

The Damodar Valley Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2011

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): Sir, I move:

That the Bill further to amend the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

Sir, the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, Act No. (XIV of 1948), was enacted on the lines of the Tennessee Valley Authority in United States of America and came into force on 7th July, 1948. The said Act provides to establish a Corporation by the name of Damodar Valley Corporation.

The functions of the Corporation under Section 12 of the Act, *inter alia*, provides for the promotion and operation of schemes for irrigation, water supply and sanitation, the generation, transmission and distribution of electrical energy, the promotion and control of navigation in the Damodar River and its tributaries and channels, afforestation and control of soil erosion, promotion of public health and the agricultural, industrial, economic and general well-being in the Damodar Valley and its area of operation.

As per Section 4 of the said Act, Damodar Valley Corporation shall consist of a Chairman and two other part-time Members, one from Jharkhand and one from West Bengal. As per Section 6 of the Act, the Secretary and the Financial Advisor of the Corporation shall be appointed by the Government of India. The Secretary shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.

Over the last more than 60 years, a number of changes have taken place in the activities of the Damodar Valley Corporation in tune with the industrial development of the Valley. The demand for power by the industry, especially coal, steel, railways and its other consumers has gone up considerably. DVC has built power plants and stepped up its generation capacity over the years. Thus, the Damodar Valley Corporation has grown into a large generating company with its own transmission and sub-transmission network. Generation, transmission and supply of electricity have, however, emerged as major activities of the Damodar Valley Corporation overshadowing other objectives. As against installed capacity of 524 Mega Watts till 1961, Damodar Valley Corporation has an operational capacity of 3,857.2 Mega Watts as on 26th November, 2011. It proposes to add 1,000 Mega Watts till 31st March, 2012. Damodar Valley Corporation proposes to expand the transmission and distribution system concomitantly with above generation plans.

In view of the above, a need was felt to make Damodar Valley Corporation broad-based and more professional by reconstituting it with four full-time members and six part-time members vis-a-vis one full-time member and two part-time members at present.

Although Damodar Valley Corporation is not a Company or a public sector undertaking, the structure of the Board is proposed to be changed so that it has three independent members who can give independent and professional advice on its functioning.

Further, one representative from the Central Government has also been proposed. The representatives of States of Jharkhand and West Bengal have been retained. This would strengthen the accountability of Damodar Valley Corporation management to the participating States and the Central Government.

After approval, the reconstructed Damodar Valley Corporation will have the following members: -

Full-time Members

- (iii) a Chairman who shall be the Chief Executive Officer;
- (iv) a member (technical);
- (v) a member (finance);
- (vi) a Member-Secretary (in-charge of general administration and business development);

Part-time Members:-

a representative from the Central Government;

two representatives, one each from Jharkhand and West Bengal; and

three independent experts, one each from the field of irrigation, water supply and generation or transmission or distribution of electricity.

It has also been proposed to abolish the posts of Secretary and Financial Advisor.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives. With these words, Sir, I commend the Bill to the august House for consideration and passing.

The question was proposed.

SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE (Rajasthan): Sir, I stand to speak on the Damodar Valley Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2011. Sir, I must say that I tried to dig into the original Bill which was passed in 1948. It was not the Parliament which passed it; it was the Constituent Assembly of India which passed it. Yesterday and today, I went through some of the arguments and suggestions which came up during that debate and they are very interesting. I can go on speaking for hours on how it was developed. Actually, it was the idea of the Maharaja of Burdwan in 1943 and it was an American, Mr. Voorduin, who proposed that the complexity of the Damodar Valley Corporation is akin to the Tennessee Corporation in the US and that the multi-faceted problems of the Tennessee Corporation in the US could be replicated here. It was in 1933 that the Tennessee Corporation Act was passed in the US by President Roosevelt and he said, "It will be a sort of a project which can be replicated in the third world countries". That is how it came about. It was started in 1943 and it was passed only in 1948.

Sir, let me just give a little idea because we are talking today of power generation. Power generation was only an ancillary at that time. Today, it has become a big business because of shortage of power in this country. Let me give a little of what Shri N.V. Gadgil, the then Minister, who piloted that Bill in 1948, had to say. He said:

"This scheme is based on the principles of a multi-purpose scheme, and it is only fair that I should deal with some of those principles as briefly as possible. Before I do that, just to give an idea as to the gigantic nature of this enterprise, I may mention the area that will ultimately be affected for good by the scheme when it materialises. Roughly the area of Damodar basin at the mouth is about 8,500 square miles; up to its confluence with Barakar river it is about 6,960 square miles; and the drainage area that can be controlled by the dam would be 6,620 square miles. The total control storage capacity will be 4,700,000 acres and the submerged area would be roughly 145 square miles..."

He went on to say that about 50 lakhs of people would be affected. Then he said:

"As against this, some people will have, so to speak, to be expropriated or uprooted from the soil and that would be round about one lakh of people."

Sir, let me also say that this Bill was the brainchild of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru himself. He

wanted this and he gave a lot of money for starting this. Let me also add a little. Shri N.V. Gadgil, while speaking on the subject, said :

"..the flood incident in the year 1943 when the great city of Calcutta — it is Kolkata now — was cut off from the rest of the country for some days together. An expenditure of about 75 lakhs of rupees had to be incurred by the railway alone in diverting the traffic. It was estimated that the annual loss in terms of money on account of the uncontrolled nature of the waters of this great river Damodar is 25 lakhs a year."

Twenty-five lakhs of those days, if you really look at it, today means ten times or 100 times more than that.

What I am trying to get to is that we have not been really looking at the problem. The floods are still not abated. You have not been able to contain it. You have gone into power generation. You have been able to build — Rs. 52 crores were sanctioned in those days — only three dams, while at that time, it was proposed that eight dams will be built. That is why the problem of flood is still there. You have not been able to sort it out. There is a desilting problem. There is also the problem that every third or fourth year you have floods and the condition of those people becomes miserable. You have not been able to address that problem. You want to make these small little changes which are only cosmetic in nature. Then you feel that you will be able to sort it out. That is not the case. There are three Members of that Constituent Assembly who have been very helpful to him in this venture. He says, "I have got two esteemed hon. colleagues; one is my old friend, Dr. Ambedkar, and it was he who initiated the scheme and it was the other friend and my colleague, hon. Shri Bhaba, who continued the effort". That is the sort of Bill that we are discussing today. May I also mention that he also talks about Prof. Ranga, who has been in assistance to see that this scheme which was originally a Tennessee scheme from the US, will be able to bear fruits? I will also mention a few more things. He, in the end said, "I do not want to detain the House, but I earnestly feel that this measure is the first of its kind in the right direction of eliminating poverty in this country which is really a fundamental problem. Having earned self-Government, the emphasis is now on good Government and the test — what we are talking today about good governance and all that, was what used to be discussed in 1948 — of good government is that people must have sufficient food, sufficient clothes

and feel that justice will be done under the Government". He also said, "The result of this not only will be prosperity dawn on the Province of Bihar — it was Bihar then and now Jharkhand — and Bengal, but as I have often said, the prosperity is infectious and it will spread from the waters of the Hoogly and will make our land as noble and worthy as we have described in our National Anthem".

Now let me go to some of the woes. The Minister mentions that they have been able to go to the extent of generating 3,400 or 3,500 megawatts or whatever and it wishes to go to 12,000 megawatts. Now they had all the opportunities. This Valley has all the ingredients to make a generation company really survive and flourish. It has coal; it has hydel; it has water; it has everything. But they have not been able to do it. What you really want to do is that you want to make it more autonomous. It was autonomous even then. President Roosevelt, on the Tennessee Corporation and what has come about, said, "We want three people from the US who are experts. That is, one Chairman and two experts to do it. And that was all replicated here. How can it make a difference? So, what are the woes of the Damodar Valley Corporation today? They may be a little contentious. People may not like it; but let me go to the details. Sir, there are 11,000 employees of this Corporation, and they have sites in Jharkhand. Two-thirds of this area comprises Jharkhand, — this used to be, originally, Bihar — and one-fourth in West Bengal. The headquarters is in Kolkata. And, most of these employees, white-collared employees, if they are told to get themselves transferred to these sites, they are not interested. It is over 1,000 kms away. They are all working there; it is over-staffed. And they have 14,000 pensioners to look after. They do not have the money. The outstanding from the West Bengal and the Jharkhand SEBs is more than Rs.2,500 crores. The borrowings from the bank amounts to Rs.1,100 crores, which they have not been able to pay. And, you feel that if you have permanent people like that and you make these cosmetic changes, then, everything will be okay. Now, all those people working there in Kolkata, — I am not saying that you shift the Head Office because that becomes a little political; it can remain as a Head Office — all those who do not have work should be shifted to the site. They are not interested in shifting there. They do not want to be transferred, and you cannot transfer them. Those are the woes. How will you be able to address them?

Sir, as I have already mentioned, what they are talking about is a mere restructuring. What they are doing is a restructuring of the DVC Board without addressing the issues that I have mentioned. If all these people are looked after, everything is taken care of, and you put in more

power plants, which can be done, then, I am sure that the DVC — this was also the brain-child of Pandit Nehruji — can really attain the height which they want. Now, how are they going to look after the Corporation because there is the problem of outstanding? This cannot be solved unless financial assistance is given to the DVC. So, instead of talking about mere cosmetic changes, if they say that this is what they are going to give as a financial package, then only, it can sustain itself. And, don't forget that the afforestation programme, which was also to have been taken up, has not been taken up by these people. So, the DVC had also to take up the afforestation programme, the de-silting programme, the new dams to be built there; only four have been built. All these need more money. It is only then that restructuring and all that you are trying to do can happen. Will the Minister look into all these aspects? He talked about recommendations. There have been a lot of recommendations, and the recommendations have been more on the financial angle than a mere change that you have a Chairman and two permanent Board members.

And that can sort out the problem. It would not be able to do it. You need a package. You need more financial inputs from banks. Then only would you be able to achieve the 12,000 MW that you are wanting to do along with sorting out the problems that I have mentioned, like, if people who do not have work in Kolkata — and there are thousands of people there with no work — are not posted there, it would not really do any good to the DVC.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, at the outset, I support the Damodar Valley Corporation (Amendment) Bill. I feel that it is very necessary at this moment because the Damodar Valley Corporation has taken up many social projects and if they want to complete all those projects, then, it requires a special type of board which should take up all these programmes.

Sir, it is true that it was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's brainchild. Now, we have had three programmes; one, power generation; two, irrigation arrangements, canals, etc.; and, three, flood control. But silting is the major problem with all the canals. I belong to that area. Every year, we have been facing two problems. One is that the Damodar Valley Corporation is using these canals and trying to desilt them, but unfortunately, this is not happening. Desilting is a must and it should be given priority. In the earlier days, a large number of villages in parts of Jharkhand and West Bengal

cultivated their lands using water from the Damodar river canal. But now, we see problems being faced from the managerial side and also from the union side. I have known some people from the unions there and they have been saying that they have a serious financial crisis. I feel the Minister should pay proper attention to this so that it can be solved.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister a few things for his consideration. Presently, the DVC is authorized to bill provincial tariff determined by the CERC which is based on 70 per cent of the capital expenditure, as considered by CERC and, therefore, lower than as claimed by the DVC. Sir, the whole problem is this. Either the Government should give them much more financial assistance or it should allow the DVC to enter into the capital market. If DVC does not enter into the capital market, it will be very difficult for them to arrange sufficient money to run their corporation properly. I can tell you, Sir, the DVC has been meeting their equity deficit by huge short-term borrowings from various banks. They went in for a borrowing to the extent of Rs.2400 crores. These borrowings have resulted in future financial burdens of huge interest rates on DVC, not to speak of uncertainties to meet the repayment commitments. As per the provisions of the DVC Act, the DVC approached the Government of India for the capital contribution of Rs.4,817 crores on account of equity deficit in projects which was recommended by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, the MoEF & the GOR.

Sir, I feel that the time has come when out of the above dues against JSEB's total dues of Rs.3,497 crores including DPS of Rs.1,356 crores, JSEB has accepted, so far, dues of Rs.1,728 crores for which the DVC has approached the Government of India with the recommendation of MoP for the recovery of accepted dues from the Central Plan of Jharkhand State in terms of securitization scheme of the GOC. My submission is to consider the two options—one, either the DVC should be allowed to go into the capital market to collect their money requirement, etc., or, in the alternative, the Government of India should give them the adequate financial help. Otherwise, instead of making the dream of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru a reality, very shortly, we will be seeing that the potential of it would be unutilized and that would not be useful for the people of Jharkhand or for West Bengal, because all the canals would be silting in such a way that it would not be useful for irrigation purpose or for the purpose of power generation or for anything else. They have certain projects, which are

mentioned by them—afforestation, school, social work, etc. How can that be done? If they have to do these things, it requires—I would like to say it again and again—the financial help.

Secondly, I feel that for the restructuring of the Corporation, restructuring of the Board, they are taking persons from the State Governments of West Bengal and Jharkhand; they have men—they have said that some of the experts are also to be taken into the Corporation, from these two States, in the Board because Jharkhand and West Bengal are mostly affected by this project. Therefore, the persons who could be taken into the Board should be either from Jharkhand or from West Bengal. Both the State Governments are to be consulted in all these movements.

I would like to add another very important point. Farmers have a lot of problems. Some times, they would like to put their grievances before the DVC. The DVC's headquarters is in Kolkata; it is true. But, the DVC also has office in the place of their work in Jharkhand also. If the farmers want to explain what problems they have been facing, they have no avenue. I suggest that while you form the committees, why should you not think of taking some representative from the farmers so that they place their grievances in the DVC's headquarters?

With these words, I support the Bill. Thank you.

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, thank you for the opportunity. I would like to express my observations with regard to the Amendment Bill. Also, I would like to comment on some misinformation about the DVC. Sir, it is clear that we are inheriting Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's dream. It was the brain-child of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. But, unfortunately, through the last sixty years, it has become the nightmare of West Bengal and Jharkhand people. It is because of the attitude shown by the Government and the DVC authorities for the last six decades. Sir, really, a confusion is prevailing throughout the Valley as to what is the real intention of the Government while it is going to amend this Bill. Sir, I am moving some amendments. What is the real intention of the Government behind moving this amending Bill? Though it is clear, but people are very much confused and they do not support it. They do not want this type of restructuring.

Sir, the DVC was meant for multi purposes. As some hon. Members have already raised some issues like the first task of the DVC was irrigation, including flood control. Sir, before 1948, river Damodar became the agony of West Bengal. Now, even after 60 years, it remains the agony of West

Bengal. While irrigation and flood control was the priority target, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's instruction was so, but the Government and the management have shifted that priority. Now, they are going in for power. I am aware of the power crisis prevailing in India. So, power generation should be given some importance. But, as far as DVC is concerned, the main task of DVC is not power generation. They can go in for power generation, but at the same time, it should give top priority to irrigation and flood control. It should give top priority to irrigation and flood control in order to reduce people's sufferings.

Sir, apart from irrigation and power generation, afforestation, soil-conservation, all these areas are seriously neglected. The DVC has ceased to do that.

Now, coming to the formation of the Board, I fully support my hon. colleague from Congress Party, Shri Bhattacharya's suggestion that these two whole-timers — the expert whole-timers of different subjects — we have two whole-timers of electricity and irrigation — should be nominated after consultation. Without consultation does not mean anything. Before giving them appointment, you can consult with the State Government. But after giving appointment, when their services are placed under that management, they are the loyal servant of that organisation. There is no question of serving the interests of the concerned Government. Sir, the situation has gone to the point that at the time of releasing water, the concerned State Government, particularly West Bengal — West Bengal is suffering much on that count — is not consulted. No warning is given to them. That is the main problem. So, districts after districts, four or five districts are devastated. It is not a one year phenomena. It is the phenomena of every year. In the lean season, they are supplying water for irrigation of dhaan. But when the rabi season comes, they can't supply water. In the lean period, they can't supply water. But when the rainy season comes, the quantity of water is so much that it devastates district after district. At least, three-four districts are suffering every year. Now also it remains the agony of West Bengal. ...*(Time-bell rings)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Only two minutes more.

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: There is no speaker.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, there are speakers. Only two minutes more. There are five speakers.

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: The second thing I request to the hon. Minister is that in the case of hydel power generation when you are going to construct a new hydel power generation project, the concerned States give land and 12 per cent share of power generated is given to them free of cost. Now DVC wants land. Who is going to give you land in such a situation? I know three-four years back the then chairman requested the Government of West Bengal for land and the Government arranged the land in consultation with the local people and peasants in two districts of Burdwan and Bankura. But the problem is that power will go to other States. Yes, that is no problem for us. The land is given by the State people, people of that particular State. Yes, we are ready to give that if the tillers agree. I would like to propose to our hon. Minister that like the hydel power station, please allow 12 per cent of that power generation from that particular unit to that particular State. ...(Time-bell rings)... Then there will be some incentive for the State. ...(Time-bell rings)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude. Your time is over. ...(Interruptions)... प्लीज़, हो गया।

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Only two minutes. Sir, a comment has been made here that thousands of workers work in the headquarters and they do not want to get transferred. I am legally associated with one union. I know this is not correct information because DVC has banned the recruitment. In 1980 there were about 14,000 employees and now it has been reduced to 11,000 employees. There is no regular recruitment but they are recruiting contract workers. ...(Interruptions)... There is no power station where there is demand for leaving from Kolkata. ...(Interruptions).. Once employees of Kolkata Headquarters are given the notice of transfer, they have never objected. Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): श्री शशी भूषण बेहरा। बेहरा जी, आपकी पार्टी का टाइम तीन मिनट है, You can take five minutes but not more than that. ...(Interruptions)... Your party's time is three minutes but you can take five minutes.

SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA (Odisha): I thank you, Sir. I stand here to speak on the Bill though a lot has been discussed in the background note of the Damodar Valley Corporation. Mr. V.P. Singh Badnore also spoke a lot on this. This amendment is being made to the original Act of

1948 and in between more than 60 years have passed. In 2007 an amendment was introduced to this Act in the Lok Sabha and it was referred to the Standing Committee. When it was returned to the House, the House could not pass it and the Bill lapsed with the dissolution of Lok Sabha. The purpose of this amendment Bill is to give more autonomy and more power to the Committee which is to be restructured with this amendment. Sir, I am not taking much time on this because the whole purpose of the Damodar Valley Project is for irrigation, electricity generation and distribution, navigation and all other such things by which the two major States, West Bengal and Jharkhand, will be benefited, and as told by Mr. Badnore, two-third area of Jharkhand will be benefited by this project.

But I find that in the structure of the Board for DVC, there are two Members, one from West Bengal and one from the State of Jharkhand as part time Members. Sir, why this part time Member for the two States when the States are the real stakeholders and they will be benefited with irrigation and energy? At least my suggestion is, there should be two Members from Jharkhand as a whole time Member and one Member from West Bengal. Otherwise, this discrimination is there and the real stakeholders who are to be benefited with this Valley Project will be deprived of their rights. They are the sufferers. You will find one such River Valley Project, such as in our State, the Hirakud Dam project on the Mahanadi River. After the main dam projects, the lower valley projects are not being started because of want of funds from the State or Centre is not able to support it. So, here in the same case, the lower valley projects are not being started because of many reasons but for that the real contribution of the valley project could not be materialised. Sir, as it is the intention of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, this will benefit in irrigation, this will benefit in power projection and all and if the project is not completed 100 per cent after 60 years of the completion of dam project then, how could this be useful for people? So, my submission is, with this amendment only more power is entrusted with the Committee, with the Chairman who is supposed to be the Chief Executive Officer and instead of Secretary we are going to have a Member Secretary who will be in charge of administration and business development corporation. So, my main objective is that the Members of the beneficiary States should be permanent in nature and there should be two Members from Jharkhand. This is my submission. I hope this amendment will fulfil the purpose for which it has been brought.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Sir, I have a concern about the proposed change

in the management set up. Originally DVC used to be called a river of sorrow. Pandit Nehru wanted to convert it into a river of joy but today it has become a river of calamity. Whenever there is precipitation in Jharkhand area, instead of holding the water, the water is straightaway released causing as much floods today, after 50 years of DVC, as before. Now the point is, DVC has failed to deepen the reservoir capacity. They have all silted up. It is not being dredged. The reservoir capacity is very less. As soon as there is precipitation the water comes out. My point is, it is a federal structure. If you look at Pandit Nehru's concept, there was a Central Government Chairman after consultation with the State Government of Bihar, now it is Jharkhand. So, 66 per cent reservation was under the control of the State and 33 per cent reservation was under the control of the Centre. Today, among the ten nominees, only Jharkhand and West Bengal have two part time Members. Assuming that, if the proportion comes down to 20 per cent, it is an assault on the basic concept of federalism. When we are going for de-centralisation everywhere, giving power to the Panchayat, Gram panchayat etc. DVC is doing the other way round. It is centralising everything in its own centre. This is not really acceptable.

I would, through you, request the Government, as proposed by Mr. Bhattacharya, the other members who are going to be appointed should be appointed in strict consultation with both the State Governments Jharkhand as well as West Bengal — so that the original character of a tripartite control remains as before. Today, with two part-time members of the two States, it has become wholly a centralized organization. Therefore, it is not acceptable under the federal structure. Thank you.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सर, मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लूंगा। मेरे दिमाग में एक बात आ रही है कि जब भी कोई सरकार एक स्वतंत्र निकाय को तोड़ कर अपने अधीन लाने की कोशिश करती है, तो उसमें जो एक्सपर्ट होते हैं, वे after retirement आते हैं। कहने का मतलब यह है कि रिटायरमेंट के पहले लोग एक्सपर्ट ही नहीं बनते हैं, इसलिए after retirement कुछ लोगों को job देने के लिए इस तरह की व्यवस्था की जाती है। ऐसे लोग प्राइवेट एजेंसी से लाए जाते हैं, ताकि इस तरह से privatisation की तरफ से जाया जा सके। इसमें भी मेरा यही संदेह है कि मंत्री महोदय इसमें यही व्यवस्था करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। जो एक स्वतंत्र संगठन है, उसमें ऐसा करके उसको privatisation की तरफ ले जाएंगे।

सर, पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी का एक स्वतंत्र संगठन का स्वप्न था। उसको पूरा करने के लिए वहां जो लोग विस्थापित हुए हैं, उनको आज भी उनकी जमीन का मुआवजा नहीं मिला, उनके पुनर्वासन की व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाई, जिसके कारण सैंकड़ों नहीं, हजारों लोग आज भी इधर-उधर मारे-मारे फिर रहे हैं।

सर, तीसरी बात यह है कि जो डैम बना है, वह पूरी तरह मिट्टी से भरकर छिछला हो गया है। जिसके कारण उसमें पानी जमा करने की क्षमता कम हो गई है। बरसात के मौसम में जब बरसात का पानी भरता है, तो डैम के टूटने का खतरा बना रहता है। इसकी मजबूती के लिए इसके समानान्तर जो डैम बनाने की जरूरत है, उसको नजरअंदाज किया गया है। इसके बारे में अभी तक कोई भी आगे की कार्रवाई नहीं हुई है।

सर, चौथी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि वहां पर परमानेंट लोग जो रिटायर होते जा रहे हैं, उनकी जगह पर contractor workers लगाए जा रहे हैं, लेकिन उनके लिए वहां पर कोई सामाजिक सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था नहीं है। वे काम करते हैं, उसके बदले कुछ पैसे पाते हैं और वे अपने-अपने घर चले जाते हैं। उनके लिए कोई भी सामाजिक सुरक्षा नहीं है, जब कि वे लोग परमानेंट नेचर के जॉब करते हैं। वे लोग permanently काम करते हैं, 30 दिन काम करते हैं, 365 दिन काम करते हैं, लेकिन उनके लिए जो सामाजिक सुरक्षा होनी चाहिए, वह नहीं है। वहां पर जो लोग superannuate कर गए हैं, उनकी जगह बहाली करने की भी जरूरत है। जहां पर वे काम कर रहे हैं, वहां पर लोगों की कमी आई है। जो लोग वहां पर काम कर रहे हैं, उनको परमानेंट करने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। वहां पर इस तरह की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

सर, वहां से बिजली पैदा हो सकती है, सिंचाई की व्यवस्था हो सकती है, पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था वहीं से होती है। गर्मी के दिनों में सिंचाई की बात तो आप छोड़ दीजिए, पीने के पानी की भी व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाती है, क्योंकि गर्मी के दिनों में वहां पर पानी का अभाव हो जाता है। डैम छिछला हो जाने के कारण उसमें पानी जमा करने की क्षमता कम हो गई है। वहां पर इसके लिए व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए।

सर, Damodar Valley Corporation बैंक कर्ज और दूसरे देनदारों के कर्ज से डूबा हुआ है। इसके लिए मंत्री महोदय क्या व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं? उन्होंने इस संदर्भ में कोई जिक्र ही नहीं किया है कि किस तरीके से इस कर्ज से उबरा जा सके। सर, मैं अपनी बात बिल्कुल समय से समाप्त कर रहा हूं। धन्यवाद।

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूं कि आपने मुझे इस विधेयक पर बोलने का मौका दिया। इस विधेयक का उद्देश्य झारखंड और पश्चिमी बंगाल राज्यों में दामोदर घाटी के विकास और निगम की स्थापना तथा उसके विनियमन के उपबंध से संबंधित है। यह विधेयक भले ही दो प्रदेशों के हितों से जुड़ा हो, लेकिन इस विधेयक के उपबंधों से दामोदर घाटी का विकास संभव है। परम पूज्य बाबा साहेब डा. अम्बेडकर ने इस बात पर जोर दिया था कि बड़े डैम और घाटियों में अगर पानी के प्रबंध की व्यवस्था को दुरुस्त कर लिया जाता है, तो उससे बाढ़ से बचने के साथ-साथ विद्युत के उत्पादन में भी बढ़ोतरी की जा सकती है।

6.00 P.M.

इसलिए दामोदर घाटी निगम के विकास से दोनों प्रदेशों में सिंचाई जल, जल निकास और विशेषकर विद्युत ऊर्जा के उत्पादन को बढ़ाया जा सकता है, जो दोनों प्रदेशों के साथ-साथ देश के लिए बहुत हितकारी साबित हो सकता है।

महोदय, विद्युत ऊर्जा अब देश या किसी भी प्रदेश के विकास व खुशहाली का सबसे बड़ा जरिया है, जिसकी तरफ मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान विशेष रूप से आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। हमारे देश में इस प्रकार की बहुत सारी योजनाएं अभी भी लम्बित हैं, जिनको चालू करके हम विद्युत के उत्पादन और सिंचाई की मुश्किल समस्या का हल ढूंढ सकते हैं। मैं इस विषय में माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान उत्तर प्रदेश के मेजा क्षेत्र की थर्मल पावर योजना, इलाहाबाद की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूं। उस योजना को आज तक पूर्ण रूप नहीं दिया जा सका है, जिसके कारण विद्युत का उत्पादन अभी तक आवश्यकता के हिसाब से नहीं हो पा रहा है। उसके बावजूद, उत्तर प्रदेश में विद्युत के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने का प्रयास उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की तरफ से बराबर किया जा रहा है।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि दामोदर घाटी के भूमि अधिग्रहण की कार्रवाई 1954 में प्रारम्भ हुई थी। उसके बाद इतना समय गुजर जाने के बाद भी आज चार हजार से ज्यादा विस्थापित लोग ऐसे हैं, जिनको मुआवजा या अपना ठिकाना नहीं मिल सका है। हमारी परियोजनाओं में यह एक बहुत बड़ी विडम्बना भी परिलक्षित होती है कि 1954 की अधिग्रहित की गयी भूमि से विस्थापित लोग आज भी अपने लिए न्याय की मांग कर रहे हैं। इसी प्रकार, सम्बलपुर की हीराकुड बाँध परियोजना और हिमाचल प्रदेश की रेणुका बाँध परियोजना जैसी आधी दर्जन से ज्यादा परियोजनाएं आज भी हमारे देश में लम्बित हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह अनुरोध करूंगा कि अगर आप लम्बित योजनाओं को सुचारु रूप से अंतिम रूप देने पर विचार करते हैं, तो निःसंदेह इन योजनाओं का लाभ देश को मिल सकेगा।

इस अधिनियम में और भी बहुत सारी बातें ध्यान देने योग्य हैं। हमने इस बात पर भी थोड़ा-सा ध्यान दिया है, जिसमें निगम की उस कमिटी के अध्यक्ष सहित बाकी मेम्बर्स को नियुक्त करने के बारे में कहा गया है। महोदय, कुल मिलाकर इस कमिटी में 10 मेम्बर्स को रखा गया है, जिनमें अध्यक्ष के साथ-साथ सदस्य और प्रतिनिधि भी हैं। हमारा यह मानना है कि चूंकि आपने अध्यक्ष का एक ही पद रखा है और यदि किन्हीं परिस्थितियों में अध्यक्ष बीमार हो जाता है, तो उसके स्थान पर कौन व्यक्ति को ऑर्डिनेट करेगा, इसकी व्यवस्था बिल में नहीं दी गयी है। इसलिए, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करूंगा कि इसमें अगर अध्यक्ष के साथ-साथ उपाध्यक्ष के पद की भी व्यवस्था होती, तो निःसंदेह इसके मैनेजमेंट को दुरुस्त करने में एक सुविधाजनक बात हो सकती थी।

महोदय, इसके अलावा इसमें कहीं भी आरक्षण की व्यवस्था को लागू करने का प्रयास मंत्री जी के द्वारा नहीं किया गया है। चूंकि झारखंड अपने आप में एक ऐसा स्टेट है, जहां तकरीबन 80 फीसदी आदिवासी लोग निवास

करते हैं, लेकिन आदिवासियों के लिए अध्यक्ष या सदस्य की कोई व्यवस्था इस बिल में नहीं की गई है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इस बात का भी अनुरोध करूंगा कि इस बिल की तमाम अच्छाइयों में यदि आप इस बनी हुई कमेटी में एससी, एसटी, ओबीसी के प्रतिनिधियों को भी शामिल करते हैं, तो निःसंदेह वे अपने प्रदेश की इस बड़ी परियोजना में अपनी सहभागिता निभाकर अपने प्रदेश के हित में फैसला ले सकते हैं। मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है कि माननीय मंत्री जी उत्तर प्रदेश के इलाहाबाद के थर्मल पावर को जल्दी पूर्ण कराने के बारे में, इस परियोजना में एससी, एसटी, ओबीसी को रिजर्वेशन देने के संबंध में और बाबा साहेब डा. अम्बेडकर साहब की जो मूल भावना थी कि बांधों के पानी के मैनेजमेंट को दुरुस्त करके स्टोरेज कर विद्युत उत्पादन किया जाए, इस पर भी ध्यान देंगे। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... महोदय, आपने मुझे 11 मिनट में से पांच मिनट का समय दिया, मैं आपका धन्यवाद करता हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आपने वादा किया था कि आप तीन मिनट में खत्म करेंगे, लेकिन फिर भी मैंने पांच मिनट दिया। ...**(व्यवधान)**... श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह।

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह (झारखंड): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, डी.वी.सी. योजना का 2/3 से ज्यादा पार्ट झारखंड में है। ब्रिटिश काल में सन् 1948 में इसे मंजूरी दी गयी थी। इस प्रोजेक्ट के बनने से वहां के किसानों की ही जमीन प्रभावित हुई है। आज इस बांध का पानी झारखंड के एरिया को नहीं बल्कि बंगाल के ही maximum area को सिंचित करता है। सर, जिस समय यह बांध बना था, उस समय झारखंड अस्तित्व में नहीं था, बिहार ही अस्तित्व में था, लेकिन बंगाल की ही तूती बोलती थी। बंगाल के मुख्य मंत्री को समूचे भारत के लोग अच्छी तरह से जानते थे। इस में हमारे हक को मारा गया है। डी.वी.सी. झारखंड में है, लेकिन उस का अस्तित्व बंगाल में है। सर, बंगाल वहां से 800 कि.मी. दूर पड़ता है, लेकिन वहां से नजदीक धनबाद है। मेरी मांग है कि वहां इसके हैडक्वार्टर को स्थानांतरित किया जाए। इसमें से ज्यादातर कर्मचारी बंगाल के ही हैं। सर, मुझे कर्मचारी से ज्यादा लेना-देना नहीं है, लेकिन मेरा यह कहना है कि डी.वी.सी. जिस उद्देश्य से बना था, उसमें से 800 किलोवाट बिजली उत्पन्न होनी थी, लेकिन हम 400 किलोवाट बिजली का ही उत्पादन कर सके। दूसरे, आप कहते हैं कि हम चेयरमैन बनाएंगे, दो नए मेंबर्स बनाएंगे, लेकिन मेंबर्स बनाने से या बोर्ड का गठन करने से क्या डी.वी.सी. financially मजबूत हो जाएगा? हमें चिंता इस बात की करनी चाहिए कि इसे financially कैसे मजबूत बनाया जाए। सर, चेयरमैन बनाने से डी.वी.सी. मजबूत नहीं होगा। आज डी.वी.सी. में जो siltation है, पानी रहता नहीं है, पानी की depth कम हो गयी है जिस कारण बिजली उत्पादन पूरा नहीं होता है। हम लोगों को गर्मी के दिनों में बिजली नहीं मिलती है और बिजली का ज्यादा भाग बंगाल को मिल जाता है। झारखंड इस से वंचित रहता है। इसलिए हमारा आग्रह यह है कि आप इसे financially कैसे मजबूत करेंगे? सर, इन्हें हर साल siltation हटाना था, लेकिन बांध से siltation नहीं हटा। इस कारण उस में पानी रहता नहीं है और जब बाढ़ आती है तो उस का पानी दुमका तक चला जाता है। ऐसी स्थिति में इस की depth कैसे बढ़ायी जाए, यह चिंता की बात है। सर, जब यह बना था तो इस के आठ प्रोजेक्ट्स sanction हुए थे, लेकिन चार ही बनाये गये और चार की लोअर वैली में स्थापना करनी थी। मंत्री जी, आप बताएं कि उन चार

की स्थापना कब होगी जिस से कि और बिजली उत्पन्न हो? सर, डी.वी.सी. के down portion में जो पानी बंगाल की ओर जाता है, आखिर उस वैली में भी हम पावर प्रोजेक्ट्स बना सकते हैं। अगर उन्हें हम बनाते हैं तो बिजली उत्पादन भी ज्यादा होगा जिस की आज देश को अत्यंत आवश्यकता है। साथ ही मंत्री जी यह भी बताएं कि वहां के जो किसान विस्थापित हुए, जिन्हें मुआवजा नहीं मिला और जिन का पुनर्वास नहीं हुआ, मंत्री जी के इस प्रोजेक्ट में क्या उन के लिए पैसा है? क्या ऐसे किसानों के प्रति आप sympathy रखते हैं? अगर रखते हैं तो आप उनके लिए भी योजना बनाइए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आप एक मिनट और ले लो। आप ने दो मिनट मांगे थे। ठीक है, एक-दो मिनट में समाप्त करिए।

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह: सर, अभी एक नया प्रोजेक्ट उस के down portion में बनना चाहिए। उन लोगों के पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Ahluwaliaji, we have to pass this Bill before 6.30 p.m. That is the point.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): But there is still time to 6.30.

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह: सर, डी.वी.सी. की financial स्थिति को आप मजबूत कीजिए, इस का हैडक्वार्टर झारखंड में स्थानांतरित कीजिए ताकि झारखंड की जनता को उस का हक मिले। इतनी ही बात कहकर मैं अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, Mr. Mungekar, you ask only one question. That is all.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR (Nominated): Sir, I will make, one observation within one minute. It is a fact that after accepting economic planning, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru's name is associated with the Damodar Valley Project and all other things. He called projects these factories such as the Bhakra Nangal Project, as the temples of modern India. But one historical fact that needs to be recorded in the history is that the multi-purpose river valley projects were, basically, conceived by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar during his tenure as the Minister of Labour in Viceroy Executive Council, between 1942 to 1946.

He said that River Valley Project should not be considered only as a source of irrigation but a

source of water, irrigation and electricity as a whole. Then subsequently after Independence, they were substantially developed.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Sir, Damodar Valley Corporation was unitedly visualized for the State of Bihar. If you recall, it was in the State of Bihar and with the separation of the State of Bihar, that fell into the State of Jharkhand ...(*Interruptions*)... and Bengal also. This was reorganization of States. I just want to have a small clarification. What was construed or visualized in the Act while division was taking place for Bihar when the States of Bihar and Jharkhand got separated, as far as Damodar Valley Corporation was concerned? That is my question. I would like to have a clarification on this.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): महोदय, मेरा एक ऑब्जर्वेशन है। वहां पर जो यूनियन हैं, मैं बार-बार कहता हूं, बात होती है। सर, 1947 में जो सरकार बनी थी, उस सरकार में पश्चिमी बंगाल के सपूत पंडित श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी उद्योग मंत्री थे, जैसे डा. भीमराव अम्बेडकर साहब, जिनकी हम बहुत कद्र करते हैं, वे लेबर मिनिस्टर थे। तो 1947 से 1950 तक पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी की सरकार में पंडित श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी पहले उद्योग मंत्री थे। मेरा एक दूसरा ऑब्जर्वेशन यह है कि मेजिया और दुर्गापुर के थर्मल पावर प्लांट में कोयले की बड़ी कमी होती है, तो उस मेजिया और दुर्गापुर के थर्मल पावर प्लांट में कोयले की इस कमी को कैसे दूर किया जाएगा? इसकी ओर माननीय मंत्री ध्यान देंगे, तो अच्छा होगा। धन्यवाद।

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, first of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those learned Members who participated in this debate and gave their valuable suggestions for the smooth functioning of the DVC. I can assure the Hon. Members, through you, Sir, that all the valuable suggestions which are made by the learned Members shall be given due consideration for the future activities of the DVC. Lot of concerns were expressed by the Hon. Members. Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House by objecting to their views. I also agree that some sort of deviation has been taking place in the objective of DVC, which was initiated by our late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and which was inaugurated by a tribal woman. I know that there is a lot of passion and affection for Damodar Valley Corporation not only in Jharkhand and Bengal, but the entire nation has lot of passion and affection for Damodar Valley Corporation. I can tell you that a lot of activities are going on there at present. This year only, they are giving Rs. 25 crore for CSR activities. They are running 18 schools from lower level to higher secondary level. They are running three Kendriya Vidyalayas.

They are supporting four independent schools. They are running six hospitals as well. So, in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility, Damodar Valley Corporation is doing a lot. I can assure you that. But I agree that there are lapses also in the area of flood control. Shri V.P. Singh, Shri Bhattacharya and some other Hon. Members have spoken about flood control management. The food control management of Damodar Valley Corporation is not up to the mark. As far as flood control is concerned, the water is regulated by a body which is led by CWC. The representatives of Jharkhand Government, West Bengal Government and members of DVC and CWC are meeting daily to monitor the water situation and the flood situation. They are meeting daily, during the rains.

And the CWC gives directions for control of water. I am not saying that the DVC is not a part of this; DVC also does flood control work. Flood control activities are going on in that area. We have already proposed to construct 495 to 500 ft. high embankments around Maithon, to raise the water level by five feet. There is a problem of desiltation. I accept that. We are planning to have desiltation at the Panchet Dam and desiltation of the water supply canal at Durgapur also.

Then, some of the Hon. Members mentioned that it was, initially, planned to construct eight dams but that the DVC has constructed four dams only. They asked what the fate of the rest of the four dams was. Sir, the DVC has constructed four dams on the Damodar Koner and Barakar rivers at, Konar, Panchet, Tilaiya and Maithon. Construction of the Tilaiya dam was taken up by the Bihar Government. The Bihar Government has constructed the dam.

Then, regarding this Deolbari dam, an investigation is on by the CWC. They are expected to give the report by March, 2012. We would then take up construction of the dam there. Actually, it was proposed to construct only seven dams. The construction of one dam was found to be not feasible. Sir, that is the real picture.

Then, Sir, Hon. Member, Shri V. P. Singh Badnore, had made some point regarding employees. I would not like to go into controversies involving employees, like which State they come from and where they work, etc. Actually, we have 11,000 employees. Out of those 11,000 employees, 7000 employees are from the State of Jharkhand and 4000 are from the State of West Bengal. Only a thousand employees are working in the Head Office. Rest of the 10,000 are in the field, outside the Head Office.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: A thousand workers in the Head Office for a project of 4000 mw power generation?

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : That does not pertain only to power generation. The Head Office is meant for many activities such as flood control, afforestation, etc. All these are controlled at the Head Office.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Kindly look at the number of people working at the Head Office. This is what the Hon. Member had said. There are one thousand people working in one building in Kolkata!

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : I am not talking particularly about the Head Office; they are working in Kolkata in different offices.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Out of eight thousand people, one thousand people are working in Kolkata! What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is an important issue. That is why most of the public sector units have ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Rudy, let the Minister reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : Please, do not make it an issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is actually the project of West Bengal and Jharkhand. Both the Governments are cooperating and facilitating the project. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Rudy, let the Minister reply. We have to pass the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : Then, Sir, there was an apprehension regarding hydel projects. I do agree that there are lesser number of hydel projects, but that is because there is less water heads. Also, in the lean season, we give out water for irrigation purposes and not for power generation. That is one of the reasons why we could not concentrate on more hydel projects under DVC. Also, there is a big coal block. Hon. Members must be aware of the coal belt in the Damodar Valley Corporation region. Therefore, we are tapping the resources for thermal power generation too in that region.

Sir, I would not like to take much time of the House while trying to answer some the queries raised by the learned Members here.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You may send answers to questions later in writing if you are not able to answer them now. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have told him that he could send replies in writing to questions that he may not be able to answer now.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The Minister is replying for passing the Bill. If Members are satisfied with the reply, they pass the Bill. But if you send the reply at some later date, that is not permissible. ...*(Interruptions)*... Either you reply or say that you don't have answers.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I have no hesitation to agree with Ahluwaliaji. I agree with you. He will reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: So far as the constitution of the Board is concerned, there are a lot of apprehensions regarding the representation of West Bengal and Jharkhand in the Board. Regarding this constitution, we had a detailed consultation with the respective State Governments of Jharkhand and West Bengal. They have given written consent to the Central Government and the DVC for the constitution of the DVC Board. The majority of members should be from that area itself. I have already told that it should be taken care of while constituting the DVC Board. We will take care of that thing. Most of the hon. Members have an apprehension that the purpose of the Damodar Valley Corporation is not so far materialized. Its purposes are irrigation, water conservation, water distribution, soil conservation, afforestation and also power generation, distribution and transmission. We know that some deviation has taken place. For that, in 2007, we undertook a detailed study for putting up a Master Plan for Damodar Valley Corporation for its future projects and future programmes. This 2000-page Report has already been submitted. That Report was examined by DVC and copies of the final Report were forwarded to the respective State Governments of West Bengal, Jharkhand and other stakeholders. Then a meeting of stakeholders was called by DVC in August 2011. But the Irrigation Secretary of West Bengal requested for rescheduling of that meeting. That meeting is going to be convened in the near future. We will take care of the deviation of the purpose of this Damodar Valley Corporation. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not taking much time. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, I would request the hon. Members to pass the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... With these words, I am concluding my remarks and request the hon. Members to pass the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, the question is:

That the Bill further to amend the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at twenty-six minutes past six of the clock
till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 20th December, 2011.