of Rs. **1,200 per month**. This is what we get from that quarter.

Now, Sir, it has also been said that a lot of patronage, nepotism, is going on and a sort of a clique is alleged to have been created in the Damodar Valley Administration. They have got their strong likes and dislikes and they have powerful pull with the Government of India. And this is **how** they function. Now, I would like the hon. Minister to disabuse us of these feelings and suspicions, because these allegations come from very serious quarters and they cannot be just brushed aside.

*(Time bell rings.)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SKKI M. B. JOSHI)  
: Two minutes more.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now, Sir, you are pressing the bell rather too frequently.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. B. JOSHI): Because I am bound by the time-limit.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now, this is the audit report for 1956:

"The total excavation in canals and drainage channels during the year was 1'85 crore cubic yards bringing the total excavation to 3'94 crore cubic yards, as against the estimated quantity of 6'73 crore cubic yards. Out of the estimated number of 1,444 canal structures, 207 were completed and 277 were under construction at the end of March 1956"

This is the audit report. I do not know by what kind of arithmetical jugglery does the hon. Minister arrive at this percentage of eighty as far as completed works go. Now, this is another thing. Sir, I have got material to show, prepared by the engineers, which show that there has been a lot of waste. Konar dam and Maithon dam I find in this paper. I cannot give the figures. Then again, not one of the three 20,000 kilowatt generating sets of the hydel station has been commissioned to service till October. And also—this is another information—the Bokaro power station is unable to stand its load. There have been repeated break-downs and power failure for several hours holding up production. I can catalogue a number of such statements coming from very responsible quarters and I would like to know from the Government as to whether they are right or wrong. The Government sometimes issue press statements to deny certain things and such denial convinces nobody. I have exceeded time. If there were time I would have related so many things about the scandals of the Damodar Valley Corporation. I demand of the Government that Mr. P. S. Rau be not appointed any more, be not retained there in charge of the Damodar

Valley Corporation, whole-time or part-time. I think he is not being removed because he has got some pull with the Government and he is very much liked by the Americans and since things are coming from the United States they are keeping him. That may be another reason. But in view of the allegations that have been made against him, he is under question. He is not at all above suspicion. Such a person should be removed from that position and the body should be constituted of such men who command the confidence of the employees, in the first instance, and the public of not only Bengal and Bihar but also of the entire country. That should also be seen to. That is also very essential.

With regard to their allowances and salaries, the question has to be gone into the drastic cuts made. The records of Mr. P. S. Rau should be gone into very carefully and very objectively in order to find out whether steps must be taken to set matters right, because he has done a lot of things which should not have been done at all. Personally I do not vouch for many of the things that I am saying because I have not personally examined them, but I know these emanate from very responsible quarters, people who are in the know of things. (*Time bell rings.*) I am demanding of the Government certain expressions with regard to them. With regard to the development side, irrigation scheme has completely failed. It is not as if the people do not matter at all. In Bengal despite the Damodar Valley project, we are having a deficit in the food production of the order of 1'2 millions and the State is facing a serious food crises.

With regard to electricity, again, the small men are not getting it. It is the big business who are getting it and what is happening? They take it from the Damodar Valley Corporation and sell it to the consumer at a much higher rate, when it should be possible for the Damodar Valley Corporation itself to sell directly to the consumer at a much lower rate. (*Time*

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.] bell *rings*.) It has become a source of profiteering. Well, I do not like to tire you in ringing the bell. Therefore, I conclude.

SHRI BISWANATH DAS (Orissa): Sir, I stand to congratulate the hon. Minister for the risk he is taking as an act of alertness and economy. Sir, I further thank him for the lucid speech and for the volume of information he was good enough to impart.

It must be stated in this connection that the Damodar Valley Corporation was the first Corporation that came before the provisional Parliament, and we had very high hopes in that regard. However, devolution of work belied these expectations. It was found in the course of its working that it was neither cheap, nor was the execution swift. Sir, there were times when even the Union Government officials, the Ministry concerned, had to feel that they could not interfere immediately and check certain things because of the element of autonomy that was in the Corporation Act.

In this connection, let me appeal to the hon. Minister that nothing should fetter the action of the Government of India to interfere and correct if any wrong or mistake is being committed. In that regard the House will always be with and by the Minister and the Ministry concerned.

Sir, the Bill is short, but it is nonetheless a very important Bill. I am glad that with his alertness and drive, the hon. Minister has taken early action to do away with the need for three officials, three highly paid officials. Sir, conveniences also bring with them certain responsibilities and difficulties. All the responsibilities, powers and patronage of the Corporation are going to be vested in one man, namely the Secretary. Greater, therefore, is bound to be the responsibility of the Minister, and greater is bound to be the anxiety of the people who have to find the finances for this J

organisation. Therefore, with that end in view I would implore the hon. Minister to take early action as to the next step. He has not placed that aspect before us. He has not yet placed all his cards before us, and I believe that my hon. friend, with all his alertness, will not fail to do it earlier and sooner.

Sir, in this connection I have to place certain problems before him. We have got a number of river valley projects. What is going to be the future set-up of these organisations? As a temporary working arrangement, certain things have been done by most of these organisations. Most of these river valley projects are in the stage of completion. The House therefore has a right to know as to what is going to be the future set-up of these organisations. Will they be a type of autonomous organisations as was first thought of in the case of the D.V.C. or some other type? That is a course of action about which my hon. friends have to make up their minds very soon.

Sir, there are Control Boards in certain other river valley projects. I must frankly confess that the Central Boards have not been functioning satisfactorily. Misuse of power and misapplication of money that were evidenced in the Hirakud project in its earlier stages set the Government the Finance Ministry as also the Ministry in charge into thinking as to what should be done to prevent such things in the future.

Sir, my hon. friend stated that he would now be able to sell every unit of electricity that he would generate, and that for the industries. I am not happy at this statement. What is going to be done in the matter of application of electricity to agriculture? I am a villager. I pin my faith on electricity for the development of the country, which would benefit the villages as also the biggest industries that we have. The time has come when the people of Bihar who are not very

much benefited by the D.V.C. so far as the irrigation portion of its activity is concerned, should have the benefits of lift irrigation by means of electricity. Similar is the case with some parts of Bengal which would not get the benefits of irrigation water. Therefore, my appeal to the Minister and the Ministry as also to the D.V.C. Board is, and is bound to be, that agricultural use and village industries' use of the electricity should be their main and first concern.

Sir, I was told in connection with the utilisation of Hirakud electricity that they wanted to make a distinction between agricultural use and industrial use. In the case of industrial use I was told that they were going to give electricity at a cheaper rate than they would do for agriculture. I think nothing could be more harmful and more damaging than such a decision. I therefore implore the hon. Minister to consider this question deeply. In this connection, I would also suggest to him one course of action. Along with the completion of the electricity generation programme of the D.V.C. let Government advise the States concerned to start an irrigation section of the P.W.D. or a development section of the P.W.D. in each State, which will go on offering the agriculturists advances to sink tubewells, so that the moment lining work is completed, electricity could be used for agricultural operations. The agriculturists should be given the chance of utilising electricity for purposes of agriculture.. This is a very important aspect.

(Time bell rings.)

I do not want to say more, Sir, if you think that my time is up.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Mr. Vice-Chairman, before I come to my hon. friend Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and some of the observations he has made, I am grateful to the Members for the very constructive suggestions some of them have made. They will be taken into consideration and we shall do our best to implement them.

Somebody had asked about the latest figures about the generation of electricity. I had not got them when I was speaking. Now, they have come to me. We generate just now about 174,000 k.w. of electricity.

Another question was asked as to how much money we get out of this electricity. My hon. friend, Mr. Kishen Chand, and also my friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, had their reports for 1955 and 1956 in their hands. But they are not to blame because the latest report has not yet come. It is expected any time now. In the matter of electricity—unfortunately, it runs too fast; one year or eighteen months is quite a time—quite a significant progress has been made. They will be glad to know that the annual intake from electricity has gone to Rs. 3,25,00,000 a month, but when it will come into its full force, I do not know. But as at present calculated, it will be somewhere about five to six crores. Therefore, that part of it is not for the showing only, but, as I said, that part of it is going to be a paying part indeed.

Now, my hon. friend, Shri Awadesh-war Prasad Sinha, made some observations and incidentally, referred to our Member—who is no more—that is, Shri Phoolan Prasad Verma. I am sorry that I did not mention him because this was not a full-dressed debate on the D.V.C. and it was merely a small amending Bill. Therefore, I did not take cognizance of these things. But, surely, I join Mr. Sinha in paying a tribute of my own and of the Government of India for the very valuable work that he had rendered. He was an acting Chairman for sometime. During all the days when he was there, he acted with ability and devotion which was becoming of a high officer that he was.

Now, Mr. Sinha took objection to the statement that I made in passing, viz. loss of irrigation from the D.V.C. in Bihar, more of it in Bihar. That is what the schemes of things is. I have not done it myself. I would like that

[Shri S. K. Patil.] there should be more and more of irrigation in Bihar, but the scheme of the D.V.C. as made just now, is capable of development. It does not mean that we shall only spend Rs. 130 crores; ultimately, provided we have got it, it will come to more—even Rs. 100 crores could be added and more and more irrigation and power and other things could be developed. I am merely talking of the scheme as it was originally contemplated as to how large a share Bihar was to have had in the matter of electricity and Bengal in the matter of irrigation. But, that does not rule out the possibility of Bihar availing itself of the storage that they have got. The Konar, the Tilaiya and all these are on the soil of Bihar. *(Interruptions.)* There is a possibility also. If the rainfall is not very deficient in that area, possibly the Bihar Government will not be as anxious as my hon. friend to develop it. Put up schemes. Then, surely, the D.V.C. and the Government of India will be only too pleased to examine them in their proper perspective. Therefore, my reference was not that Bihar did not require any irrigation. In fact, I am doing my best—and also my Ministry—to increase the irrigation facilities in Bihar. We have got more than one scheme—very large schemes—where millions of acres in Bihar will be brought under cultivation. The reference was only in passing, so far as the scheme as at present contemplated by the D.V.C. is concerned.

Then, he referred to the adivasis, the santals and two types of people—one, the displaced people because their lands have been submerged and another, people who have lost their employment. These are the two distinct categories. We are not providing any land and other things for those who have been employed. The case is of re-employment elsewhere. But, so far as the adivasis and the santals are concerned I think my hon. friend, Mr. Sinha, will be interested to know that I am extremely anxious more than

anybody else to see that not a single person who has lost his land or house must suffer because others get "some benefit out of it. And, surely, anything that can be done will be done. If something has not been done according to the expectation, it is because the wheels of administration sometimes run rather slowly and therefore, you do not get the result as quickly as you would expect it. So far as their rehabilitation is concerned—the compensation and other things—they would receive the utmost consideration, the sympathetic consideration, of the Government of India.

My hon. friend, Mr. Kishen Chand, again was at irrigation and he asked, why was it not properly used and all that. He is not here. Now, he has come. A reference was also made by my hon. friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and others. I can quite see their point and I share views like that. But I can tell them that I am not even running away from the fact that my Department, the Government of India, does not concern itself over that. But that is really a lame excuse. Every one of us in this country and particularly every Member of Parliament, has got an obligation so far as irrigation is concerned. It is not merely that the officers that are appointed must look after it. But you and I, everybody, must look after that. If you had read my speech that was made at the time of the Budget, you would find that I really accused myself before I could accuse anybody else, that we had not been uptodate in our efforts to train these people to 'make use of these irrigation facilities. What is the use of decrying and coming and saying that they have not been doing anything? You produce a thing and if it is not going to be put to use, it is no use producing it. I agree with that. If you merely have reservoirs, even hundred reservoirs, and if nobody is going to utilise the water there, money is useless. But, let us not be very despondent, because it has not been.

*(Interruptions.)*

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: It takes a *long* time and land development should have begun ten years ago.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: What I said was—and I am repeating it—that long before even the first sod is taken in the soil of Bihar, it is our social duty to train the people. Those were the exact words that I used. That should have been done; that should be done even now. I would ask the co-operation of all the hon. Membejj-s, no matter what party they belong to.

My hon. friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, wanted me to develop flexibility in my life. He will not find anybody more flexible, more bland, so far as these matters are concerned, than this poor Minister who is advocating their cause. So far as irrigation and other things are concerned, where millions of our people are vitally interested, I regard no party at all. It is not a matter of party, this party or that party. Any party may be in power. But, surely, this country must have irrigation, must have power. Therefore, I would be one with him in any suggestion—if it is constructive and really goes in order to develop\* our irrigation and power resources. Whatever efforts we shall make in that direction, it is a service which is done to the nation and the sooner we do it, the better it is for us.

I once again repeat that there are other projects that are now doming up where big reservoirs are there, where canals are taken off and water goes into the canals. If we start giving training at such a stage, it will be a wrong process. I can quite understand *it*. The process must start from the very beginning; we must train people to know as to what it is that they will get to themselves, to their villages and to their country. And I can assure my hon. friend, Mr. Kishen Chand, that the Government will not lag behind in making serious and earnest efforts in that direction.

Now, there is not much for me to take up the time. I am very grateful to the hon. Member, Mr. Biswanath

Das, not only because he patted us on the back, but also for the suggestions that he had made. They are worth considering. They are engaging our attention and I can assure him that we shall do our best. It is not that it is only the big industry that will get power; we have got to develop the small industries also. If he wants to make use of even one single k.w. and out of it produce some national wealth, it must be our endeavour to help him and that should be done.

So far as re-employment is concerned, some hon. Members had asked about those that have lost their employment. That is a question that is really engaging our attention. But, I can assure this House that, in the very nature of it, these projects are temporary projects. When we employ labour, we do not tell them that they will be permanently employed, although it is our intention, if it is possible for us, that we should provide employment for such of them as are really technical people, excellent people, experts, proved to be skilled workers, and we should make them permanent and take them in other projects. So far as others are concerned, nobody should lose his job. So far as this figures that I have got uptodate regarding D.V.C. and the Hirakud re-employment are concerned, I could see that more than 80 per cent, or 90 per cent, have already been employed. If others have not been employed, we are making every effort to do so. When that has got to be, I can bracket it with the general unemployment in the country. It is not that because, there is unemployment in a particular project, that has got to be removed. But we are making every endeavour to do so.

Now, Sir, having said that, I must say a word or two about my friend, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, because he unnecessarily introduced into this debate some unpleasantness. Of course, he can always wax eloquent, but surely I must not take the time of the House in repeating that grand performance of his. It is my misfortune ever since I have taken over this portfolio that



[Shri S. K. Patil.] quite a few friends from Bengal have developed a kind of Rau-phobia, and they express themselves on this particular subject in a thousand ways, and all of a sudden they become so eloquent as if that is the only subject on earth on which they must wax eloquent. Now, I cannot understand all that. My attention has been drawn not once but hundred times to 'Jug-antar' and the articles that are written there. I myself went to Bengal. I met the people there. I met the people of 'Jugantar' and told them that I must be convinced, not necessarily as a Minister, but even as a man, that the allegations that they were making have some kind of foundation. There must be a *prima facie* case. It is no use throwing a particular paper at me saying that some bill was made and all that. Now, if I take the time of the House, I would take two hours and tell you as to what that particular bill was and how ridiculous those charges are. If we were to put together all the articles that they have written and the words that they have wasted, I think, there would be a bill of Rs. 6,300 and not only Rs. 63. I really cannot understand why out of context small matters should be taken into such prominence as if that is a thing in which any act involving moral turpitude has been committed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sometimes, Sir, we spend a lot of money to prosecute a pickpocket, and the prosecution expenditure might cost even thousands of rupees.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: But the question is, where to find a pickpocket. Now, Sir, I do not want, to go into all these charges that are levelled that he went there, he spent a sum of Rs. 36,000 for petrol only, he went to Kashmir and he went to Madras and Trivandrum. Certainly, these are not the things which one should bother about, where he goes, what he does, what car he uses, how much petrol he uses. But with regard to all these matters I can assure my friend—(Interruption) This is the price of liberty that all of us have got

to pay, and I am prepared to pay it. But I cannot understand all these matters that have been raised. I can assure the House that all these matters that have come to our light have been examined and very critically examined, and yet I cannot find—I make a confession before this hon. House—that there is any *prima facie* case in regard to these things. On the contrary, I feel that this House would expect me that if there is an able officer and an experienced officer who has done some nice piece of work, I must protect him against any scandalous attacks that may be affecting his reputation. I can say that if any Government cannot protect the honour and dignity of such an officer, that Government is not worth anything at all. Therefore to talk of these small matters like boats or he went from Kashmir to such and such place, is not, I think, warranted. Kashmir had nothing to do with boats. Now some 35 boats—I speak subject to correction—were bought for Rs. 70,000. In my view that is a deal which anybody should have done. It is such a nice deal. They are doing excellent work, but here these charges are levelled that these boats are bought. It is, Sir, a kind of phobia which at least we cannot appreciate. Phobia, in science, is also a kind of disease. We do not realise how we get it, but we show some symptoms and we get sick of it, and not sick of the man against whom all these allegations have been made. Sir, I can again repeat that assurance to my hon. friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, that if he brings any evidence before me at any time, even privately, by which he can prove to me that any act, which is of a criminal nature, or may not be exactly criminal, but of a doubtful nature, has been committed, then surely he can judge me as to what I do about it. I make a public appeal to my friends in Bengal that if they have any evidence, they can bring it to our notice instead of writing in the columns of the papers and saying that such and such proprietor did such and such a thing. They are all my friends and I have got the greatest respect for 'Jugantar', but surely I have not

any respect for any such phobia, no matter whether it appears in the columns of one particular paper or in any other paper. Therefore, I repeat that assurance again that if there is any evidence against any officer, it should be brought to our notice.

5 P.M.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I ask one question? Is the hon. Minister aware that there is wide-spread discontent among the Damodar Valley Corporation employees against this particular Chairman? If so, what are their reasons?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: I know that there is a discontent, but that discontent does not really mean that the man must necessarily be bad. May be that those people for reasons of their own may not like that particular man. I also know that. But why worry about it? Now in another three or four months' time—I am not talking about Mr. Rau or any other officer—the whole thing is going to be changed, as you have now seen it. If this Bill had been passed in the last session, possibly you would have found a different personnel. Bengal and Bihar make appointments and they take them away and substitutes come. And when the substitutes come, then why not have this liberty or flexibility, i.e. that we can have those people either full-time or part-time? Now the meaning of 'part-time' is not unfortunately understood. It does not mean that some fellow is asked to work for an hour or two. That is not the meaning of 'part-time'. It means permanent Government servants of those Governments. We do not give additional salaries to them. Supposing there were the Development Board Commissioners, they come. But in any case we have not taken any decision on this matter. We are going to decide these things later on. But we want only this flexibility so that when we want part-time or whole-time personnel, the Act should not come in our way. And that is the only object of this Bill. Therefore, Sir, I do not want to go into those allegations. **But**

I can certainly disabuse the minds of those who are really capable of being disabused and who have not developed any phobia that really there is nothing of the type of suggestions that my hon. friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, has made. Therefore, Sir, I do not want to take any more time of the House. I am grateful to the House, and I can assure the hon. Members that so far as these projects are concerned, particularly the D.V.C., the Government will do everything in its power, of course, in consultation with, and with the concurrence of, the other Governments that are concerned in it, to see that it becomes successful as we had envisaged it when the Act was passed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. B. JOSHI) :  
The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. B. JOSHI):  
Now we shall take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. B. JOSHI):  
Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

(No hon. Member rose to speak.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. B. JOSHI):  
The question is:

"That the Bill be passed." The motion was  
adopted.