

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: We are distributing the foodgrains as per the instructions of the Supreme Court.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी जो जवाब दे रहे हैं वह सही नहीं है।.....(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: पहले पूरा जवाब सुन लीजिए।

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: But the off-take by the States is less than what we have allotted to them...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी इतने गंभीर मुद्दे पर तैयारी करके नहीं आए।.....(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 623...(Interruptions)...If the answer is unsatisfactory, please put it in writing...(Interruptions)...Please...(Interruptions)...Naqvi Sahib, please...(Interruptions)... Let us go to the next question. Question No. 623. बैठ जाइए।.....(व्यवधान) इनको भी क्वेश्चन पूछने का हक है। बैठ जाइए।.....(व्यवधान) Yes, Mr. N.K.Singh. Question No. 623.

Cost of equipment for UMPPs

*623. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to check the cost of equipment required for Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to undertake any structural changes in the policy regarding import of power equipment;

(c) if so, whether any proposal regarding the procurement of super critical equipment for UMPPs from domestic manufacturing sources is under Government's consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) are awarded on the basis of the lowest levelized tariff through tariff based competitive bidding where the bidder factors in cost efficiencies in all respects including the cost of equipment.

(b) As per the prevailing guidelines for UMPP, the developer of a UMPP is free to source the equipment from foreign or domestic manufacturers). No decision regarding change of above guidelines has been taken. However, a proposal to alter

the duty structure on all imported power equipment is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) To suggest the modalities of sourcing domestic equipment by UMPP developer, a committee under Member (Industry), Planning Commission was constituted and the final report of the committee is yet to be received.

श्री एन.के. सिंह: मंत्री महोदय, आपने अपने उत्तर में यह कहा है कि अल्ट्रा मेगा पॉवर प्रोजेक्ट का आबंटन कम्पटीटिव टैरिफ बीडिंग के आधार पर होता है। यह स्वाभाविक है कि जिन राज्यों में पर्याप्त रूप से कोयले का साधन उपलब्ध है, अल्ट्रा मेगा पॉवर प्रोजेक्ट उन्हीं राज्यों में जाएंगे। देश में ऊर्जा की जो कठिनाई है, विशेषकर उन राज्यों में जहां कोयले का साधन पर्याप्त नहीं है, तो यदि अल्ट्रा मेगा पॉवर प्रोजेक्ट वहां नहीं लग सकते हैं तो क्या मंत्री महोदय, इस पर विचार करेंगे कि जो ऊर्जा का उससे उत्पादन होता है, उसके आबंटन में उन राज्यों को प्राथमिकता दी जाए, जहां बिजली की बहुत-बहुत कमी है, जैसे उदाहरणार्थ, बिहार?

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, I would like to appreciate the concern raised by the hon. Member regarding the power shortage in some States, including Bihar. We are fully concerned about the shortage of power in some States, including Bihar which is having the lowest *per capita* consumption of power in the country. The Ultra Mega Power Project is planned for States which have coal mines or which have access to import coal from foreign countries. Two types of projects are there. A State like Bihar has no facility to use this Ultra Mega Power Project. Therefore, the Government of India is planning that even though Bihar has no coal mines they can access the coal mines in nearby States like Jharkhand. If the Bihar Government gives us a project proposal in this regard, we will definitely consider that project. Our senior Minister has a long discussion with the Bihar Chief Minister last month. A lot of decisions were taken to meet the power crisis of Bihar. Therefore, the Ministry of Power has already allocated 50 per cent of power from Barh NTPC to Bihar in place of 176 megawatts indicated earlier. This issue of Barh is finally settled. There are a lot of other issues. I am not going to read the entire thing. Similarly, we are supporting the efforts made by the State Government to meet the power shortage.

श्री एन.के. सिंह: यह उत्तर भ्रमात्मक है, क्योंकि आपने अपने उत्तर के पूर्व भाग में यह कहा है कि बिहार जैसे राज्य में कोयले के अभाव के कारण वहां अल्ट्रा मेगा पॉवर प्रोजेक्ट का आबंटन नहीं किया जा सकता है। आपने दूसरे भाग में यह स्वीकार किया है कि किसी और रूप में इसकी पूर्ति की जाए, इसके लिए कोयले का विशेष आबंटन करने का विचार केन्द्रीय सरकार रखती है। लेकिन मंत्री महोदय, इससे अवगत है कि बिहार के विभिन्न ऐसे प्रस्ताव उनके समक्ष हैं, जो पब्लिक सेक्टर हैं वहां तो हैं ही, निजी क्षेत्रों में भी कोयले के आबंटन की कमी से ऊर्जा का वहां पर जो सृजन होना चाहिए वह नहीं हो पा रहा है। तो मुख्य मंत्री ने प्रधान जी से जो अपेक्षा की थी, उसमें उन्होंने कोई निश्चित कदम उठाया है या निश्चित कदम उठाने की सरकार अपेक्षा कर सकती है?

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, definitely, for meeting the coal shortage in Bihar, I have already informed the august House that a lot of projects in that region are being taken care of. So far as Bihar is concerned, a joint venture between BSEB and NTPC will be executing 1980 megawatt plant at Nabinagar which will benefit the State of Bihar. And also, allocation is being given from the Central ongoing projects like Barh, as I have already stated. In fact, during the recent visit of the hon. Power Minister, Shindeji, the allocation for Bihar has been increased from 176 megawatt to 660 megawatts from Barh. Giving special priority to Bihar, already four plants have been recommended to the Ministry of Coal for coal linkage in Bihar itself.

We all know that the country is facing a coal shortage. Therefore, coal linkage has been recommended for four projects: 2x250 MW Barauni project; 2x260 MW Buxar project; 2x660 MW Pirpainti project and 2x660 MW Lakhisarai project. These projects have already been recommended to the Coal Ministry.

श्री धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान: चेयरमैन साहब, एन.के. सिंह जी का जो मूल प्रश्न था, वह अल्ट्रा मेगा पावर प्रोजेक्ट को लेकर था, क्योंकि देश में जितने पावर प्रोजेक्ट बन रहे हैं, अल्ट्रा मेगा हो या नॉर्मल प्रोजेक्ट हो, उसके लिए इक्युपमेंट्स की भारी कमी है, जिनको विदेश से आयात करना पड़ता है। तो क्या भारत सरकार के विद्युत विभाग के पास इसके लिए कोई प्रपोजल है? हमारे यहां जो डोमेस्टिक इक्युपमेंट्स मैनुफेक्चरिंग कंपनीज हैं, जैसे भेल है, तो भेल और एनटीपीसी के जॉयंट वेन्चर को भी प्रपोजल थी। इससे और जो निजी उद्योग भी है, इनको बढ़ावा देने से उसका एक बड़ा अच्छा इम्पैक्ट देश में रोजगार बढ़ाने में, मैनुफेक्चरिंग सेक्टर में और डॉमेस्टिक इकोनोमी में आयेगा। क्या भारत सरकार इस सेक्टर के लिए, अल्ट्रा मेगा पावर प्रोजेक्ट के लिए, विशेषकर सुपर क्रिटिकल इक्युपमेंट बनाने में देशी उद्योगों को कोई टैक्स में इकॉनॉमिक रियायत देने वाली है? यह मेरा स्पेसिफिक प्रश्न है।

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Presently, under the mega power policy itself, excise duty benefit is extended to goods manufactured in India and customs duty benefit is extended to goods imported for power projects, based on certain conditions. These facilities can be applicable to Ultra Mega Power Projects also. For encouraging domestic manufacturing, including manufacturing by private sector, a proposal for imposing customs duty on imported goods for power projects was put up before the Cabinet for its approval. However, no decision has been taken so far in this regard.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, the question relates to availability of power equipments for Ultra Mega Power Projects and also coal linkage. Part (a) of my question is: Why have you made—which is a reality—UMPPs absolutely reserved for the private sector, while not allowing NTPC–BHEL synergy to operate on the UMPP? They are much better placed in terms of coal linkage, in terms of power equipment availability. Why have you made it an absolute reserve for the private sector? For augmenting the indigenous capacity of power equipment manufacturing, what special steps are you going to take?

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, as per the decision taken by the Government, Ultra Mega Power Project is awarded on the basis of competitive tariff bidding, tariff-based competitive bidding.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Then allow the NTPC to bid for that.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: NTPC has already participated.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I can prove it in the House. You have not allowed NTPC. You have made NTPC to bid for an abnormally high rate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One at a time, please...(Interruptions)...Mr. Sen, please, let the question be answered.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, the NTPC participated in all the bidding processes. But the project was awarded on the basis of the lowest price which was quoted by the developer. Therefore, the NTPC was not in a position to get...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: You must make an inquiry into it. Please get an impartial inquiry done...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The facility of supplementaries is being misused.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, my colleague has been replying properly that the NTPC has participated in all the competitive biddings. One has to listen to him properly.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, I would like to know whether the Odisha Government has given proposal for four Ultra Mega Power Projects in Odisha and the reasons why these have not been approved till now. I would also like to know whether the Government will take appropriate action to approve all the four Mega Power Projects in Odisha.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, as far as the State of Odisha is concerned, Odisha is already on the process of implementing the three Ultra Mega Power Projects. Out of these three, one is already in the bidding process. As regards the UMPP at Bedabahal of the Sundergarh District of Odisha, the status is that the RFQ for these UMPP was issued on 11.6.2011. The response received was opened on 1st August, 2011, and is under evaluation. The RFP will be issued after finalization of the revised SBD. As regards the other two projects, the process of identification of land is already going on. If the State Government has identified the land, then, definitely, we will proceed with these projects.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 624...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, एक बहुत जरूरी सवाल है।

श्री सभापति: जरूरी है, लेकिन तीन क्वेश्चंस हो गए हैं।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: ओडिशा, बिहार तो सब हो गया, उत्तर प्रदेश रह गया है, जिसकी उपेक्षा माननीय मंत्री जी कर रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति: आप आगे सवाल पूछ लीजिएगा।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: आप उत्तर प्रदेश से क्यों नाराज हैं?

श्री सभापति: सवाल आपका था ही नहीं।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: हमने बड़ी देर से..(व्यवधान)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of taking up precious minutes? Please resume your place.

The questioner SHRI PRABHAT JHA was absent

Irregularities in Indian Legal Service

*624. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selection to the Indian Legal Service for appointment to the post of Additional Secretary, Special Secretary and Secretary in the Ministry;

(b) whether the criteria of merit and seniority have been given go-bye by Government for promotion of officers of Indian Legal Service to the post of Additional Secretary/Special Secretary/Secretary;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of cases of supersession of officers of Joint Secretary Level and above during the current and preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The posts of Additional Secretaries and Secretaries in the Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department are filled up under the Search-cum-Selection Procedure, as laid down in Department of Personnel and Training's Office Memorandum No. 36/29/99-EO (SM-I) dated 02.09.1999. The practice has been to