

## RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 10th December, 2012/19th Agrahayana, 1934 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### **REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR**

#### **Anniversary of Human Rights Day**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, today, the 10th of December, 2012, marks the anniversary of adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the year 1948. It is a milestone document in the history of human rights and sets out for the first time fundamental human rights to be universally protected. The day is celebrated the world over as the Human Rights Day. The anniversary of the Declaration provides an opportunity to remember the ideals of universality and indivisibility of fundamental human rights contained in it and to reflect on their application in contemporary human society.

The day this year focuses on the rights of all the people—women, youth, minorities, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, the poor and the marginalized—to make their voices heard in public and be included in political decision-making.

Respect for human dignity and fundamental rights is deeply enshrined in our Constitution and in our institutionalized mechanisms, legislative measures, and judicial pronouncements have always reinforced our commitment towards the protection and promotion of human rights.

India has always condemned in the strongest words any act of violation of human rights. On this occasion, we rededicate ourselves to our commitment to these ideals and principles.

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MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Question No. 221 please.

### **ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

#### **Offshore wind power development**

\*221. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of implementation of the proposed “Roadmap for offshore wind power development in the country” that was to be taken up by the Offshore Wind Energy Steering Committee constituted by the Ministry;

(b) whether Government has any plans to install offshore wind demonstration projects during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

(a) The Ministry has constituted an Offshore Wind Energy Steering Committee. The Steering committee in its meeting held in March, 2012, decided to constitute a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Chairman, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to suggest draft policy guidelines for development of offshore wind energy activities in the country. The sub-committee has submitted its report to the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Apart from the presence of a policy, the implementation of offshore wind energy projects also depends upon firming of the wind resource, oceanographic studies, environmental impact assessment and various clearances required for such projects.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given.

Sir, to my question, the Ministry has answered that there was a Sub-Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and that they have also drafted the guidelines. But, it is not clearly given as to what the guidelines are. I would like the Minister to forward us those recommendations.

Sir, there is an unprecedented power cut crisis in Tamil Nadu—to the extent of 16 to 18 hours. Tamil Nadu has a huge potential in generating wind energy. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Ministry has received any proposal, so far, from the private sector for establishing off-shore wind power projects in Tamil Nadu. If so, when can we expect the projects to take off in full swing?

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH : Sir, there was an action committee framed by the Government to look at the off-shore wind energy potentials. This was under the Secretary of my Ministry. The other members were also taken in because there are other stakeholders like Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Coast Guards and Maritime Board. The committee had suggested the following measures. It

had five areas. The Sub-Committee was constituted in 2012 and a report came in September, 2012.

The areas identified were Rameswaram, Kanyakumari, Maharashtra, Kerala, Konkan and Gujarat. Phase-I of off-shore wind farms shall be developed within 12 nautical miles from the coast line in shallow water depths. A National Offshore Wind Energy Authority is proposed for issuing licences to explore wind potentials in specific blocks and issue licences to establish wind farms. Single window clearance mechanism suggested in line with oil and gas exploration. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, Sir, there is a huge potential for it. But some of the things that are necessary are, we have to see the cost factor. Today, the energy developed from off-shore is far more expensive, and no final figures have yet come up. Secondly, the most important part is that the power evacuation from there has also to be put on to the developer. That developer is not yet ready to do so. So, none of the proposals as yet have come from any side to develop the off-shore wind energy.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, after hearing his statement about this Sub-Committee's Report, Denmark being the pioneer in the field of off-shore wind energy, whether there is any mention about it, and whether we are going to hire technologies from them. Sir, through you, I request the hon. Minister to send me a detailed report about the follow up action in this regard.

Sir, my next question is...

MR. CHAIRMAN : One question only, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... One at a time. You are entitled to two. You have asked one; you have asked your second supplementary just now.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Sir, I am coming to the second supplementary only. I just wanted some more replies from him on the first supplementary, through you; not now, Sir. I am not taking the time of the House on that.

Sir, there was a high-level Committee set up by the NPCIL-AERB, on the direction from the hon. Prime Minister, on nuclear disaster after Fukushima. This Committee has given 17 recommendations. All of us know that the Fukushima disaster was there because there was no...

MR. CHAIRMAN : How does it relate to this question?

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Sir, it is related to it. I will relate it to this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Let the hon. Minister answer your question. But this is not related to it.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Sir, I am not asking any question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, why are you making a statement?

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Sir, through you, I request the hon. Minister to please send these details to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no; you have to ask a question, not make a statement.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Yes, Sir, I am asking the question. Sir, these 17 recommendations were not taken into consideration by the Ministry. I want to know whether the Ministry will take into consideration these 17 recommendations. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they would take it into consideration for future projects so that fear of the people can be allayed, and these projects can take off nicely.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. But I would request the hon. Members to ask questions, not make statements.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH : Sir, I would like to request the hon. Member that since I do not deal with the nuclear side of the problem, this question will have to be put directly to the Prime Minister who heads that Department.

Secondly, Sir, as far as the off-shore wind projects are concerned, there is no doubt that Denmark, England and Germany have developed quite a lot off-shore wind energy, and we are taking help from these countries to understand how to go about these projects. Anyway, Suzlon, one of the major companies of India, has already done work in Europe, and we are already looking into one of the projects that they are suggesting. But no final view has yet been taken. All my people who are dealing with this seabed and others are looking into these projects. We are already number five in wind energy in the world, and we are hopeful that more development will take place in this, and in coming days, Insha Allah, we will become number one in the world.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE : Sir, the question to the hon. Minister is on international cooperation. He has mentioned something about it. My question is specific

in the sense that I want to know what sort of technology transfer we have been able to get, what sort of funding is there and how they have really come to help us to develop this wind energy. Is it in the turbines or what is it exactly? I am asking this question because he did mention the name of Denmark, U.S., and all that. Would the hon. Minister give some details of it?

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH : Thank you for a very straightforward question. I would like to inform the hon. Member that we have been in discussion with the German Minister also who came to India and also the British and Scottish Ministers. If you look at our development of the wind energy machines, we have done very well. We are now producing most of the components except one or two which are still coming from outside. Most of the components are now made in our own nation. If you are ever able to visit Tamil Nadu, you will see some of these companies doing so well in manufacturing. But all the same, we are already in discussion with the Scottish Minister also to take up some of these off-shore wind forms they have developed. We are in discussion with Germany also. Our scientists are in discussion with them and we are hopeful. We don't need yet any components from them. We are only discussing at the present moment. As far as funding is concerned, no funding is coming from any of these countries. There is a fund that is being talked about which is between Norway, Britain and India for the development of renewable energy.

But nothing much has happened as far as that fund is concerned. That is still under discussion with the Finance Ministry. When that is finalized, we will inform the House about what has happened.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Sir, I would like to know whether the Government will think of a pilot project to be implemented in Rameswaram Island which is a very suitable place in all respects. Shallow water is also available there. Will it be done within a stipulated time instead of going through the paper work alone?

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH : Sir, this is completely new as far as we are concerned. Therefore, studies will have to be undertaken because each megawatt is costing at this moment between rupees 10 to 15 crores. That is also not even a final estimate as yet. Therefore, to start a pilot project, work is being done at this time. Once that work is finalized, then only we will be able to go into taking up the project at Rameswaram.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Sir, generation of power through wind or solar is a clean source of power generation. But unfortunately, what is happening is that, as

far as my information goes, 60 per cent of our projects which are based on wind power are sick, they are not working. More or less this source of investment has become depreciation availing source of financial management. What I want to know from you, Mr. Minister is this. Have you ever given a thought to or studied the real problems of the operators or the entrepreneurs who are engaged in wind power generation? Thank you, Sir.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH : Sir, it is a very specific question. There is no doubt that wind power manufacturers have been going through a rough time. The first reason is the payment that is to be paid to them by the State Governments. It is not the Central Government that pays, but it is the State Governments that pay. In some States, particularly, Tamil Nadu, for 14 months they did not get the money. This is one. Secondly, Sir, in some of these States the transmission lines have not been able to keep up with the machines that have come up. Sir, now we have improved a lot. From 50 millimetres, they have gone to 100 and machines from kilowatts have gone to megawatts. Now we have got 3.5 MW machines that are operational. But, because they have not been able to get the transmission lines, we are proposing to the Government of India that from the Clean Development Fund and the cess from coal that we have, we should give some money to the Central Government agencies for the development of these transmission lines, so that it becomes possible for them to evacuate the power. Thirdly, Sir, the power tariff which is fixed by the States is so low that some of these companies feel that time has come when the power tariff must be increased so that they can survive. The fourth reason, I must say, is that earlier they used to get generation-based incentive as well as depreciation-based incentive. Now, two years before the Eleventh Plan came to an end, when generation-based incentive came in, they requested that till the Eleventh Plan is over, they should get depreciation-based incentive and then let the company decide which of the incentives they want. Now, the position is that the Twelfth Plan has come; but that has not been approved yet by the National Development Council and, therefore, the generation-based incentive has also not been given. So, one of the reasons is also the generation-based incentive not being given, and we are now hopeful that once it is approved, it will be given. We do feel, many of them said that it was not their fault that they have not got it from the April fund. They say they would accept it if we could increase it a little more to start from the time it was approved. So, these combined factors have made it difficult for these people to survive. We are hopeful that our Ministry would make it possible for them to do better and we are hopeful that they will come out of the difficulties they have had all these months.