

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Eighteenth Session)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

I

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 4, 1976/Kartika
13, 1898 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Even of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER TAMIL NADU
CHIT FUNDS ACT, 1961 WITH STATE-
MENTS FOR DELAY

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-
MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): On
behalf of Shri Pranab Kumar
Mukherjee,

I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 63 of the Tamil Nadu Chit Funds Act, 1961 read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 31st January, 1976 issued by the President in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu:—
 - (i) G.O. Ms 564 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 4th December, 1974.
 - (ii) G.O. Ms 490 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 14th May, 1975.
 - (iii) G.O. Ms. 734 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 13th June, 1975 making certain amendments to the Tamil Nadu Chit Funds Rules, 1964.

2

(iv) G.O. Ms 1163 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 8th September, 1976 making certain amendment to the Tamil Nadu Chit Funds Rules, 1964.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Notifications mentioned at (i) to (iii) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-11498/76].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER TAMIL NADU
BUILDINGS (LEASE AND RENT CONTROL)
ACT, 1960 WITH STATEMENTS FOR DELAY
AND NOT LAYING IN HINDI

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUS-
ING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): I
beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (5) of section 34 of the Tamil Nadu Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1960 read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 31st January, 1976 issued by the President in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu:—
 - (i) G.O. Ms 729 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 30th March, 1976 making certain amendments to the Tamil Nadu Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Rules, 1974.
 - (ii) G.O.R. No. 1700 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 28th April 1976 making certain amendment to the Tamil Nadu Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Rules, 1974.

[Shri H. K. L. Bhagat]

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions)—

- (i) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notifications; and
- (ii) explaining reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the above Notifications.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-11499/76].

REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD., BOMBAY FOR 1975 WITH STATEMENT FOR NOT LAYING IN HINDI

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1975.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1975 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the above documents.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-11500/76].

ANNUAL REPORT OF UNITED INDIA FIRE AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO. LTD., MADRAS FOR 1974 WITH AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the United India

Fire and General Insurance Company Limited, Madras, for the year 1974 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11501/76].

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1976

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the National Highways (Amendment) Rules, 1976 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 680(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 1976, under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1966. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11502/76].

RUBBER (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1976 AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF RUBBER BOARD, COFFEE BOARD AND CARDAMOM BOARD, COCHIN FOR THE YEAR 1974-75

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Rubber (Amendment) Rules, 1976 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1497 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 1976, under sub-section (3) of section 25 of the Rubber Act, 1947. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11503/76].
- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the activities of the Rubber Board for the year 1974-75. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11504/76].
- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board for the year 1975-76. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11505/76].

- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Cardamom Board, Cochin, for the year 1974-75. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11506/76].

11.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

(i) MINUTES

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru): I beg to lay on the Table Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House held on the 3rd November, 1976.

(ii) THIRTY-FIRST REPORT

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA. I beg to present the Thirty-first Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINTH REPORT

SHRI N. K. SANGHI (Jalore): I beg to present the Two Hundred and thirty-ninth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations disclosed in the Appropriation Accounts for the years 1971-72 and 1972-73 relating to the Government of the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

REPORT AND MINUTES

SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA (Motihari): I beg to present the following Report and Minutes of the Committee on Petitions:—

- (i) Thirty-fourth Report; and

- (ii) Minutes of the Eighty-third to Eighty-ninth Sittings.

PETITION RE. ALLEGED ATROCITIES ON SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER WEAKER SECTIONS OF BHOJPUR IN BIHAR

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) :

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं बिहार के भोजपुर जिले में अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अन्य कमजोर वर्गों पर कथित अत्याचारों के बारे में श्री सूरज प्रसाद तथा अन्योद्वादा हस्ताक्षरित एक याचिका प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Sir, I rise on a point of order. Yesterday, towards the end of the proceedings, my friend, Shri Halder was speaking in Bengali with simultaneous English translation. He made some references to teaching of English in Gujarat. At that stage, I got up and corrected him because he was wrong on the facts. Then, he continued after I had interrupted. But I find in the debates after what Mr. Halder has said, and I quote, "I would like to oppose it, Sir, because the bureaucracy has no right to go against the wishes of the people particularly with regard to a sensitive issue like the medium of instruction", there is this mention in the proceedings "Shri Mavalankar... (Interruption)..." and, again, the report goes on with what Shri Halder said: "I am glad that Shri Mavalankar has given the correct position". But I do not know why the Reporters did not take what I said by way of correcting the facts and had merely mentioned 'Interruptions'! In this way, the debate will be misleading. I seek your guidance.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be checked up and corrections made.

11.07 hrs.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GUJARAT), 1976-77—
contd.**

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up further discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for the State of Gujarat for the year 1976-77. Shri D. D. Desai to continue.

SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kaira): Yesterday, I was saying that the Members were agitated about the high price of groundnut and non-availability of cotton in certain parts of the country and the Government of India had difficulties in procurement of cotton for the textile industry and for their ownself and had to resort to imports in both these commodities. Gujarat seems to be the principal State which was under criticism. I would put it correctly that the State of Gujarat would like very much to grow groundnut and cotton in abundance which are badly required by the country but the policy of support price must be declared before the sowing season. In the case of groundnut, there is no price declaration even today. The effect of this is that groundnut oil is sold in Rajkot, according to Times of India, at Rs. 3.60 a kilo whereas in many other parts of the country, the price is as high as Rs. 9/- or so. This shows the distortions in economy which could occur if certain improper methods are used. The same thing had also happened in the case of cotton. The cotton of long staple fibre had dropped to Rs. 2400/-. There was no purchaser and the result was that the farmers were in distress; the Government of India was approached; nothing could be done and the import was arranged. Today, the difficulty is that the Government had to import cotton and that too, I am afraid, was done by mistake. The price of imported cotton is higher by about Rs. 500 to Rs. 1500 than the cotton which could be procured in the country. The first bale of imported

cotton came in the third week of October whereas if the amount of Rs. 35 crores and 90 crores in foreign exchange which were given to the foreign farmers for importing cotton, were given to the Indian farmers in June, they would have given cotton in October at a much cheaper price. In other words, the operations of our policy in respect of these commodities which are sensitive, may be taken notice of. The same thing has happened in respect of other commodities. I have drawn the attention of the House repeatedly that unless the support prices are declared well in advance of the sowing season, it is difficult for the farmers to know what exactly is wanted by the Government. In the absence of remunerative price and due to non-lifting of goods and restrictions on the movement of stock, depression takes place and this creates reduction in crop acreage and the crop output. The important factor in these two cases is the input. The farmers cannot afford fertilisers and insecticides and these are some of the things which may be taken note of.

Then there is another issue. We have two turbo-generator sets, gas turbines, lying there for years. Unfortunately, I have been asking to let me know the places where the gas is occurring. If the longitude and the latitude is precisely given, we can easily know the nearest Indian coast where the pipeline can be laid. You know the high cost of marine pipeline. This distortion and unnecessary manipulation by some bureaucrats to have a better life in some other place is unnecessarily going to harm and cost us much more than what we should have borne. Ultimately the sufferer will be the economy of India and the Government of India itself. What is not right, will not stand. And, therefore, to try to do something wrong will not be proper either.

I have mentioned about fertilizers earlier. One of the points is about the high cost of our fertilizers. This

has affected our production. People have been telling that our fertilizer consumption has gone down. The fact is otherwise. We have found that the farmers are unable to afford fertilizers; because our costs are so high that they cannot have them; and the crop prices which they get are lower. To-day, unfortunately, the prices of our agricultural products are the lowest in the world. I am ready to establish it, in spite of what others might say. But the costs of our agricultural inputs are the highest. With the inputs having the highest cost, our farmers are able to get you the lowest price of products. The difference is borne by the subsidy given to the millions and millions of farmers, to our economy. If they are ready to do it, and if we are the beneficiaries, why should not we take care of these people, by seeing to it that their inputs in this respect are stabilized or brought to a particular level? There are two factors: One, stabilization of farm produce prices and another, the stabilization of input prices. In regard to input prices, we had seen that fertilizer costs are disproportionately higher. To-day, the Bombay High gas offers us a unique advantage, to enable us to supply farmers the fertilizers at a uniform price. It should not be used for power stations because that will be a waste of chemical raw materials.

There is another aspect to which I would like to draw attention. The matter is now before the tribunal. In an arid zone like Gujarat, particularly in Saurashtra, Kutch and many parts of northern Gujarat, rainfall is meagre and the loss of rain-fall means famine or drought. I would request the Government and the PM to intervene and see that the deliberations before the Narmada Tribunal are brought to a close, because the arguments that are going on there, are irrelevant to the tribunal's terms of reference. If we can afford the high fees of the lawyers, they make merry. They get the best of incomes.

The country cannot afford this. Water is getting wasted. After all, whether it is Madhya Pradesh or Gujarat, the country loses. Our approach is that whoever can make better use of it, he can do so, because the country-wide problem is non-availability of food-grains. Therefore, I would strongly urge the government and the PM to see that this Narmada waters dispute is settled once and for all.

Other points like the question of power rates are also there. The power rates are the highest in Gujarat. Unfortunately or fortunately, Gujarat has to find fuel oil. Fuel oil is required badly, because of the high pricing policy of the OPEC. The oil that is found in Gujarat or near abouts is the country's property. But the country should not consider that Gujarat should face the consequences for having found oil, by not providing Gujarat either the rebate in the freight rate on fuel or an alternative fuel; so that the power rates could be equalized with the rates in the other areas. The Oil Ministry should take notice of this.

There are certain criticisms by Opposition Members. I would once again refute those criticisms. The criticism has rested on misinformed data and if any of the Members have any particular argument to show that such a criticism of the government was well-founded, we are in a position to repudiate it with facts and figures.

We are talking about the Emergency. We have the 20-point programme; and the 5-point programme. Both these programmes are excellent on paper. They are being talked about at the bureaucratic level, but the association of the people broadly, is missing. This is true again, of Gujarat also. The hon. Minister may convey this to the appropriate authorities, so that the association of people

[Shri D. D. Desai]

with the implementation of both these programmes is ensured, and that both these programmes are implemented expeditiously. This would ensure that the benefits of the programmes go to the poorer sections of the people. In Gujarat, fortunately for us, there is a very large number of people who are inclined to serve the poor. If we respect this charitable disposition of the people and use it, and if we play upon the finer values or virtues of human beings, they would go to the end of the world to see that the poor people's misfortunes are eliminated. It may be in the fields of education, training, employment or charitable institutions. It may be in any area of activity, social or any other. In each of these activities, if the government does not dissociate itself from the people of Gujarat or from the people of charitable disposition, I am quite convinced that we will succeed. I am aware of a large number of people who would be ready to serve the people of their own State, and of other States also, (*Interruptions*)... I have just mentioned, in any manner, social or economic. I also referred to charitable institutions, educational institutions and bodies giving employment-based technical training. In whatever manner the Government might want it, if it says: "Here is a scheme; here is a project on which we want so much amount of money", people would contribute liberally.

Another angle is this, viz. that the highest deposits made into the banking system is, as the hon. Minister is aware, from Gujarat. The *per capita* investment in banks is the highest there. The lowest ratio in India, of advances from banks, is made to Gujarat. In other words, whereas Gujarat deposits about Rs. 850 crores into the 14 nationalized banks, advances disbursed in Gujarat are hardly Rs. 400 crores—that means a contribution of nearly Rs. 450 crores which may mean employment to people outside the State or within State. Some

times we have been quite worried about the slow rate of growth that has been taking place in the case of the finances of the State financial institutions or other government organizations. I will give a concrete case. They have withdrawn some of the facilities, e.g., the sales tax loan. Similarly several other facilities have been withdrawn. The reason for the withdrawal is said to be lack of funds—lack of funds arising not because of non-availability of deposits from the people into the coffers of the nationalized banks or of government. Calamities, which I mentioned earlier, take away a big chunk of the investment or deposits made into the banking system and to other areas. One of the States having achieved the lowest per centage of rural electrification is Gujarat, whereas Punjab is fortunate to have achieved 100 per cent; Haryana has achieved 100 per cent; and Tamil Nadu has achieved over 90 per cent—so also Kerala and so many other States. Gujarat has attained something like 37 per cent. This shows that big tracts of countryside are without electricity. This also is one of the reasons why productivity cannot be improved, employment cannot be increased and the growth rate of standard of living cannot be improved. Funds may be made available by the government for these purposes also. We have the longest coastline *per capita* of any State in India, and we have now extended our territorial waters to 200 miles. We have an obligation to exploit this area, but are we taking care of that obligation? Obviously no, because the training of the people and the institutions which are required for this are missing. We have very friendly relations with a number of countries. Some of the Scandinavian countries as well as the Soviet Union have the finest types of designs in boats and other fishing craft, but we are not making use of them. Therefore, I suggest once again that adequate funds should be made available, as there are craftsmen available who can be utilised to manufacture these vessels.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): When, on the first day, I suggested that we should not have any Lunch Hour, I really meant it only for the period during which we were discussing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill. Now that that is over, I think all Members will be happy to have the Lunch recess today and tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we will have the Lunch Hour today and tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): The further six-month extension of President's rule necessitates the bringing of this first batch of Supplementary Demands for the State of Gujarat for 1976-77 amounting to Rs. 15.93 crores.

I would like to ask at the outset how long President's rule is going to continue in my State, because this uncertainty is killing, one can understand it if there is no majority in the Assembly of the State or there is a constitutional breakdown, but the Congress Party in my State has already a majority, and they have claimed from the house tops that they have 106 out of 182 Members. They are also constantly increasing their majority by defections and other clever methods. So, I do not know why this uncertainty should hang over the people of Gujarat, because the lack of a popular Government does mean that a certain derangement in the administration takes place. Policy decisions get bogged down. On a number of important matters, the administration, by the very nature of things, is not able to take decisions. I am quite sure that the hon. Deputy Minister while replying will say that she does not know everything, and that she will pass on my views to the State administration. Of course, she is not expected to

know everything. My question is: Why should everything be brought here at the level of Delhi when the level of Gujarat is available? The MLAs are there, the Assembly has not been dissolved, it is only kept in suspended animation. So, this uncertainty must go as early as possible, so that the administrators and the people are not in two minds.

What is more important, and more tragic in a way, is that the administrators under President's rule—I do not wish to give any names, nor is it proper to do so, nor do I want to go into the details of this or that minor incident—both in Gandhinagar Sachivalaya and Ahmedabad and elsewhere try to be in the good books of both the rival camps, the Madhavsingh Solanki camp and the Hitendra Desai camp, because they do not know who is going to become the next Chief Minister, and they think it is better to be good with both! That kind of thing is not good for the quality of Public and political life of any State, not to talk of Gujarat only.

As I said, the Congress Party has a majority of 106. Two dozen opposition MLAs have been detained under MISA, mostly belonging to the Janata Front, and they are behind bars. On October 6, only the ex-Chief Minister, Shri Babubhai Jashbhai Patel, was suddenly released. Nobody knows why he was released, he himself perhaps does not know! The others are still in prison. Here is a very interesting and a very scandalous political situation that you have a majority of 106 out of 182, or rather 176 because five Congress Members have unfortunately died and we should leave out the Speaker. Another 10 or 15 are committed to support the Congress Party, and as I said, 24 opposition Members are in jail, and yet the Congress Party is not taking a firm stand on forming the Government. I am not criticising or condemning the in-fighting in the Congress Party; that is for the

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

Congress Party to decide, but, for this in fighting, why should the people of Gujarat suffer? The tragedy is that although repeatedly every five or so years the Gujarat Assembly has almost continuously given the Congress Party a substantial majority, much beyond what is desirable and healthy in a parliamentary set-up, yet they are not able to form a Government, and if it is formed, it is immediately made unstable by this or other method. I am sure my friends from the Congress Party will say that they are a disciplined people, that they work with unity, but that they have not yet made up their mind as to who should be their Chief Minister. I understand their difficulties and dilemmas. But why do they play with words? Perhaps, however, they can play with words, but realities are different. One has to face up to realities, and not play with them!

Several pressing and urgent problems still remain pending in Gujarat, and have remained pending, because the political link and liaison between the State Government and the Centre are broken and have been continuously missing. I am glad that my hon. friend, Dr. K. L. Rao, is present here. Mr. Dharmasinh Bhai Desai said that the Narmada dispute should be settled. Perhaps we were harassing Dr. Rao as to when we were going to get the award. But the Prime Minister's award has already vanished, and the Tribunal's award is also not coming. I do not say that you do not listen to what Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra or Rajasthan says and wants, but settle the dispute immediately and in the national interests. This would have happened if Gujarat had a popular Government with its political liaison in Delhi to go on pressing the matter.

In the last 8 months of President's rule I find that only two meetings have taken place of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Gujarat

Legislation which the Speaker was good enough to appoint—one in Gandhinagar on 15th May, and another in Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi on 14th October, but I am sorry to say that we got very little time at these meetings. In Delhi we got a few hours, and when we raised so many items for discussion, there was no time available. Actually, the casual manner in which this Parliamentary Committee is treated by the Government does not augur well either for the Government or for the proper functioning of such committees.

Now, I want to invite very briefly the attention of this august House to the very difficult situation faced by some of the weaker sections and backward sections of the community in Gujarat. For example, I still find that the landless labourers in my State—I have been to some of the districts myself, I have also learnt and heard from Correspondents—are not getting their minimum wage already given to them by rules and regulations and legislation passed by the Gujarat Government. The minimum wage was increased from Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 5.50. There are countless landless labourers who are being added to these weaker sections of the community. The weaker sections must be helped forthwith. I join with you in saying that. But I am eager also to join with you in implementing what you say. The difficulty is that you do not implement it. Tens of thousands of people are not getting their minimum wages. I do not say that they should all start getting it immediately. Let the administration take effective steps to see and ensure that landless labourers on the farms begin to get their minimum wage.

Harijans and Adivasis also are not getting their due share. I find, one of the Supplementary Demands for Grants refers to increasing the staff of the Tribal Welfare Corporation. In this country, we are very quick in increasing the bureaucracy and administrative paraphernalia but not in increasing the welfare of the poor people. What is the good of telling me that the staff in

the Tribal Welfare Corporation is being increased? By merely having more clerks, you cannot provide more welfare to the tribal people who in millions are waiting to get their due share as rightful citizens of the Democratic and, now, Socialist Republic of India. This must be looked into.

As regards the textile and other workers, specially the textile workers in Ahmedabad, Surat, Baroda, Bhavnagar and in many other places and, particularly, in Ahmedabad, in my own constituency, there are lots of complaints and difficulties due to lay-offs etc. Of course, there is no bonus now because the Parliament has decided not to give bonus. The whole climate, however, is such that textile workers and other factory workers including the handloom workers are facing a lot of difficulties.

There is the problem of slum dwellers. I come from Ahmedabad which was inhabited by no less a man than the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi for 15 years, from 1915 when he came from South Africa to 1930 when he left for the Dandi March. Every fourth person in Ahmedabad, in my State is a slum dweller! My head hangs in shame because, after all, we are living in 1976 and we cannot still provide even a decent slum by having some improvement schemes. One person out of four persons is a slum dweller and is living in a veritable hell. I say, whether it is the popular rule or the President's rule or the Government of India's rule, it is not really in tune with justice and fairplay for the common people.

One of the Supplementary Demands for Grants refers to a grant of Rs. 60 lakhs to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation for the Urban Development programme. I welcome it. But all I can say to the hon. Minister, to the Government of India is, please give more funds for the more urgent and quick implementation of slum improvement schemes and slum clearance programmes so that these unfortunate people who are hovering round the city

and the urban agglomeration for jobs—they cannot remain in the villages—coming miles away from their villages for their daily work, have some decent place to live in. Therefore, some improvement must be made there and the urban development must get more finance.

Again, I find, the commoners are faced with a number of problems. There is a rise in prices. No matter what gains the Emergency has brought about, the main problem remains and that is of rising prices, not only in Gujarat but in the rest of the country as well. There is the shortage of edible oil, and also of sugar. I do not want to mention other commodities. The problem of shortage is there in spite of the efforts to solve the problem.

About the students and teachers. I myself being a teacher, I feel naturally more concerned with their problems. The students and teachers are also not being looked after well, whether it is the President's rule or the popular rule. There is a supplementary demand for grant about giving school building funds to panchayats for repairing buildings which were washed out during the last cyclone and flood in June, July and August, 1976. So far so good. But the problem is massive. There is one Saint in Gujarat who recently passed away and who is known as Puja Mota of Hari Om Ashram in Nadiad and, before he passed away, he said, "I want to see and ensure that every village in Gujarat must have at least one big hall for primary school children to come and sit and learn there." Already, about Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 40 lakhs have been contributed voluntarily by the people for building such a memorial in the Gujarat villages to this great Saint. A supplementary demand for grant of a few lakhs is, therefore, not enough. You should provide for more money for primary education and for building up schools.

There is the new pattern of 10+2+3 that is taking place all over the country, and so also in Gujarat. The pro-

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

blem of higher secondary education requires greater Central assistance both through the U.G.C. and also directly from the Ministry of Education.

I do not want to say much about the teaching of English language. I find, the Governor has taken a very bold and realistic decision even during the President's rule to the effect that English will be taught to the students from the Sixth standard. Two generations of my people in Gujarat in terms of knowledge and jobs and other things have suffered because they were denied the facility of learning of English adequately. I am not one of those who want English as a medium of instruction. I want Gujarati and Hindi to prosper rightfully. But English must also be well taught. I am glad that this need has been recognised. It will require more English language teachers and more funds for schools which should be provided.

Talking about higher education, as there are sick mills, there are also sick colleges not only in Gujarat but also, I understand, in Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country. Colleges grow like a mushroom growth. There are no funds to finance them, manage them and nurture them. Therefore, I want the Government of India and the Gujarat Administration to go into the question of the closure of colleges, the funds for the management of various colleges, the salaries and UGC scales for professors and teachers.

The V. V. John Committee Report on Higher Education—I have never been tired of repeating it on the floor of the House—must be made available to us. There was a meeting last month in which the Advisor promised that it would be made available. Nearly one month has elapsed but it has not yet seen the light of the day. I would request the hon. Minister to see, that the V. V. John Committee Report on Higher Education is made available.

There is one supplementary demand for grant for free legal aid. I would

like to know how this free legal aid to people getting less than Rs. 2400 income per year is being actually given in some of the talukas in Gujarat.

Gujarat is one of the well industrialised States in the country. But I still find that there is some imbalance there. There are certain areas and regions where industrialisation can take place better and with greater acceleration and speed, with greater purpose and coordination. From that point of view, I would only mention two points. The first one is about the question of power and energy. Gujarat has been wanting to have an atomic power station in Saurashtra. The hon. Minister of Energy, Mr. K. C. Pant, goes on telling us again and again, "We will do it. But we have not yet taken a decision." When are you going to take a decision? If you do not take a decision quickly, we will be without adequate power in 1980. That will be a very serious problem.

I would say a word about the Bombay High. The utilisation of gas and oil of Bombay High bears vital importance as it will contribute a lot to the industrial development of both Gujarat and the country. I understand, the High Level Committee in New Delhi at the Central level is soon to take a decision regarding the utilisation of oil and gas found at Bombay High. But, unfortunately, the decision regarding what quantity of oil and gas will be utilised in Gujarat is still not taken. It is all the more tragic because it is estimated that about 9 million tonnes of oil and 18 million c.e. metres will be available from this complex in the next five years.

These are some of the problems that I wanted to highlight during the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Gujarat. I hope, this is the First and the last time when the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the State of Gujarat are being brought before this House. I do want a popular Government in Gujarat to take place as early as possible, no matter to which party that popular admini-

nistration belongs. After all, the people must not be denied their due rights to have access to MLAs, the Ministers, for a number of problems that they are facing both at the State level and at the federal level. From that angle, I want the Gujarat problems to be solved effectively, efficiently and purposefully.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA (Jamnagar):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants relating to the State of Gujarat put forward to this House by the hon. Deputy Minister of Finance whom I can now rightly call as the Minister of Gujarat.

I will not deal with the points which have already been talked about by my colleagues here. I would like to begin by complimenting the State Government for the determined effort they are making to implement the 20-point programme and, in doing so, involving the panchayat at different levels in implementing this economic programme and, more so, in the family planning programme. I only hope that they would be given more functions, more authority, to the directly elected representatives of the people in implementing the other State programmes also.

My colleague, Mr. D. D. Desai, mentioned about a very important matter and that was regarding the groundnut policy. I will not repeat what he said. But I would only like to make an appeal to the State Government, do whatever you think is proper but do it in the interest of the smaller farmer. The small farmers who cannot afford to keep their groundnut with them for long have now started coming into the market and they have started giving their produce to the wholesalers who are buying it from them at a very low rate. Though the percentage of acreage in the Saurashtra region which is the main groundnut area is 15 to 20 per cent more than what it was previously, the crop has been a failure and, more so, in the western parts of Sau-

ashtra, which means, the districts of Junagarh, Rajkot and Jamnagar. The production has, therefore, come down and with the production having come down, it is the small farmer who is going to suffer. I would request the State Government to announce a policy whereby the price of groundnut should be fixed from now on, thereby supporting the small farmer of Saurashtra.

Along with the question of price of groundnut, I would like to mention that the State Government has put a check on the movement of groundnut kernel from one taluk to another. If it is in the interest of the farmer, I do not mind. But what we have been hearing is that special permission can be given by the district level officer for such movement and these officers who are competent to give permission can only lead to corruption. If the State Government feels that such a restriction is only helping the officials at the cost of the farmer, I would request the State Government to review this policy of theirs and allow a free movement of groundnut kernel from taluk to taluk because it may be that a taluk headquarter may be far away from his own field or from his own village and he may have to sell his produce to another taluk or to another mandi which is nearer by.

I would like to mention one more point which concerns the Gujarat State Fertiliser Corporation. Now, here is a Corporation which is half-owned by the State Government, which is half-managed by the State Government. I have nothing to say against the management. On the contrary, I would compliment them that this year they have made a record profit of something like Rs. 9.53 crores. They have never made such a profit. What is the worker getting out of it? When the profit was less, they were given a bonus of 33.33 per cent. This year, because the profit has been high, they have been given 20 per cent. I am not talking as a Union leader, nor am I talking on behalf of any particular Union. I am only talking on behalf of the workers,

[Shri D. P. Jadeja]

Class III and Class IV workers, who have been denied their rightful share. On the contrary, when they made a representation, they were told either to accept this or to go away. Where do you expect these Class III and Class IV workers to go? Why don't they compare and see what are the wages in other industries in that area and what are the profits? The GSFC has had a record profit. It is not only the management who should get the credit for that; the rightful credit should be given to the workers also. I would only request the Central Government to intervene in this matter and see to it that these workers get their minimum 33 per cent bonus because these workers have the work in such conditions that none of them lives for more than 60 years; they have to work with chemicals. If you see their average life span, you will find that nobody passes 60 or 65 years. I would request the Government to take this more seriously and also see that, in the Board of Management, not only in the GSFC but in all concerns where Government have shares, there is a representative of the labour.

One point mentioned by Mr. Desai was about off-shore fishing and about the Gujarat coast. I would only add to it that Gujarat today has the prospects in fishing industry, as far as the area is concerned, as far as the catches are concerned, as far as the underdevelopment of this industry is concerned. Mr. Desai mentioned about new designs for new boats. I agree. Let them come. But what should we do now? These boats will come after a few years. The life span of the marine life is only a year or 1½ years. We are losing national wealth. Why should the State Government not take a bold step in chartering deep sea vessels and in having collaboration? The Agro-Marine Corporation should go into this and fully explore the possibilities that are there on the coast of Saurashtra.

I would like to compliment the State Government and the Central Govern-

ment for their announcement on the Kutch Development Board. It is a welcome decision which was long overdue. My friend, Dr. Mahipatray Mehta, has to be complimented more on this. Like Kutch, we have several parts in Saurashtra, which are drought-prone, which are backward, which do not have any industrialisation and nor do they have any scope for future development. Let Government consider having a Development Board, a Backward Area Development Board or Drought-Prone Development Board—I do not know what name you will give to that. Let them have a Board to look after the interests of the people who belong to these areas. Let it be for taluks; I am not asking for districts.

My last point is about development of tourism in Gujarat. The Gujarat Government have already started a Tourist Development Board. Good luck to them. I hope they will be able to implement all the programmes which they want to. But why have a Board only with officials? Can they not take the help of non-officials also to serve on the Board? Furthermore, the total budget for that is only Rs. 1 lakh. I would like to know what the State Government is going to do with only Rs. 1 lakh. I would request the Minister in charge of Gujarat to go deep into this and see that tourism, which is being neglected in Gujarat and more so in Saurashtra, is taken up more seriously by the Central Government.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SHUSHILA ROHATGI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I would like to thank all the hon. Members, who have participated in this discussion and, more or less, they have covered up the entire gamut of administration of the Gujarat State. It is true that it would be better if these things were discussed in the Gujarat Assembly itself, but we also know the circumstances which forced the President's rule there. Gujarat is a State which has created a history and has been known for its culture, traditions, education, clean-

liness, and hard-working people. Some hon. Members spoke about the elections and at what time these would be held. I think, that would be taken care of at the appropriate time.

Sir, I must place on record what has been done in the meantime in the President's rule. I think, I would be failing in my duty, if I did not put certain figures before the hon. Members here, otherwise it would be one-sided picture.

During this entire period, we find that there has been general improvement in the toning up and the streamlining of the administration and very strict steps have been taken in order to gear up the machinery for the speedier implementation of the 20-Point Programme.

We find that a High Power Committee has been set up by the Governor in order to coordinate the various activities and the public distribution system has also been streamlined. There may be certain difficulties here and there, and if they are explicitly pointed out, certainly we will look into these cases. But I do find that many of the traders, who were indulging in anti-social and anti-economic activities, have been dealt with in the manner which they rightly deserved. All this had a salutary effect upon the general administration, and, therefore, the prices which had shown somewhat slight rise in the earlier months started showing a positive decline by the mid-August this year. The law and order situation, on the whole, has registered a significant improvement. All this helped in creating a better condition in the State itself. On the top of it, when the State was visited by a severe cyclone, heavy rains and floods, we find that the machinery was geared up immediately, relief measures were taken and special arrangements were made to see that the loss of life, loss or damage to cattle and damage to property and other things were minimised to the maximum possible extent. This tempo had to be kept up and as

a result, extension of the President's rule took place.

In the meantime, the Consultative Committee has already met twice. It has 34 members from the Lok Sabha and 17 from the other House. Various legislative measures have taken place, and, therefore, to say that any of the important issues have not been decided upon, I do not think, would be a very correct factual position.

One of the points mentioned by some hon. Members from the opposition was about the price rise and I would like to clarify this position. A strict vigil has been maintained over the price movements. I would like to quote the figures to show this. 4511 raids have been carried out during the President's rule till the middle of September, 1976. 336 arrests have been made as also 442 prosecutions. 47 detentions under MISA have been ordered as a part of the drive against hoarding and profiteering. 32,833 bogus ration cards have been cancelled. Rigorous enforcement measures have also been undertaken by Government and firm action has been taken against the traders who were withholding adequate supplies to the market. Prices of various eatables in the catering establishments have been fixed. The public distribution system has been strengthened by addition of 699 fair price shops till the middle of September, 1976. The cumulative effect of Government measures on the price trend is seen in the decline of the prices of a number of essential commodities ranging from 6.7 per cent to 47.8 per cent during the period June to September, 1976. I think, that would give a fair idea so far as the prices are concerned.

A question was raised about the minimum wages not being adhered to. I would submit that there are in all 34 scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act in Gujarat. Government has so far fixed revised minimum wages in respect of 24 employments. In five employments, process is on, while in the remaining five em-

[Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi]

ployments as the number of employees employed therein in the whole State is less than 1000 workers. Government has refrained from fixing minimum wages. At the same time if Shri Mavalankar has any specific case, certainly the Government is prepared to look into the same and rectify the situation. If any injustice or harassment is being done, we will look into that.

As regards the family planning, Gujarat has done well, as most of the States have. Gujarat has, on its own initiative, increased the target apart from those given by the Government of India and good work has been done there.

A question was raised about English and I do remember that yesterday when some hon. Member was speaking, Shri Mavalankar did get up and tried to put the correct picture so far as introduction of English as a compulsory subject from 6th instead of 8th class was concerned. We found that the standard of English was rather low and, therefore, in the all-India competitions, it was really not helping the people from Gujarat and as a result, we have recently decided to introduce from the next academic year the teaching of English as a compulsory subject from VI standard in the schools. I am glad that this has been welcomed by Members concerned.

Shri Desai and many other hon. Members raised the question of groundnut oil. We find that the estimate of groundnut production for 1976-77 season is estimated at about 18 to 20 lakh tonnes of groundnut shells. With the arrival of the new crop in the market, there has been further improvement in the supply position of groundnut oil. It has now become easy. The retail price has also gone down and it is between Rs. 4.90 to Rs. 5.40 per kg. The wholesale price at Rajkot for a 16 kg. tin is Rs. 72 exclusive of taxes for a new tin and Rs. 71 for an old tin. The offtake from the fair price shops has also gone

down. That shows that the problem was a temporary one and stringent measures have been taken to overcome that.

As regards the Plan outlay for 1976-77, this has been raised recently. We had a proposal from the State for an additional outlay to the tune of 43.15 crores, but the Planning Commission, after taking into consideration the relevant matters, agreed to an additional outlay of 21 crores. This would take the total approved plan outlay for 1976-77 to Rs. 214.25 crores. Originally, the Plan outlay was Rs. 193.25 crores which also included Rs. 15 crores for tribal sub-plan. I have also got with me the break-up and it gives priority to total overall development.

A mention was also made by some hon. Members about the John Committee Report. This has been examined from time to time, but so far no final decision has been taken because the recommendations have far-reaching implications and there is the financial aspect also. The State Government might have to bear the additional financial burden. The Report is still under consideration.

I think, I have covered most of the work that has been done in the State so far. We find that the State Government under the President's rule is going ahead with the task of development, with special priority to the 20-Point Programme and to see that more and more amenities are made available to the people. At the same time, I have no doubt, whatsoever, that the Gujarat State which has played a historic part in the past, is destined to play even a better part in future with the cooperation and participation of the people. When it is under the President's rule, we find that all the schemes are going ahead at the scheduled time.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: What about the specific points I raised? The Deputy Minister has not replied to

them. At least, let her kindly pass them on to the Gujarat Administration.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I think I have replied to almost all the points raised by the hon. Member. If any points remain, certainly they will be taken care of by the Ministers concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Except about the introduction of popular rule, she has tried to answer every other point.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: About the V. V. John Committee's Report on higher education, even on the floor of the House I have been repeatedly requesting through this Government as well that that committee's report must be made available. The Adviser has already promised. So, why not get it printed and make it available? I think that should be accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: She will consider it.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: The Adviser assured us to have it printed. I am only asking her to get it expedited.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: The Government will consider the publication of the report after a decli-

sion has been taken on the recommendation.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Last month, in the Consultative Committee over which the Home Minister presided, the Adviser said specifically in reply to my query and promised that the committee's report will be made available to the people of Gujarat. Therefore, it should be expedited.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be conveyed to the Minister concerned.

Now, the question is:—

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1977, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against:—

Demands Nos. 3, 9, 12, 16, 26, 28, 30, 35, 39, 49, 55, 57, 58, 60, 63, 65, 73, 74 and 76."

The motion was adopted.

List of Supplementary Demands for Grants (Gujarat) for 1976-77 voted by the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
3	Elections	21,00,000	
9	Tax Collection Charges (Finance Department) .	18,91,000	
12	Other Expenditure pertaining to Finance Department	6,15,000	
16	Other Expenditure pertaining to Legal Department .	1,04,000	..
26	Agriculture	1,000	1,00,00,000
28	Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development .	3,09,000	..

2				3	
				Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
30	Forests	.	.	..	26,09,000
35	Education	.	.	..	12,00,000
39	Tribal Area Sub-Plan	.	.	1,000	..
49	Industries	.	.	..	6,39,48,000
55	Medical	.	.	2,000	..
57	Public Health	.	.	6,00,000	..
58	Urban Development	.	.	1,02,000	60,00,000
60	Other Expenditure pertaining to Panchayats and Health Department			2,00,00,000	
63	Non-Residential Buildings	.	.	5,06,000	..
65	Irrigation and Soil Conservation	.	.	..	10,51,000
73	District Administration	.	.	43,73,000	..
74	Relief on account of Natural Calamities	.	.	..	4,00,00,000
76	Compensations and Assignments	.	.	..	19,03,000

12.03 hrs.

I beg to move†:

GUJARAT APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL*, 1976

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat for the services of the financial year 1976-77.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat for the services of the financial year 1976-77."

The motion was adopted

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I introduce† the Bill.

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in Gazette of India Extra ordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 4-11-76.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

††Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Clause 2 and 3, the Schedule, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.05 hrs.

PONDICHERRY APPROPRIATION
(NO. 4) BILL*, 1976

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the services of the financial year 1976-77.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the services of the financial year 1976-77."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I introduce† the Bill.

I beg to move†:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration."

Shri Aravinda Bala Pajanor.

SHRI ARAVINDA BALAJANOR: (Pondicherry): I must thank at the outset the hon. Minister for coming forward with supplementary demands so that Pondicherry can be discussed at least once again. I thought I would be the solitary member but I find I will be followed by Mr. Ravi. ...

AN HON. MEMBER: You will speak on matters other than Pondicherry also.

SHRI ARAVINDA BALAJANOR: I am speaking on other matter also and I speak much more than the members from your side. I would like others also take some interest about Pondicherry. You know Pondicherry has made a record here in this House. Of course, in the emergency we cannot say because it can be extended further. So far as President's rule is concerned, Pondicherry has achieved that record and at times I do not want to say that I am dejected and I am not interested in taking part in the discussion as far as Pondicherry is concerned because no action is taken, majority of the criticisms or suggestions that are made are not looked into when they come for the second time.

I do not know whether the Minister remembers. Last time when we met, I do not know how to call it, I made a very serious plea that you must have a committee for Pondicherry when this territory is under President's rule for the past three years like the ones you have for Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. When I suggested this, I know many Ministers also agreed with me that it was a good point and that they would consider it and that they will pass on

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†Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Aravinda Bala Pajnor]

the suggestion to the concerned Government. When I referred to this committee and gave good reasons why I demand it very seriously, my friend referred to her as the Minister for Gujarat. Our Deputy Minister for Finance has become a permanent Minister for Pondicherry. I know Mr. Om Mehta is the Minister in charge of the Union Territories. He promised to visit our territory and promised many things. When he said this, I thought that they would consider Pondicherry as a very important matter.

Sir, when we think of this 20-point programme and, of course, the five point programme also is added to it, people understand them and think about the good things that are going to come through these plans and programmes. At the same time, they want to participate in the development of these programmes and they want to contribute their mite in lifting this country from the slums and the squalor. So, when a demand is made, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister as to how casually these things are met and, of course, some progress has been made and in my territory also some progress is made. Sir, if you look into this, just to satisfy a certain formality you are printing certain things without considering to what kind of ridicule it will lead to. I know it is very difficult for the hon. Minister to go into every detail. It is the duty of the Department which supplies to the Minister both here and in my territory, to supply correct information. How sometimes does it look, I am sorry to say, odd to find certain things mentioned in these supplementary demands. I remember, when I entered this House in the beginning of the year 1974 I pleaded about the Christian women. After that you celebrated International Women's Year. I find a number of booklets and pamphlets about the status of women.

I made a remark in this House that the Pondich. Christian women are those people who are not given renaiss-

sance and are still slaves. They do not have right for property. They cannot claim shares with the male members. It was very much promised then by the then Minister, Shri Ganesan, and subsequently by other Minister Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee and now Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi. Nothing has been done up to this time. I requested them to introduce it in the Indian Succession Act. Scant respect was paid to this. I am afraid this may happen to many other States also. If you are going to apply this norm or scale of attention to particular things, it will finally end in Bourgeois regime. I wished to bring this to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister but it is difficult for her to go into the details. It is the duty of every Ministry. It is the duty of the Department concerned to take it very seriously and do the needful also. This is a demand about the status of women in Pondicherry. Thousands are affected. I made this demand in 1974, but up to this time nothing has been done.

In my case file there were four cases that were pending before the High Court of Madras. Women do not get relief under the Indian Succession Act, because Christians are not covered. In Renaissance they may go to the court of law and get the right. They suffer because you did not care to introduce it in the Succession Act.

After my speech it is remarked that the Pondicherry member made a good speech. That is all. I am pleased. But people at my corner knock at my back and say what is this? I say that the respect for democracy will die down.

All the four cases failed and could not be taken care of because of the fact that legislators are not taken care of. If there is a Consultative Committee for Pondicherry this matter can be raised there. The Committee people can bring this to the notice of the Central Government and can correct the State Government there also.

All these matters are connected because you are having President's rule over there for the last three years. It is a record. Nobody can beat. There is no Committee to look into it. Some Administrative Officers and Secretaries are there. I do not want to criticise them. We have a new good Governor there. He is very popular. He is, of course, serious in implementing many other things. I do not want to go into that field. But you are not paying any serious attention to the simple proposition which I made last year.

I thank you with a heavy heart as you are introducing the Bill by which I can at least raise my solitary voice as a Member of Parliament. Of course, I am an ordinary Member of Parliament like any of you.

You introduced the Land Ceiling Act. You know the lacunae are there. I do not want to be over-enthusiastic. They wanted to plug many loopholes that were found in Tamilnadu Land Ceiling Act and the Kerala Act and the Andhra Pradesh Act. They made certain things. The idea of the Land Ceiling Act is to curb the big sharks—kulaks—that are holding the land. But, actually, what has happened in Pondicherry. You are simply curbing small farmers. Hundreds of cases are there.

The Settlement Deed was made in 1844, much earlier than independence. This is the biggest lacunae in the Pondicherry Act because it cannot be amended now. There is no Consultative Committee to go into the legislation. The Secretaries are there. But they have no power to curb it. The Governor cannot do it. Every Member gets .005 cents. The authorized officer is not a legally qualified man. He (the Member) is defined as a limited owner.

Since there is no Committee to look into this, the difficulties cannot be pointed out. You have introduced 'Patta'. You have introduced other reforms—seniority, reforms in the

service conditions, etc. You have not achieved the objective because there is no Committee for the purpose. If the Committee would have been there, these things could be rectified.

In these demands I find there are four heads. Under one head there is a mention about agriculture. Karagikal is the tail end of Cauvery Delta. Crops were affected last time. Short term paddy could not be grown. What help is being given to these people? Kuruvai Crop has been damaged. There is no scope for getting a single bag of paddy in that area. I am sorry to say as to what has happened—Tamilnadu is surrounding the territory of Pondicherry. When a Committee was appointed, Tamilnadu was represented, Andhra Pradesh was represented, but not Pondicherry. We cannot raise our voice there. You are neglecting Pondicherry. People over there are agitated.

You are saying about the seniority list for the teachers, etc. Your notes at page 43, say—

"The Government of Pondicherry was called upon to pay a sum of Rs. 403 as costs of writ petition filed by the teacher."

This is not the way you have to present it. Judiciary is interfering in the fixation of seniority, etc.

Two months back I argued a case. The Municipal Commissioner just because he was not happy with the clerk without giving him a show cause notice dismissed him. It is difficult to approach the Secretaries or the Governor. They will say that they cannot do anything. That man approached the High Court of Madras and got it set aside.

I was talking about Rs. 403 to be paid to the teacher. They are not prepared to pay Rs. 403 to the teacher, but are prepared to spend Rs. 2000 in the further processing of the cases.

[Shri Aravinda Bala Pajanor]

A man was dismissed without being given an opportunity to explain anything.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member's time is up.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): Some time was allotted originally. It is in the discretion of the Chair. He was called. I am requesting the Chair to fix some time.

SHRI ARAVINDA BALA PAJANOR: I am representing to the Chair. But anyway this matter has come out. From the very beginning my complaint is this. There is no popular government for the past 3 years. If at all the voice of the people can be heard it is to be heard here through me in this House. If you feel that I cannot speak, I cannot deal with some more points.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already taken 20 minutes. You can take a few minutes more and conclude.

SHRI ARAVINDA BALA PAJANOR: When you take up cases like these the administration advises you to go appeal. I want to cite one or two cases only. It shows the mentality of the bureaucratic administration. If somebody goes wrong, he never admits, he never corrects himself. That is the mentality. People below feel whether this is the 20 point programme. If you do like this you are doing the greatest disservice to the Prime Minister. Last time also I raised this matter. We made a representation to Mr. Om Mehta. I saw in the papers also about this. Our beloved Governor also made the representation. So many times I have raised these points here. What happened to the setting up of a university in Pondicherry? What happened to the Ariyankuppam project? What happened to the airport? In Samachar or in some other source

some news appears but such things do not find a place in the budget or anywhere else. These are matters which are many years old. Mr. Om Mehta came there. We want many things to be done for deep-sea fishing, for having modern boats and so on. What has happened to the thermal station? Of course, the policy decision is not to go in for medium thermal stations or small thermal stations. But what about this thing? a Member of Parliament for Pondicherry if I don't raise such things they think you are not getting it done for them. Our Governor says it is being done. Our Secretary says it is being done. But actually it is not being done.

From the very beginning I have been saying this. Our teachers' salaries were subjected to certain anomalies. I said, you appoint a committee to look into these things and to rectify these things. The mistakes should be rectified. Such a step is necessary so that the government servants may feel happy. You should go into their seniority list and rectify mistakes if any. For the past 10 years these headmasters and other teachers are there and they have not been made permanent. If you don't rectify this in a small State like Pondicherry I doubt whether you can do it in big States. After the 44th Amendment you are going to have labour and administrative tribunals. They will have more powers. The danger will be much more now and these anomalies should be rectified in time. The grievances of small officials should be properly heard and their grievances rectified. Otherwise it will not be good for the administration and for the country. I hope the hon. Minister will reply to all these points raised by me when she replies.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): When the hon. Member said he is the solitary speaker, I felt many more should

have spoken. But, Sir, he may have been the solitary speaker but I must say in all fairness that he has very eloquently and very strongly put forward almost all the points relating to that State. I do remember last time also he referred to the question of setting up of consultative committee. It is a matter which is taken up with Home Ministry. Again it will be taken up. As far as I know probably there is no provision for Union Territory for having such consultative committee. But I am sure they will look into the suggestion made. So far as the other points are concerned, I am told, none of the work is suffering. Regarding teachers salaries and such matters if there is any specific complaint it can be looked into.

MR. SPEAKER: About the other points you can send them to proper quarters for consideration.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I will forward all the points raised by the hon. Member to the Ministries concerned, and I am sure they will be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation for certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: We take up clause-by-clause consideration. There are 10 amendments.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.28 hrs.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) AMENDMENT BILL

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration".

The hon. Members are aware that the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, was originally framed in 1948 when we were just starting the planned development of the power sector. This Act provided the framework for the growth of the industry. During the last nearly 30 years there has been no major change in the structure of the organisation for the power industry in the country. The power sector has, meanwhile, recorded phenomenal growth, with the installed capacity increasing ten-fold in the period 1950-1975.

Fast growing organisations require periodic reviews of their structure, so as to adjust to the changing demands

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri K. C. Pant]

being placed upon them due to growth. In the power sector restructuring was also necessitated by other factors. In recent years it has become necessary to introduce greater sophistication in the planning and execution of power projects. The easier hydro electric projects have already been constructed and the construction of the power houses near load centres is not necessarily the best way of meeting the power demand. The introduction of extra high voltage transmission, as well as the increase in the size of the power generating units have enlarged our policy alternatives. The power sector has also become highly capital intensive and in our country where capital is a scarce resource, we have to optimise its use. A national policy which would optimise the use of all resources and thus minimise cost, is clearly essential. The existing Act framed so many years ago is inadequate for achieving this purpose.

The development of technology in the power sector has made it necessary that those employed in it should attain higher levels of specialisation. At the same time the very size of the power industry, the capital employed; the annual turnover etc. have increased so much that many of the Electricity Boards today are amongst the largest public sector undertakings in the country.

Much attention has been devoted in past years to the introduction of modern management techniques in industries having much smaller turnover and which are also not of the same importance to the health of the national economy. Clearly, the power sector also needs the benefits of modern management.

An important change which has occurred over the last 28 years has been the virtual elimination of the private sector from the power industry. This has been in pursuance of Govern-

ment's policy as laid down in the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. At the time when the Act was framed, there were a number of licensees. In the changed context, the role in licensees is now marginal.

Keeping all these factors in view, the Government had, in 1974, considered the restructuring and reorganisation of the electricity industry. We had fully consulted the State Governments and the amendments to the Act were drafted taking their views into account. Under the act the States are largely responsible for the generation and distribution of electricity and this basic fact is not being changed. However, the Centre would now have a much larger role to play in the planning of the power sector and would also be able to supplement the efforts of the States to generate more power and to deploy it in a more rational and equitable manner.

One of the most important changes being made relates to the structure and functions of the Central Electricity Authority. Section 3 of the 1948 Act provided for the creation of the Central Electricity Authority having not more than six Members, and with four functions listed in Sec. 3 (1). During all these years, the Central Electricity Authority was not created as a fulltime body. The members of the power wing of the Central Water and Power Commission were in that capacity also the members of the Central Electricity Authority. It was felt that to achieve the objectives and also for the future growth of the power industry, the Central Electricity Authority must be strengthened and made into a fulltime body organised to fulfil its new role.

Hon. Members would observe that the functions of the Central Electricity Authority are now being considerably increased. In addition to the Central Electricity Authority being asked to develop a sound, adequate and uniform national power policy, the Central Electricity Authority

would also be required to formulate shortterm and perspective plans for power development and to coordinate the activities of the planning agencies. The Central Electricity Authority would now need to carry out studies relating to cost, efficiency, losses, benefits and such like matters in addition to collecting data on generation, distribution and utilisation of power. This provision is being made particularly to enable the Central Electricity Authority to optimise the use of resource and devise a power plan which would fulfil the objectives of optimising the resource utilisation.

The Central Electricity Authority is being given additional functions which include advising State Governments Electricity Boards and generating companies on matters which would enable them to improve the performance of the power system, assisting these institutions in ensuring timely completion of sanctioned schemes, organising the training of personnel employed in the power sector and promoting research in matters affecting generation, transmission and supply of electricity. In addition, the Central Electricity Authority would have the power of taking up any investigations for the purpose of generating and transmitting power and would advise the Central Government on any matter which is likely to help in improving the power industry in the country.

The hon. Members would note that compared to the earlier Act, the Central Electricity Authority has been given much wider, specific and relevant functions to discharge in respect of the power industry in the country. Its responsibilities and duties are now much broader than in the past and would call for a multidisciplinary approach and the application of expertise of the highest order in several fields. In order to facilitate this, the Act is providing that the Central Electricity Authority shall, in future, be able to have up to 8 fulltime members instead of six as

in the past. In addition, the Central Electricity Authority would also have up to six part-time members. This would enable the association of bodies like the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and other experts and interested ministries. Qualifications have been prescribed for the fulltime members of the Central Electricity Authority to inculcate professionalism in this body. We are confident that these changes would succeed in providing the right direction and momentum to the planning, construction and operation of the schemes and projects taken up in the power sector.

I have earlier mentioned the need for introducing higher degrees of specialisation. While there is no denying the need for giving wide spectrum of experience to those engineers who move into the higher echelons of management, it is equally necessary that in all the branches of power engineering, the expertise and specialisation are of the highest order. This is intended to be achieved partly through better training facilities, partly through appropriate cadre management practices and partly through organisational changes.

One of the changes which we consider important is the separation of the generation of power from its distribution. The Act accordingly provides for the formation of companies which would be responsible for generating power and selling it in bulk to the State Electricity Boards who would be the distributing agency. However, the hon. Members would note that the formation of such generating companies is not being made compulsory, but the option is being left to the concerned State Governments. This is because the circumstances in all the States are not the same. At the present stage of our development, there would be some States where separation of generation would not be necessary. In addition, there are certain States which do not at present think that they would derive commensurate

[Shri K. C. Pant]

benefits from introducing such separation.

Accordingly, the Bill is only including an enabling provision for the establishment of such generating companies in case the State Governments so desire.

At the Centre we have already, as hon. Members are no doubt aware, in fact, two companies—one for constructing and operating central thermal stations and the other for central hydrostations. The National Thermal Power Corporation would, for example, be responsible for three execution of the super-thermal projects which would meet regional power needs. The National Hydro Power Corporation would for the present, take up the central hydro projects already under execution in the remote parts of our country. As these companies develop, they would provide the basis for the centre to play an important, though supplemental, part in meeting the power needs of the country.

I am sure many of the hon. Members would have observed, that the amendments placed before them do not deal with the financial provision contained in the Electricity Supply Act, 1948. This is not because we consider the financial provisions in the Act adequate or do not give importance to a satisfactory financial structure for the working of the State Electricity Boards and the power industry. In fact, there is no doubt that the financial health of the power industry is essential for its sustained growth. We have been considering changes in the financial provisions of the Act. The process of consultation with the States has been completed.

Considerable progress has been made in finalising the amendments and I hope that, in the near future, I would possibly bring a Bill which would mainly deal with the financial provisions of the Act. The enactment of the present Bill and the Bill which

I hope to bring in later would, I feel, lay the basis for the healthy growth of the power sector in the years to come.

I now commend this Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

DR. SARADISH ROY (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have attentively listened to the speech of the Minister but I find that he has nowhere mentioned the reasons for the need of promulgating the Ordinance by the Centre.

Sir, at the outset I must record my strong feelings against this impropriety of the Government in dealing with this Bill. An identical Bill—Central Electricity Amendment Bill—was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in the last Session and that Bill had been withdrawn only yesterday. The Minister did not explain as to why that Bill was introduced and later withdrawn also. The Minister has also not explained the need for promulgating an Ordinance just a fortnight before the Parliament was going to meet, that is, on 8th October, 1976.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government has developed a habit of promulgating an Ordinance and then coming to the House for the approval of the same. In the present case a new and a bad precedent has been established. When the Bill was before the other House and property of that House, the Government promulgated an Ordinance and withdrew that Bill only yesterday. I take objection to this. Government should come forward and explain the necessity of promulgating an Ordinance. Why the issuing of the Ordinance become so much absolutely necessary? I would like to know, has the power position improved during the last fortnight? The issuing of the Ordinance is only to hoodwink the people. In the name

of tackling power crisis the Government wants to increase bureaucratisation of the power industry. Sir, here I would like to quote from the statement of objects and reasons the main objective for which the Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha:

"It was proposed to enlarge the scope and functions of the Central Electricity Authority in the interest of overall power development and to strengthen the Central Electricity Authority to undertake much larger responsibilities in evolving a national power policy, preparation of perspective and rolling plans, assisting in the timely completion of the power projects, maximising output from the existing power plants, developing a national grid and initiating programmes for research, development and training of personnel, etc..."

Sir, I would also like to know as to which are the State Governments who have objected to the introduction of this Bill. I would like to point out that Government in this Bill wants us to forget about the federal set-up of our country. Centre is taking much more power. I am sure, several State Governments would have objected to the framework of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are seriously concerned about the failure in the power supply and the difficulties being faced by the industry on this account. There are repeated lay-offs in the industry due to power crisis. Erratic breakdown of power generating units has become a matter of common occurrence. Government is giving enormous power to the bureaucracy by this enactment.

The main purpose of the Bill is supposed to enlarge the scope and functions of the Central Electricity Authority. The Government wants us to believe that the entire power crisis was due to the inadequate powers of the Central Electricity Authority. It thus wants to divert the attention of the people from the real causes of power crisis. The major causes of the

acute shortage of power are as follows:

1. Bad supply of machinery by foreign concerns which led to heavy under utilisation of power units.

2. Bad maintenance of the power generating units by the authorities causing frequent power failures.

3. Government policy of permitting private capital to generate power and earn profit at the cost of public. Andhra Valley Co., Tata Power, Ahmedabad Power Co., Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation are certain examples.

4. Top heavy and corrupt administration of power projects which has been eating the major chunk of surplus in power generation.

5. Anti-labour policy of the power authorities leading to frequent disputes of workers, clerical staff, engineers etc. with the authorities.

6. The Government policy of supplying cheap power to leading industrialists while charging exorbitant rates from the ordinary consumers. While the poor consumers are fleeced the big industrialists are allowed to use the power projects as sources of profit.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rates of power are also being increased. In this very Capital city of Delhi earlier there were different rates for power and light for domestic consumption. The difference in the two rates has been abolished and the rate of power supply has also been increased. The security deposit money has also been increased. In other words the use of electricity power has become a luxury item of consumption as the power rates have become so high that an ordinary person cannot afford to have the same.

Sir, Government has not given proper thought to the reasons for the power crisis in the country. They have given more authority by this Act to the same bureaucracy who are res-

[Dr. Saradish Roy]

possible for creating this crisis. We are paying a high price for the inefficiency of this bureaucracy and the Government is backing this system.

Sir, I would like to say that the power crisis that is developing or the delay in the completion of the power projects is on account of the connivance between the contractors and the high-ups and the bureaucracy. By bringing forward this Bill the Government wants us to believe that on account of want of more authority from the Centre this power crisis is there. This theory is merely to hoodwink the people. Sometimes the foreign companies are also causing delay in implementation of the projects by pressurising the Central Government to get much more profit out of the machinery supplied by them. My point is that by giving more power to the bureaucracy this system will get a further flourishing ground at the hands of the bureaucracy.

The Minister said that there is ten-fold increase in the power supply. I find that they have mentioned in the statement of objects and reasons that they are evolving a national power policy. This means that even after 25 years of our planning we have got no national plan on power generation and distribution in our country. Whatever planning is done is not done in a democratic manner. Reliance is placed only on the bureaucracy. This is the main cause of the trouble. But still more power is being given to them.

Government are now talking of electrifying entire villages in States, but we find that the urban areas are facing power failures. There is shortage of power in the urban areas.

Government are not prepared to learn from the mistakes of the past and they are making the problem much more complicated by the policy they propose to follow.

We have been seen that the private sector power generating companies are making huge profits while the public sector power generating undertakings

are making huge losses. This is due to the bureaucracy. But through this Bill the bureaucracy is given much more power. So we are sure that whatever be the laudable objects of the Bill, this policy will result in more power crisis in the country.

Therefore, it is necessary not merely to take certain administrative and procedural steps to broaden the activities of the Central Electricity Authority but to go into the basic causes of the present chaos in the power situation in the country. The Government's claim that the Bill has been brought after "a study in depth" is a mere eye-wash and can hoodwink none. If administrative flats could have solved the problems dogging our country, the power crisis would have been solved long ago.

The present Bill, therefore, instead of solving the power crisis will only deepen it and there is nothing in the Bill that will make us feel that the Government are really serious about mitigating the present power shortage.

DR. K. L. RAO (Vijayawada): We should all acknowledge the very efficient services being rendered to the country by the hon. Minister and his staff. We have got to realise the main problems before the nation. When we got freedom in 1947, we hardly had two million kw power, most of which were not in the public utility units. Now we have 22½ million kw. In the next two decades, towards the end of the century, we must have 150 million kw. That is the minimum requirement as calculated by the various authorities. To go from 22 million kw. to 150 million kw. is a very stupendous task, a challenging one for the nation. Therefore, now is the time for us to take a large number of steps which will ensure that we reach the target of 150 million kw.

The hon. Minister stated that there has been some shortage of power and it has to be made good by structural reorganisation of the various authorities. I wish to submit that that is only one of the factors, probably a minor

factor. The main or important factor is that the shortage is because the demand of the nation is growing so rapidly as compared to the supply we are having. In other words, we must create more and more generation capacity in the country.

Now I am afraid we must accept the fact that so far we have not realised the importance of power and the place to be assigned to it. We did not assign it the first place. For example, upto the beginning of the Fifth Plan we spent something like Rs. 6,000 crores. Now having realised the importance of this, in this Plan alone we are putting in Rs. 7,300 crores. This is very good. If we had realised the importance of this earlier, this shortage would not have been facing us today.

There are some other factors also. For example, we are connecting loads without ensuring sufficient amount of power availability. There are other reasons also. But what I find now is that in this Bill there is absence of attention to these problems. The most important thing in this context is the need for a national power policy. The hon. Minister has also accepted it, but left it to the Central Electricity Authority to enunciate it. This is not proper. The national power policy must be evolved and announced by the Government for the country as a whole.

What is meant by a national power policy? Now power is a concurrent subject, which can be dealt with both by the Centre and States. Here it consists of two distinct parts, generation and distribution. The Centre must take full responsibility for generation of power in the country as a whole. Power generation is, therefore, a part of the national power policy. Power will be developed and supplied in two sectors, that is, generation by the Centre and distribution by the States. Central generation of power has many advantages; the advantages outweigh the objections. The main advantage is that whatever staff and so on we have can be utilised to the best advantage. We have a limited supply

of high class experienced engineers. Here we are committing a mistake in retiring these people at 55 and in some States at 58. This should not be done. They should be taken on to 62 at least, because we have a very limited number of very good experienced engineers whose services we require for the most rapid and accelerated development of power.

Apart from that, there are other advantages in the Centre being responsible for power generation. The size of the machines can be bigger. We can put them to the best possible use. The only disadvantage—the hon. Minister also mentioned it—is objection by some States. If you analyse the objections, we find most of the States agree. The only State which object are those which have power potential like Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. They feel that by the construction of dams and storage reservoirs, their lands are submerged and they do not benefit. This is true. Construction of the Bhakra dam and the Beas dam have not proved very useful to the State of Himachal Pradesh. The only advantage it had is that it got a little power, which is negligible. But we can easily work out a scheme, not of royalty which is a bad word, of a compensatory allowance on an annual basis of one or two paise per kwh, generated which would bring an enormous amount of revenue to those States.

Coming to our main fuel and power resources in the future, if we can develop another 20 million kw. out of hydro power—that is the maximum we can have from economical unit operation—that would be good. The next source is coal which is already in the central sector as we have nationalised coal.

Here, take, for example, a State like Karnataka. It has got hydro potential of only one million kw. more. Once it is exhausted, where will it go for power? They will be in the same soup. So the planning must be on a regional basis, Central generation achieved

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

through the constitution of some regional boards, may be three, four or five.

It is mentioned in the Bill that generating agency can also be created by the States. We have got 18 Electricity Boards. They might develop generating companies or corporations, because this is looked upon as a prestige matter, as in the case of engineering colleges. We have a number of engineering colleges; even a small State like Tripura has one, with the result that inefficient engineers are produced. The same thing will happen in every State and they would put up a Generating Board or a Corporation, that means, $18 \times 2 = 36$ will come into operation.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Rao, you will continue after lunch.

13.00 hrs.

The House adjourned for Lunch till fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI C. M. STEPHEN in the Chair].

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) AMENDMENT BILL—contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The total time allotted for this Bill is 2 hours. 30 minutes have already been taken and 90 minutes remain. I will call the minister at 3.00. Members may kindly bear this in mind. The next Bill will be taken up at 3.30. Dr. K. L. Rao, who was on his legs may continue.

DR. K. L. RAO: I was saying in the morning that for the rapid development of power in the country, we have to fulfil certain conditions. The most important is the enunciation of a national power policy. Many States like Bihar, UP, Andhra Pradesh and

many others are far below the per capita average of the country. If we do not take some action urgently, as we go along, the situation will become worse. Power generation should be done through a central organisation and not through State organisations. Therefore, a national power policy should be enunciated immediately and power generation should be taken over by the Centre. There should be regional planning. In power, no unit can be commissioned in less than five years. That is why planning should be done on a ten year basis, as is done all over the world. So, unless these steps are undertaken, it is no use deceiving ourselves that we will be able to achieve the target of 150 million kw by the end of the century.

The hon. minister said that he is going to bring another amending Bill to the Electricity Supply Act. This is very necessary. Our 1948 Act is a copy of the English Act of 1947. But in England, they have completely changed this Act while we have been going on tinkering with it. So, the Act should be completely recast incorporating the various features I have mentioned. I would suggest that the minister should form a committee consisting of Indian experts plus three foreign experts from USSR, U.K. and USA. Mr. Neprozny, who has been Minister for Power in USSR for the last 20 years and who has increased power generation there from practically zero to 200 million kw should be invited to serve on this committee. Then Mr. Stanley Brown, retired Chairman of the Central Power Generation Board of the U.K. should be there. Also, Mr. Cislis of USA, who was the President of the last World Power Conference should also be there. He has been our great friend. He has helped us by being a member of our Energy Committee and Load Survey Committee. He will come if we invite him. These three plus some Indian experts should go into the problem and within three or four months produce a report, on which the government should take a quick decision. That is the best we can do, be-

cause these three countries among themselves account for nearly two-thirds of the world power generation. If we do this, it will be possible for us to have a correct approach and move in the right direction. Our object is to supply power to every part of the country at a uniform rate, allowing for transmission losses. This committee can help us on this point, so that we can achieve a power generating capacity of 150 million KW in 20 years. The difference between having power and having no power is the same as the difference between a blind man and a man with eyesight. Power is needed for agriculture, industry, solving unemployment problem and even for family planning. Therefore, it is most important.

I shall now explain some of my amendments. I have suggested that it should be National Thermal Generation Corporation and National Hydel Generation Corporation, because 'generating company' does not sound well. You should not allow the States to form similar corporations without the permission of the Central Organisation. There is no point in going on multiplying corporations. If in any particular case it is found necessary, as in Maharashtra where they are making a noble effort to coje up with the load by undertaking a large number of projects, then with the permission of the Central organisation, they can do it.

I have also suggested that the number of members must be reduced. 16 members are really not necessary. You should be very cautious. Part time members will not come prepared to the meeting. They will put in more of obstructions. We should have full-time members. The full-time members may be 7 or 8, as the hon. Minister thinks necessary; but we should try to reduce the number. As Sir Visvesvarayya, the great engineer of our country used to say, the best committee must consist of 3 people—not more than 3—of whom 2 are absent. If we really mean to have rapid acceleration of our country's power resources, it is very important that the members

must be few in number, specially because we do not have so many people of status in various disciplines. I am glad that the hon. Minister has taken a step in the right direction; but he should not increase the membership.

Similarly about qualification. There is a clause in which they say that people with experience of commercial industrial or business administration can also be selected as members. It is a most dangerous provision, because electrical power is a highly sophisticated type of energy; and it involves a very large requirement of technical knowledge. Therefore, we should try to confine the selection to the engineers. As I have submitted earlier, we have extremely good and valuable engineers in this country. You need not retire them at the age of 55, take them over and make use of their services for 2 or 3 years more. If some of these steps are taken, we can develop adequate power in this country—which is most essential.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): I am thankful to the Minister for having given a thought to this Act, which was passed in 1948. It will give a new dimension to the approach to this important subject. I quite agree with that the planning of the power sector should be done with a national perspective. So far as the suggestion of Dr. K. L. Rao that we should have regional grids is concerned, I do not agree with it. We should not have regional grids, but we should have national grids. We cannot draw a line between region and region, and have various compartments so far as power development in this country is concerned. Emphasis should be laid on removing the regional disparities. It is most unfortunate that with the advance of the so-called civilization, more and more people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have receded into inaccessible and backward places. Even after 25 years of planning, there has been no impact on them. We all know what vital part electricity plays in the development of any backward area. It is not a question of luxury; it is a question of

[Shri P. K. Deo]

necessity. If we can provide power to those backward areas which are full of mineral and forest wealth, they will be humming with activity. The paper mill at Kesinga had to be shifted for lack of promised power. If power is provided, those areas will have a better living standard, better employment opportunities and better entrepreneurial opportunities. Those areas should be given top priority in the matter of giving electricity. There are no irrigation facilities, particularly in drought-prone areas. By providing energized pumps in those areas, we can solve the problem of water to a great extent. To our misfortune we find that Eastern India, i.e. States like Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal are on the bottom of the ladder, so far as provision of energized pumps are concerned.

So, taking into consideration these areas, I think special emphasis should be laid on providing electricity to the eastern region of this country.

The Statement of objects and Reasons is laudable and deserves full support, but I will be failing in my duty if I do not press at this moment for the implementation of the Upper Indravati multi-purpose irrigation project. In the earlier statement, the hon. Minister said that probably hydro-electric power has been fully developed, but this thing has been under investigation for the last 25 years and kept in cold storage because of the inter-state water dispute regarding the Godavari, but after the announcement of the 20-point programme, that dispute is over and the water to the various states has been allocated. There will be diversion of water from the Godavari to the Mahanadi basin which will give it a natural drop of 1200 feet with which we can produce 600 MW of hydro-electric power and irrigate 500,000 acres of the chronically drought-affected areas in my district.

Secondly, God has been very kind to this area. Lately there has been a

discovery of one of the largest bauxite deposits of the world in the east coast. They expect a thousand million tonnes of high grade bauxite—600 million tonnes in Orissa and 400 million tonnes in Andhra Pradesh. The Ministry of Steels and Mines has already stated that two alumina plants would be established one in Andhra Pradesh and another in Orissa, but an electro-metallurgical industry like aluminium needs a minimum of 200 MW of power which only the Indravati power house can supply. So, I most respectfully submit that this should be given top priority.

The other day I was in Korba where a bauxite deposit had been located, but now it is found that it will not be as large as the earlier estimates. The bauxite ore there will not be able to feed the one lakh tonne alumina plant which is being set up there. Because of the tussle between the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board and BALCO, the progress is not as much as was desired. There are four smelters of 25,000 tonnes each, but only one smelter has been commissioned because the power has not been supplied. The thermal station at Korba has a capacity of 300 MW, but for some reason the expansion programme has met with several hurdles, and they are not able to cope with it.

Now, I will come to my amendment. For the past many years in this House we from these Benches have rightly criticised that unnecessary concession has been shown to the monopoly industrial houses. Cheap power had been made available to HINDALCO from Rihand and to INDAL from Hirakud, but at the same time, the needy farmers did not get power to energise their pump sets. I submit therefore, that with the coming up of the Hydro Power Corporation, top priority should be given to the upper Indravati Project. Irrigation and Power, Railways and other Ministries should also be associated so that it is an integrated approach, as

this Ministry alone will not be able to solve the problem. If the various Ministries put their heads together, there will be a combined approach.

The Indravati Power Project has been cleared by the Central Water and Power Commission and is now pending with the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission. I hope it will be given clearance soon.

SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY (Chittoor): Sir, I welcome this Bill as a big landmark in the history of power development in the country and an earnest of the oft-proclaimed desire of the hon. Minister for attaining the power objectives as soon as possible, so that for want of power, the economic development of our nation does not suffer. I congratulate the hon. Minister on the anticipatory action that he has taken in setting up two Generation Corporations, one hydel and the other thermal. By this, a new chapter is opening for our country, and I hope and trust that with the Authority and with the restructural changes brought about in this Bill, we will forge ahead in developing our generation capacity in the country, so that the story of power cuts may be a thing of the past.

Having set up these Generation Corporations, particularly for the thermal one, I would request the hon. Minister to take prompt action to exploit the vast deposits of coal available in South India and set up regional super-thermal stations to relieve the growing power shortage felt in South India. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have more than once proclaimed its intention and desire to place at the disposal of the nation the vast low grade coal stocks found in our State, so that, it may be exploited for the power needs of the whole country. In view of the power shortage felt in Karnataka and the limitation of development of hydel power in that State, I would suggest to the hon. Minister to set up jointly with the

States and the Central participation a super thermal station based on the Singareni coal field so that, with that, the power shortage in South India can be completely met.

Similarly, having set up a Hydel Generation Corporation, why should not the Central Government, under the aegis of this Corporation, take over and complete the long-pending projects like Srisaïlam which, though started long back, have been dragging their feet for want of resources. I would earnestly suggest that this Corporation should take over such major schemes which possibly cannot be completed, left to the States themselves as expected.

I have given notice of two amendments to this Bill. One is this. In enunciating the objective of the restructured Central Electricity Authority, the Minister has said that it is for developing a national power policy and for attaining our goal of national power pool with a national transmission grid. If that is so, why not spell it out in the Bill itself? In the objects as outlined in the relevant Clause of the Bill, it is said that the Central Electricity Authority will merely prepare short-term and long-term perspective power development schemes and will do the coordination of the planning agencies. In my view, this is not enough. The objectives should be specifically mentioned there as 'attainment of National Power Pool with a National Transmission Grid'.

My second amendment relates to re-allocation of the duties of the State Electricity Boards. It is welcome that generation at the State level is being separated from the State Electricity Board. We know very well that the State Electricity Boards have floundered and made a mess of the whole thing by trying to interest themselves in all aspects of electricity. Many Committees which have gone into this aspect have suggested many times that generation has to be

[Shri P. Narasimha Reddy]

separated from the State Electricity Board, so that their functioning can be toned up and the losses can be reduced. The State Electricity Boards, by following an unimaginative tariff policy have made development of agricultural and cottage industries impossible in backward areas, particularly in drought-prone areas. My amendment is that the following should be added at the end of sub-clause (e) of Clause 11:

"and to adopt a flexible and differential consumption tariff so as to secure equitable benefits and incentives for lift-irrigation in drought-prone areas and for rural cottage industries."

I am suggesting this, so that the interests of the lift irrigation people and the rural cottage industries may be secure. These people, who are now struggling with the Board in such areas, are worse than the bonded labour. If the Minister is interested in abolishing bonded labour in all fields of national life, he should accept this amendment and see that suitable tariff policy is evolved by the State Electricity Boards so that the lift irrigation people in the drought prone areas are liberated from their present bondage.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (चतरा) :

सभापति महोदय, हमारे सामने जो विद्युत प्रदाय संशोधन विधेयक 1976 आया है इस का मैं स्वागत करता हूं। स्वागत इसलिए भी करना आवश्यक है कि पंत जी ने जिन जिन विभागों का काम अपने हाथ में लिया उन की कार्य दक्षता बढ़ी। एक और ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में जिस समय कोल को अपने हाथ में लिया उस समय देश में कोयले की कमी थी, लेकिन वहां कोयले का उत्पादन इतना अधिक बढ़ गया कि अब कोयला खरीदने वाला नहीं मिलता, कोयले का भण्डार भर गया। इसी प्रकार से बिजली का भी कार्यभार अपने हाथ में लिया तो 1974-75 में वहाँ प्रति दिन 193.6 मिलियन यूनिट

बिजली का उत्पादन था वहाँ 1975-76 में वह बढ़ कर 225 मिलियन यूनिट प्रति दिन उत्पादन होने लगा। यह शुभ लक्षण है।

मैं इस समय जो बात कहना चाहूंगा वह यह कि आज बिजली का ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में सब से अधिक भर पड़ता है, उत्पादन पर भी असर पड़ता है और रोजगारों के जीवन पर भी असर पड़ता है। हमारा बहुत ही विनीत स्वर में यह कहना है कि आज जितनी परेशानी, जितनी घांघली और जितनी चोरी बिजली विभाग में होती है, स्टेट्स में उतनी जायद और कहीं नहीं होती। जब कभी हम लोग अपने क्षेत्रों में जाते हैं, और लोगों को भी इस का तजुबा होगा, जितनी शिकायत बिजली के बारे में हम को सुनने को मिलती है उतनी किसी और चीज के बारे में नहीं मिलती। मुझे इस का तजुबा है : मैं जब कभी जाता हूँ तीन तीस, चालीस चालीस, पचास पचास लोगो ने शिकायत की है कि बिना पैसे दिये उन को लाइन नहीं दी जाती है। लाइन दे भी दी गई, अगर खड़ी फसल लगी हुई है और उनको कुछ पैसे नहीं दिए तो ऐसे समय में उस को खराब कर दिया जाता है कि जिस से उस की फसल समाप्त हो जाय। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस को नेशनल इम्पाटेंस की चीज समझें और जब भी एलेक्ट्रिसिटी के बारे में कोई नीति बने तो आप की राष्ट्रीय नीति बननी चाहिए। जैसे शिक्षा के संबंध में हम बात करते हैं, रिचार्ज के संबंध में बात करते हैं, औद्योगिक प्रगति के संबंध में बात करते हैं, ऐसे ही विद्युत या पावर के संबंध में भी आप को एक राष्ट्रीय नीति बनानी चाहिए और उस के अनुसार आप को ही उस का डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन भी करना चाहिए। वहाँ जितनी बिजली की आवश्यकता कृषि के लिए है और वहाँ जितनी बिजली की आवश्यकता उद्योग के लिए है यह भी केन्द्र निर्धारित करे और इस के साथ ही जो आज बिजली के बिलों में कई तरह की दरें हैं उन को भी

आप को समाप्त करना चाहिए। यह सब से आवश्यक है। अगर एन्वूमिनियम फैक्ट्री है तो उस को किसी दर से बिजली दे रहे हैं, बेपर फैक्ट्री है तो आपको किसी और दर से दे रहे हैं। बिरला की फैक्ट्री है तो किसी और दर से दे रहे, हैं किसी और की फैक्ट्री है तो दूसरी दर दे रहे हैं। यह बिल्कुल बन्द होना चाहिए। आप को अगर इस में रियायत देनी है तो गरीब कितानों को रियायत दीजिए जो बेचारे भुगतान नहीं कर सकते हैं। किसी उद्योगपति सेठ साहूकार या बड़े आदमी को आप क्यों रियायत दे रहे हैं जिस को करोड़ों रुपये तो ऐसे ही फायदे में आते हैं। उन को बिजली में रियायत देने से क्या फायदा है ?

मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान अब केवल उन्हीं बातों की ओर दिलाऊंगा जो बार बार मंत्रालय की सलाहकार समितियों में और इस पार्लियामेंट में कही गई हैं। एक तो नेशनल एनर्जी पालिसी होनी चाहिए।

दूसरा है—

Effective Steps to maximise power generation

और तीसरा है—

Setting up of super thermal power station.

पहला—प्राइम मिनिस्टर के विस सूची कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत जो हमने लक्ष्य बनाये हैं उस की पूर्ति होनी चाहिये। इस के बाद मैं मंत्री जी से यह जरूर कहना चाहूंगा कि ग्रामीण विद्युत्तिकाकरण की जो योजना है उस को आप फस्ट प्रायोरिटी दें, उस में आप प्रान्त से राय मांगते हैं, लेकिन केन्द्र से भी आप किसी आदमी को भेज कर निर्धारित करें कि कहां पर होना चाहिये : मैं यह इस लिये कह रहा हूं, मेरा संसदीय क्षेत्र बहुत पिछड़ा हुआ है, वहां प्रतापुर है, हजारों बाग में, जहां न सड़क है और न बिजली है, जब कि वह प्रखण्ड मुख्यालय है। वहां के लिये सफाई करवाई थी कि हरल-इलेक्ट्रिकेशन किया जाय, लेकिन पता नहीं क्या हुआ

वह योजना। इस क्षेत्र से काट कर दूसरी जगह कर दी गई, जहां पर उस की जरूरत नहीं थी, क्योंकि वहां से पोलिटिकल-पैरवी थी।

इस के साथ एक बात मैं और कहना चाहूंगा—जो आप ने अथारिटी सेंटर में कायम की है, उस में आप ने आठ-दस या पांच मेम्बर जो बनाये हैं, उन के बारे में मैंने अपना अमेण्डमेंट दिया है कि उस में कम से कम दो पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों को जरूर रखा जाय, जो कि आप की ओर से आने चाहिए। पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर कहां रहते हैं, वहां चक्कर रहता है और ठीक देख-रेख रहती है। जिस अथारिटी, जिस कार-पोरेशन या जिस कमेटी में पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर नहीं होते हैं, उस का स्तर ऊंचा नहीं हो पाता है, वहां पर अफ़ारश ही ज्यादा रहती है।

हमारे देश में बी.एच.ई.एल. ने बड़े बड़े पावर थर्मल स्टेशनों के संयंत्र केवल इस देश के लिये ही नहीं, विदेशों के लिये भी तैयार किये हैं। लीबिया, अरब-कन्ट्रीज तथा दूसरे देशों से करोड़ों-अरबों का काम उस को मिला हुआ है। इस देश में जो पुराने थर्मल-पावर स्टेशन खो गये हैं, जो 29 साल के पुराने हैं, जैसे दामोदर-बैली कारपोरेशन है, उन की क्षमता अब गिर गई है। वे अब उतना पावर प्रोडक्शन नहीं कर सकते, जितना उन को करना चाहिये। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि उन थर्मल-पावर स्टेशनों का आप नवीकरण करें। जिससे अधिक उत्पादन हो सके।

हमारी दामोदर बैली कारपोरेशन है, जिस की अधिकांश नदियां बिहार से हैं, लेकिन इरिगेशन परियोजना के लिये उन का पानी बंगाल में जा रहा है और पावर भी बंगाल ले रहा है—ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिये।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करूंगा कि जो कुछ मैंने कहा है उस पर ध्यान दें।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the grounds which have been stated for bringing forward this amending Bill both in the written statement of Objects and Reasons as well as in the Minister's opening remarks are, of course, something which we all welcome and support. There is no doubt about the fact that the Act of 1948 has become obsolete in the sense that the structural set-up of that Act is no longer capable of meeting the needs of the situation in the power field. But it has also been emphasised by the Minister, and actually that was stated in 1948 Act in the Statement of Objects and Reasons also that the object should be to evolve a national power policy including the concept of a national grid. But the fact remains that after nearly thirty years, which we have passed, while the total volume of power generated has gone up in a spectacular fashion, can we ask ourselves this question whether we have been able to get anywhere near a sound or adequate uniform national power policy? Can we say that proper control and utilization of national power resources has been achieved or that we are well on the way to achieving it? From this point of view, I feel that we are lagging very very far behind. I agree with some of the valuable remarks made by Dr. Rao. The point of the matter is—he was very polite, I should say—that the State Governments under whom these Electricity Boards come are virtually running these things as their own a sort of private jagirdaris, if I may say so. That is the attitude, because they have to come to the Centre only to get approval to some schemes and get the necessary funds.

The power crisis which is accentuated in the last 3-4 years has revealed that there is neither an effective control nor utilisation of the national power resources. Every body knows that even sharing of surplus power which some States have, with the deficit States, has become

very difficult, not only due to the absence of inter-State transmission lines and absence of regional or national grids or due perhaps to the disputes about the tariffs which will be chargeable but due to this attitude which has developed among many of the States that these are their own private sort of zamindaris. The Committee on Public Undertakings itself has pointed out that there is a reluctance on the part of the States which have got surplus power to part with it for the sake of other not so fortunate States.

Then there are so many disputes regarding the utilisation of hydel resources, about the location of the super thermal power stations which are proposed, etc. All this has held up their construction and development. While it is very good to reiterate these objectives in this amending Bill now, I think we have to judge it from the standpoint of whether it is actually going to ensure a real central ownership and central control of generation and transmission capacity. Unless that is done, there is no other way to overcome what I would describe as this State overlordship in the matter of power generation and transmission. From that point of view, we feel that this Bill is disappointing and does not go far enough. After a gap of nearly 30 years, a Bill which was certainly more comprehensive and more radical than this, was required.

I just want to briefly deal with about 3-4 major points. First of all, I say that one of the major ingredients of a national power policy should be now to take over these remaining private licensees, the giant ones, the major ones. Although the Minister said in his opening remarks that in relation to the total volume of power generated, the power generated by these private licensees is marginal, but what is their characteristic? They are located in areas which have a tremendous concentration of load. For example, the Calcutta Electric

Supply Corporation, the Tata Hydel Power, the Andhra Valley Power Supply Company which are all Tatas, the Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Corporation, the Ahmedabad Electric Supply Co. Their total volume of power generated may not sound very impressive compared with the total amount generated in the country as a whole, but, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Calcutta are not just any place. They are the three most important areas of industrial concentration and growth in this country. All these concerns are holding practically monopoly of power generation in those areas and earning huge profits. Do you think that the development of a national power policy in the interests of the country overall can be fitted in with a profit-oriented undertaking of power as is being done by these concerns? These concerns have been repeatedly given extensions of their licences. So, it seems the Government are afraid of dealing with these people. We do not think that this fits into the scheme of a national power policy at all, apart from the fact that the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation is also blackmailing the government and consumers repeatedly there and I should say, are making fantastic profits by repeatedly putting up their domestic tariffs which has been done three times in the last two years alone.

The second point I wish to make is that we think that there should be a much more purposeful move by the Centre for central generation and a national grid. I do not know why the Minister is a sort of apologetic about it as though he is doing something through this very limited Bill which requires a lot of apology and explanation. I understand that nationalisation in that sense cannot be done overnight, certainly. But we have to proceed in the direction of evolving this national power policy. We should undertake that step-by-step and these thermal, hydel and atomic power stations should come with the Centre. More and more high voltage

and Inter-State transmission lines should be controlled by the Centre. We talk about controlling the commanding heights of the economy. That is being talked of in other spheres. In the field of power which is the first requisite of development the government should move towards achieving these commanding heights.

My third point is this. In the proposed Bill a multiplicity of agencies is sought to be created. There are lots of new agencies which are proposed to be set up mostly in the States for generation, transmission, supply etc. This I am afraid will only lead to more chaos as far as the national policy is concerned and as far as the national purposes go. Multiplicity of agencies is also something against the interests of the workers. There are places where persons are kept in musterrolls for years together. There are deputationists who remain there blocking the chances of others. It is very harmful in every possible way.

What is to be the national policy regarding power tariffs and power rates? Some members have already pointed out that it is the big monopoly houses and the big concerns which are getting concessional rates. Take for example agricultural farmers, small-scale industries, domestic consumers and so on. Whenever the rates are revised they are the first victims who are to suffer. You do not give relief in respect of these small-scale industries, the domestic consumers and the small farmers. The big houses like Birlas and others go on getting all types of concessions in this regard. Therefore, taking the overall pattern of development and generation, national policy should be there in the question of power tariffs and power rates. This Bill is a very hesitant sort of Bill. I do not know how we can go on on the basis of this Bill for the next 25 or 30 years. The hon. Minister said that he is thinking of bringing another Bill. I understand that would be relating to the question of financial commitment.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

I hope when he brings such a Bill he will also try to incorporate the suggestions made in the debate.

Sir, the time is very inadequate and there are many things to be said. There are many points to be dealt with. Let his next Bill not restrict itself only to the financial aspects, but my request to the hon. Minister is to make the Bill more comprehensive, and more radical, so that we may move towards a national power policy and central control.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा (पाली) : चैयरमैन साहब, आप ने जो तीन मिनट का समय दिया है, उस में से आधे मिनट में तो मैं श्री के० सी० पन्त को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने बहुत अच्छा काम किया है और दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि इस बिल के अन्दर कुछ ऐसी बातें हैं जिन की तरफ मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाऊंगा। पहली बात तो यह है कि आप ने यह कहा है कि कम्पनीज वहाँ खड़ी की जाएंगी जहाँ पर सब प्रकार की सुविधाएँ हों जैसे ट्रान्सपोर्ट की बात है और रा-मैटीरिल की बात है। मैं कहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट जब कोई नई फैक्टरी या कम्पनी बनाती है, तो बैकवर्ड एरियाज में क्यों नहीं लगाती है। इसलिए यह जो जेनरेटिंग कम्पनी आप खड़ी करना चाहते हैं, मेहरवानी कर के इस को बैकवर्ड एरियाज में लगाइए। जिन लोगों को आप लाइसेन्स देते हैं, वे बैकवर्ड एरियाज में नहीं जाते हैं और गवर्नमेंट भी जब कोई नया पावर स्टेशन लगाना चाहती है या नई कम्पनी खड़ा करना चाहती है, तो बैकवर्ड एरियाज में नहीं जाती है। इस में जो आप ने प्रोविजन रख दिया है कि जहाँ पर फैसेलिटीज होगी, वहाँ पर ये कम्पनीज लगाई जाएंगी, इस से राजस्थान का जो इलाका रेगिस्तान है वह हमेशा ही रेगिस्तान रहेगा और हमारे अरविन्द नेताम साहब का जो इलाका है, वह भी वैसा ही रहेगा। इसलिए

मेरा निवेदन यह है कि गवर्नमेंट को अपनी कम्पनीज बैकवर्ड एरियाज में लगानी चाहिए और वहीं पर इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर क्रीयट करना चाहिए और सरकार को यह बहना नहीं करना चाहिए कि हम तो वहीं पर इन को लगा सकते हैं जहाँ पर स.री सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध हैं। आप इसके लिए सड़कें बनाइये, ट्रांसपोर्टेशन की दूसरी चीजें बनाइये ताकि बैकवर्ड एरियाज के अन्दर आपका काम हो। इस बार आपने बिल्कुल ठीक किया कि अधारिटी में पढ़े लिखे लोग आयेंगे, जो एक्सपर्ट हैं वह आयेंगे, नहीं तो ऐसे ही लोग इसमें घुस जाते थे। आपने इसके लिए प्रोविजन किया है—

'A fulltime Member shall be the person who has experience and has shown capacity.'

अब की बार पंत जी ने बहुत अच्छी बात की है। इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड में क्या होता है, जो इलेक्ट्रिसिटी की ए०बी०सी० नहीं जानते, वे लोग इसमें आ जाते हैं और इसके चेअरमैन बन कर बैठ जाते हैं। इसके बारे में एस्टीमेटस कमिटी की रिपोर्ट में सजेशन दिया गया था कि ये जो इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड्स हैं ये घाटे में जाते हैं, इनको ठीक किया जाये। ये जितने भी इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड्स हैं यह सब घाटे में जाते हैं। यह बहुत अच्छा है कि आप इसके बारे में एक बहुत बड़ा बिल ला रहे हैं। 1948 के बाद से 1976 में यह पहली बार इसके बारे में कोई बिल आया है। इसके मुताबिक इसमें टेक्नीशियंस होंगे, एक्सपर्ट्स होंगे। एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा था कि इसमें एम०पीज० भी होने चाहिए। लेकिन इसमें एम०पीज० वे होने चाहिए जो इलेक्ट्रिसिटी के बारे में जानते हों। अगर मैं घुस जाऊँ तो मैं तो व्यापार करने लग जाऊँगा।

समापति जी ये जो तीन मिनट दिये गये हैं ये इस बिल पर बोलने के लिए कम हैं।

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह सोखी: (जमशेदपुर) :
चेन्नरमेन साहब, यह जो बिल पंत जा लाये
हैं यह बहुत अच्छा बिल लाये हैं। मैं पंत
जो को इसके लिए बढ़ाई देता हूँ। इन्होंने
जो अपने स्टेटमेंट में कहा है कि कई जगहों
पर पावर जेनरेशन को डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन से अलग
कर दिया जायगा। इसके बारे में मेरा कहना
यह है कि यह सब स्टेटों में यूनीफार्मली होना
चाहिए, नहीं तो इसमें दिक्कत आ सकती
हैं।

दूसरी बात इन्होंने क्लॉज 15ए में
कहो है। उसमें उन्होंने कहा है—

“(a) design, construction, operation and maintenance of generating stations; (b) transmission and supply of electricity; (c) applied economics; (d) organising workers; (e) industrial, commercial or financial matters; or (f) administration in a Government Department or other establishment”.

मैं कहता हूँ कि क्या कोई एक आदमी
इन 6 किस्मों के काम को संभाल सकता है ?
मेरे ख्याल में तो कोई हरफनमौला ही होगा
जो ऐसा कर सके। क्या एक ही आदमी लेबर
सेल्फेयर को भी देख सकता है और कमिशियल
आस्पेक्ट्स को भी देख सकता है ? मैं सुझाव
दूंगा कि इसमें कम से कम तीन मेम्बर होने
चाहिए। नहीं तो इसमें बाद में दिक्कत
आयेगी।

दूसरी बात मैं पंत जी के ध्यान में
लाना चाहता हूँ। सुबनारखा हाइड्रो पावर
प्रोजेक्ट जो मेरे इलाके सिंहभूम में है, इसके
लिए 140 लाख रुपये दिये हैं। अभी तक
वहां पर कुछ नहीं बना है। पता नहीं, वहां
पर क्या होगा, क्या नहीं होगा ?

बिहार में सब कुछ है। आपको वहां
पावर स्टेशन बनाने चाहिए। वहां बड़े
बड़े डैम हैं। वहां पर कोयला बहुत है
इस वास्ते जहां तक हो सके मेहरबानी कर

के डैम पर और कोयले पर आधारित पावर
हाउसिस आप बनाएं।

बिजली के मामले में बहुत किस्म की
शिकायतें सुनने में आती हैं। जैसे शंकर दयाल
सिंह जी ने कहा बिजली के मामले में ब्रोइब
बहुत ली जाती है, खास करके कनेक्शन बिजली
का जब दिया जाता है तो बहुत ब्राइब ली
जाती है। बिहार में तो यह बीमारी बहुत
ज्यादा है। इन चीजों की तरफ आप ध्यान
दें। बिहार इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड को भी आप
कमें। पम्प जिन से पानी इरिगेशन के लिए
लिया जाता है उनको बन्द कर दिया जाता है
जिससे किसानों को बड़ी दिक्कत होती है।
इस ओर आप ध्यान दें।

पावर हाउसिस को भी आप अच्छी
तरह से मटेन करें। उनका आप एक्सपेंशन
भी कर सकते हैं। नए भी लगाएं। लेकिन
नए न भी लगाएं तो उनकी ताकत आप बढ़ा
सकते हैं। इस पर आप ध्यान दें।

जैसे श्री इंद्रजीत गुप्त ने कहा कलकत्ता
इलेक्ट्रिसिटी सप्लाय कंपनी, टाटा इलेक्ट्रिक
कम्पनी, अहमदाबाद, आन्ध्र प्रदेश इलेक्ट्रिसिटी
वाले जो हैं उनको आप बिल्कुल खत्म करें,
उनको आप बीच में से हटाएं। उनकी कोई
जरूरत नहीं है। इन कम्पनियों को आप टेक
ओवर कर लें। इन के लाइसेंस आप कैंसल
करें। इन्होंने बहुत कमा लिया है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन
करता हूँ।

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Buldana):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, supply of electricity is of basic importance not only to the development of industry but also of agriculture and means of transport and communications. In spite of immense development in this sector there is considerable imbalance in the demand and supply of this important form of energy.

The reasons why the Power Supply Industry could not develop rapidly are

[Shri Y. S. Mahajan]

clear enough. The organisational structure set up under the Electricity Supply Act of 1948 is not only inadequate, but highly defective. It is unsuited to the needs of a developing country whose demand for this type of power is increasing by about 15 per cent every year.

The Central Electricity Authority was set up under Section 3 of the Electricity Supply Act of 1948. But it does not endow it with sufficient power to plan the development of the industry or coordinate the activities of the various Electricity Boards and private undertakings. The Act set a premium on inefficiency and did not provide for any financial or commercial discipline in the business of supply of electricity. The State Electricity Boards are usually in the red and the industry suffers from instability of supply, chronic low voltage conditions, excessive losses in transmission and difficulties of transfer from one area to another. As for breakdowns there is no limit. Sir, in my part of the country, even Surgeons cannot be sure of power while performing their operations. They have to make some stand-by arrangements. And so far as Agriculturists are concerned, they have to work on the farms during night time because power might be made available at any time during the night.

I am glad the hon. Minister has come forward with this Bill to overcome these defects. The Bill enlarges the scope and functions of the Central Electricity—Authority in the interest of overall power planning.

In this connection I might like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the sad plight of the State of Maharashtra. Sir, there was already a cut of 10 to 30 per cent till 31st October. From 1st November an additional cut of 10 per cent has been added. It is estimated that the loss of production per day comes to about Rs. 5 crores.

I hope sanction would be accorded to the schemes of a gas turbine power

plant which can come into operation within 1½ years as compared to thermal power station which takes about 5 years.

Similarly, Sir, schemes of power expansion which are awaiting sanction, such as, increasing the capacity of the Tarapore Atomic Centre, a thermal power station at Trombay and the scheme of the Bombay Suburban Electricity Company should be cleared, as soon as possible. If this is done, to a certain extent, the lack of power will be made good during the Fifth and the Sixth Plan-periods in Maharashtra.

With these remarks, I support the Bill.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र (मधुबनी) : श्रीमान्, जीवन में जो स्थान अन्न, वायु और जल का है, आज के युग में विद्युत का भी वही स्थान है। देश को उन्नत करना है उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देना है, खेत और कारखानों में अधिक उत्पादन हो और काफी मात्रा में उत्पादन हो इसके लिये बिजली की आवश्यकता होती है। आज देश में बिजली का हाहाकार मचा हुआ है। संतोष की बात है कि यह विभाग दक्ष मंत्री के हाथ में है, और 1948 में जो विद्युत प्रदाय अधिनियम बना उस में मंत्री जी आज आमूल परिवर्तन का विधेयक लेकर सदन में आये हैं। हमारा विश्वास है कि इस से बिजली में काफी प्रगति होगी, जिस के लिये मैं मंत्री जी का धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

बिल की सारी विशेषताओं का वर्णन करने का समय नहीं है इसलिये केवल सुझाव ही रखना चाहता हूँ। विधेयक के खंड 4(2) के अनुसार सदस्यों में से अध्यक्ष की नियुक्ति की बात है, लेकिन उन की योग्यता और कार्यकाल पर कोई प्रकाश नहीं डाला गया है। मंत्री महोदय इस को स्पष्ट करेंगे। आप ने 14 सदस्यों की संख्या रखी है, अच्छा होता अगर 15 कर देते।

केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण तथा राज्य विद्युत परामर्श परिषद् में जनप्रतिनिधियों को भी स्थान मिलना चाहिये। बिजली उत्पादन की सोमा निर्धारित हो तथा अच्छा काम करने वालों को पुरस्कार दिया जाय और जो व्यक्ति ठोक से काम न करें उन्हें अवश्य दंड देना चाहिये। बिजली का अभाव न हो, और चोरी न हो, इस बात की आप को पूरी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये। इस के साथ ही मेरा निवेदन है कि आप के मंत्रालय में जो भी स्कीम तैयार हो या और कोई काम हो तो उस में राजभाषा का उपयोग हो जिससे राष्ट्रभाषा को बढ़ावा मिले।

एक कहावत है कि हर शून्य चोट निहाई माथा धर्यात् सब से ज्यादा परेशानी किसान को हो होती है, वही बेचारे परेशान होते हैं। इसलिये बिजली की आपूर्ति किसानों को सस्ती दर पर करें।

अब मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान एक आवश्यक विषय की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। जैसा माननीय शंकर दयाल सिंह ने कहा कि बिहार में बिजली की बढ़ी कमी रही है। क्यों न रहे? अगर आप थर्मल पावर स्टेशन नहीं बनायेंगे तो बिजली कहाँ से आयेगी? कुछ वर्ष पहले कटिहार और मुजफ्फरपुर में थर्मल पावर स्टेशन की स्थापना का निर्णय हुआ, लोगों को खुशी हुई कि बिजली का संकट दूर होगा। लेकिन फिर क्या कारण हुआ जिस की वजह से दोनों स्थानों के बारे में जो स्वीकृति हुई थी वह रद्द कर दी गई। मैं चाहूँगा कि मंत्री महोदय बतायें कि यह रद्द क्यों हुई, और क्या फिर पुनः स्वीकृति प्रदान करेंगे? बिहार इस बात की, इस स्वीकृति की आप से अपेक्षा करता है।

अन्त में मैं आप को पुनः धन्यवाद देता हूँ और इस विधेयक का हृदय से स्वागत करता हूँ।

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Since Shri Kartik Oraon, an engineer, is not here, I hope at least his time may be allotted....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is reduced to two minutes.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: The statement of objects and reasons says:

"The country experienced serious power shortages during the last few years affecting the overall economy. A study in depth revealed that it was necessary to restructure and reorganise the electricity supply industry".

DR. SARADISH ROY: On a point of order. There is no quorum.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: What I feel is that the way this analysis that the power shortage was caused...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He may resume his seat. The bell is being rung. Now, there is quorum. Mr. Naik may continue.

15 hrs.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Sir, I feel that the period which has been covered in this analysis was also a period of drought, which was a period of strikes, a period of general unrest and there was a serious problem of the law and order in this country. I therefore feel that the law and order problem which was compounded to a certain extent by the local engineers, junior engineers and others has now been recoiled on them. I hope that the executive order that will follow in view of the fact which says that the board shall comprise of one Electrical Engineer with wide experience. I hope Dr. Rao will also support this—will completely do away with this clause. I request that the Government should not be allergic to these words "Electric Engineer" or any other engineer, because they do a lot of good work. The second point which I would like to place before you is that like the Rail-

[Shri B. V. Naik]

ways, electricity is today or tomorrow fated to get centralised. I think we need not at all be apologetic if we bring in a legislation towards the centralisation of the power in regard to electricity. And in that behalf, the present bill is a step towards a progressive and right direction. But in a sort of a faltering step in the direction of centralisation, it is inevitable that like Railways, power, particularly, electricity—since there are no boundaries for electricity—will have to get centralised and centralisation will mean some persons with multi-discipline knowledge in regard to the whole subject like Mr. K. C. Pant, will have to have a control in order to see that there is a rational distribution of this very very precious and scarce resource in our country. I come from an area which has a major on-going hydro electric project, which is called Kali Hydro-electric project. I do not know what is going to happen in the light of this legislation to the hydro-electric projects like Kali which are at present being implemented through the Mysore Power Corporation. Whether that will be treated as a generating company or not. I do not know. But one of the fall-outs of these major electricity projects and the area particularly the Western Ghat is known to be the power house of this country, is going to have a large number of projects. My district alone, besides Shrawati and Kalindi, is going to have Bedthi project and Aganasini project—4 power projects—within a distance of a hundred miles.

I therefore, feel that the rehabilitation of the people affected by the hydro-electric power projects which has not been a satisfactory record up till now, can only be set right if there is a coordinated action by these generating companies as well as the Central authorities and the State Electricity Boards.

श्री बिबननाथ सिंह (मुनमुनू) : सभापति महोदय, पिछले बीस पच्चीस साल में बिजली

के उत्पादन और खपत में जो वृद्धि हुई है, उसको देखते हुये इस प्रकार के बिल को लाना आवश्यक है। इसका उद्देश्य यह है कि हम बिजली के उत्पादन, विस्तार और खपत को एक राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण से देख सकें।

जहां तक उत्पादन का सम्बन्ध है, हमारी राष्ट्रीय नीति यह होनी चाहिये कि जहां तक हो सके, बिजली का उत्पादन केन्द्र के हाथ में हो रहे। जिस राज्य की सीमा में कोई प्राजेक्ट बनाई जाये, उससे पैदा होने वाली बिजली का एक शेयर उस राज्य को देना चाहिए, लेकिन उसका कुछ हिस्सा केन्द्र के पास रखना चाहिये, ताकि जिन राज्यों में बिजली के उत्पादन की क्षमता और साधन नहीं हैं, उनको बिजली दी जा सके। इससे हमारे देश के ग्रंटर-डेवलप क्षेत्रों को फायदा होगा। बिजली पानी या कोयले से पैदा की जाती है। जिन राज्य में इन दोनों में से कोई भी साधन नहीं हैं, उनके हितों का ध्यान रखना आवश्यक है। जब तक इस सम्बन्ध में कोई निर्णय नहीं किया जाता है, तब तक सेंट्रल इलेक्ट्रिसिटी एथॉरिटी और जेनरेटिंग कम्पनीज को इस ढंग से काम करना चाहिये कि ग्रंटर-डेवलप राज्यों को भी बिजली मिल सके।

15.07 hrs.

[SHRI P. PARTHASARATHY in the Chair]

जहां तक बिजली की खपत का सम्बन्ध है, कृषि और उद्योगों को दी जाने वाली बिजली के रेट्स में बहुत बड़ा फर्क है। कायदा कार को बिजली का सबसे अधिक रेट देना पड़ता है। मेरे राज्य में पिछले तीन साल में बिजली का रेट 13 पैसे पर-यूनिट से बढ़ कर 25 पैसे पर-यूनिट हो गया है। जब हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश है, और हम कृषि उत्पादन की ओर अधिक ध्यान देना चाहते हैं, तो यह आवश्यक है कि कृषि के लिए दी जाने वाली बिजली का रेट उद्योगों को

दी जाने वाली बिजली के रेट से अधिक नहीं होना चाहिये—उन दोनों का रेट एक होना चाहिए। कृषि को दी जाने वाली बिजली का रेट कम करना चाहिये और उद्योगों को बिजली के सम्बन्ध में जो कनेक्शन दी जा रही है, उसको करटेल करना चाहिये।

पहले पुलिस का महकमा भ्रष्टाचार के लिए बहुत क्रिटिसाइज होता था। लेकिन अब बिजली का महकमा सबसे करप्ट है। वहाँ लाइन्जमैन से ले कर एक्सीक्यूटिव इंजीनियर तक सब के द्वारा भ्रष्टाचार होता है। लोगों को बिजली का कनेक्शन नहीं मिलता है और कन्ज्यूमर्स का शोषण होता है। मेरा निवेदन है कि बिजली के डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन के सम्बन्ध में कन्ज्यूमर्स के पायंट आफ व्यू को हमेशा सामने रखना चाहिये।

सेंट्रल इलेक्ट्रिसिटी एथारिटी के गठन में इंस्ट्री और लेबर आदि सभी इन्स्टेंस को प्रतिनिधित्व दिया गया है, लेकिन उसमें कृषि का कोई रिप्रेजेंटेटिव नहीं रखा गया है। उसमें जेनरेटिंग स्टेशन, ट्रांसमिशन और सप्लाय, एप्लाइ रिसर्च, एप्लाइड इथानोमिकस और इंस्ट्रुमल, कामर्शाल तथा फ़िनांशल मामलों में अनुभव-प्राप्त व्यक्ति रखे जायेंगे, लेकिन उसमें एग्रीकल्चर को कोई स्थान नहीं दिया गया है। इसी तरह जेनरेटिंग कम्पनी के बोर्ड आफ डायरेक्टर्स में हैबर को प्रतिनिधित्व दिया जा रहा है, लेकिन एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट्स का कोई प्रतिनिधित्व उसमें नहीं होगा। यह एक बहुत बड़ा लैकुना है। बिजली का सबसे बड़ा कन्ज्यूमर एग्रीकल्चर होने की वजह से उसको इन दोनों सत्थाओं में प्रतिनिधित्व दिया जाना चाहिये।

श्री हरि सिंह (खुर्जा) : समापति महोदय, बिजली मंत्री ने जो बिल पेश किया है, वह बड़ा सामयिक है, उसकी बड़ी मांग थी और वह बहुत कमियों को पूरा करेगा। समय के अभाव के कारण ज्यादा तकलीफ में जाना तो मुश्किल है, लेकिन मैं बताना

चाहता हूँ कि देश में कुल जितनी बिजली पैदा होती है, उसका केवल 13.4 परसेंट खेती और सिंचाई के लिये किसानों को दिया जाता है। इन रेशो को बढ़ाना चाहिए।

सारे देश में यह सच कराया जाये कि दफ्तरों में कितने किसानों को दरखवास्तें बिजली के कनेक्शन के लिये पड़ी हुई हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि हर एक जिले में हजारों की तादाद में ऐसी दरखवास्तें पड़ी हुई हैं। बहुत चक्कर काटने और पूरी कोशिश करने के बावजूद किसानों को बिजली नहीं मिल पाती है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह उसका सर्वे करायें और किसानों को बार फुटिंग पर बिजली दिलवाएं। सर्वे करा कर संसद में इस बात की रखा जाये कि हिन्दुस्तान में इतने किसानों को दरखवास्तें थीं और उसमें इतना हमने पूरा कर दिया। इसके लिये क्लेश प्रोग्राम चलाना होगा। इसके अन्दर उनको प्रायिटी दें। आज जो देहातों में बिजली दी जाती है उसमें भी बहुत से गांवों में बिजली पहुंच पाती है। केवल दो चार खम्भे लगाए और कह दिया कि पूरे गांव में बिजली हो गई। मेरा निवेदन है कि पांचवीं योजना के अन्दर 81 हजार एडीशनल गांवों को बिजली देनी है। जो रफ्तार इस समय चल रही है उससे हमारी पांचवीं योजना का यह लक्ष्य पूरा होना मुश्किल है। मैं चाहूंगा कि किसानों को गारन्टीड बिजली मिले। उसके लिये गारन्टी कर दें कि जब कोई किसान खेतों के लिये बिजली चाहेगा तो उसको बिजली दी जायेगी। ऐसा आदेश आप कर दें तो वह काम पूरा होगा और हमारा देश आगे बढ़ सकेगा।

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): I am supporting this Bill with reluctance and with suspicion. No doubt I congratulate the hon. Minister on the magnificent work he is doing; but I am really afraid of him, because he is so persuasive and is good at getting things done.

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

Mr. Indrajit Gupta was forcefully arguing for a national policy. I am not disagreeing with it. I agree that there should be a national policy for power. Mr. Indrajit Gupta is speaking as a Member from a deficit State. When you speak of a national policy for power, what about the other problems? You cannot take away the surplus power from a State like Kerala which is suffering from scarcities of food and employment. In the case of those problems, there is no national policy. We have to beg for food from Delhi. There is unemployment in Kerala. There is the Siva Sena and there is another Sena in another State which is working against employment for people from Kerala. You are interested in taking away surplus power from Kerala. (*Interruptions*)

We may take other major issues also and can see the disparities. An adult in Punjab consumes 58 ounces of food, whereas in Orissa the intake is 10 ounces. This disparity is there in regard to food. When scarcities and deficits are there, I agree that there should be a national policy in regard to all the items.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Don't you want a national grid?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I agree that Calcutta should be given power. We are not against a national policy. We are not against a national grid. But don't take away something in which a State is in surplus.

Mr. Pant said that it was an innocent bill. I fully agree that there should be a national policy on power and energy. We will definitely support the idea. But it should not be in the case of power alone. When you discuss the question of power and water, you should accept a national policy for food and employment also. The Minister said that in regard to the power projects costing more than Rs. 1 crore, concurrence of the State should be there. That is the position to-day.

In Idikki, you have spent Rs. 160 crores. We are thankful for it. We appeal to you to give us Rs. 10 crores more. It will double the production of power.

A powerful plea has come from different corners for a national policy. My appeal to the hon. Minister is that while he formulates a national policy for power, he should consider the view-points of the surplus States, which are however deficit in very important items like food and employment opportunities. Unilateral introduction of a national policy will be more harmful because power is one of the basic needs of industrial development, it is the attraction for industrial development. Unemployment is very acute in Kerala, and power can attract more industries to the State and provide employment. We need more industrialisation of the State, and power generation can help us in that respect. We are definitely in favour of a national policy in respect of power provided the other needs of Kerala are met by the Government.

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH (Sidhi): I welcome this Bill because I believe that it is another step in the long road of our country catching up on our power needs and becoming competitive by world standards, but I feel that the Central Electricity Authority should have also been given a more meaningful charge as regards research in this field. I believe that the very *raison d'être* of this Bill is to provide a forward-looking policy which our country will need for its growing power needs, and I feel, therefore, that this Authority is the best agency through which we can look into our future needs, more so because now we will have to go into unorthodox modes of power generation like MHD or geo-thermal energy harnessing.

I also feel that because this Bill has come before us and because, as the hon. Minister has promised, there might be some more measures coming forward in this regard, it is most ne-

cessary that we look at things from an economical national point of view. I am referring to this point because one of the most attractive hydro-electric schemes, namely the Rihand dam, is pending for sanction because of the dispute between certain States. I feel that if a thought of this nature, which is behind this Bill, were to come to the forefront of our national policies, these important projects will find early completion and Madhya Pradesh, which was surplus till 18 months ago and has suddenly become deficit in power, would not be starved of power.

श्री नाथराम ग्रहिरवार (टीकमगढ़) : माननीय समापति जी, जो विधेयक सदन के सम्मुख प्रस्तुत किया गया उसका हृदय से समर्थन करते हुए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि आज देश में विद्युत् के मामले में सरकार अपनी नीति निर्धारित करने जा रही है। मेरा इस सम्बन्ध में निवेदन है कि देश में जैसे आपने एग्री-कल्चर और शिक्षा के मामले में एक राष्ट्रीय नीति निर्धारित की उसी तरह से विद्युत् के मामले में भी राष्ट्रीय नीति निर्धारित करनी चाहिये। आप इण्डस्ट्रीज को 25 पैसे यूनिट की दर से बिजली सप्लाई करते हैं लेकिन जो किसान हैं उनको 50 पैसे यूनिट की दर से बिजली मिल रही है। किसानों को बिजली, पानी, फर्टिलाइजर के लिये कितना ही खर्चा करना पड़ता है उसके बाद भी उसको ज्यादा रेट पर बिजली दे रहे हैं। जब कि दूसरी तरफ उद्योग-धंधों में कम रेट वसूल किया जाता है। हमारे देश में कृषि का क्षेत्र काफी पिछड़ा हुआ है, वहां पर किसानों को बिजली के मामले में प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिये।

दूसरी बात यह है कि प्रान्तों में जो बिजली बोर्ड बने हैं उनके जो अध्यक्ष होंगे वे कौन होंगे? अभी आपने कह दिया कि टेक्नीशियन्स फुल टाइम मेम्बर होंगे लेकिन अध्यक्ष कौन लोग होंगे? क्या वे रिटायर्ड

आई० ए० एस० आफिसर होंगे? अभी तो एलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्डों में आई० ए० एस० बैठे हुये हैं जो कि बिजली के सम्बन्ध में कुछ भी नहीं जानते। इसी तरह से एग्रीकल्चर के लिये जहां पर टैक्निकल आदमी चाहिये वहां भी सरकार ने आई० ए० एस० अफसर बिठा रखे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिये।

तीसरी बात यह है कि मध्य प्रदेश दो तीन साल पहले बिजली के मामले में सरप्लस था लेकिन आज वहां पर बिजली की कमी है। मध्य प्रदेश में कोयले का अपार भण्डार है। वहां पर खनिज सम्पदा का दोहन नहीं हो पाता है। अभी पिछले दिनों सुना था कि सीध में सुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बनने जा रहा है। किन्तु इस सम्बन्ध में अभी तक कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हो रही है। अगर पिटहैंड पर आप थर्मल पावर स्टेशन लगाते हैं तो खर्चा कम आता है। अब आपने इसमें रख दिया है कि थर्मल पावर स्टेशन वहां होगा जहां ट्रांसपोर्ट होगा। या तो आप पिटहैंड पर लायें या जो डेवलप एरियाज होंगे वहां लायेंगे।

जहां तक इन्टर-स्टेट का मामला है, उसमें भी हम बहुत दुखी हैं। मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश के बीच रिहन्द के सम्बन्ध में तय हुआ था कि 15 परसेंट बिजली मध्य प्रदेश को मिलेगी लेकिन जबसे बांध बना है एक परसेंट बिजली भी नहीं मिली है। यही हालत माताटीला की है, वहां से भी बिजली नहीं मिलती है। अब सरकार ने जो नीति अपनाई है कि केन्द्रीय स्तर पर देखभाल करने की नीति अपनाई जा रही है उस नीति के मुताबिक जहां कम बिजली पैदा होती है, उन क्षेत्रों में अधिक बिजली मिलनी चाहिये। लेकिन साथ ही साथ आपको अधिक थर्मल स्टेशन बनाने चाहिये और नेशनल ग्रिड के जरिये जहां पर बिजली कम है, वहां पहुंचाना चाहिये। दूसरे तरीकों

१ नाथूराम महिषार

से बिजली के ले जाने का खर्चा बहुत ज्यादा पड़ेगा, नेशनल ग्रिड ही एक ऐसा तरीका है जिससे खर्चा कम पड़ेगा, आप जगह जगह सब-स्टेशन्स बनाते हुये पूरे देश में बिजली ले जा सकते हैं ।

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में किसानों को बिजली का कनेक्शन प्राप्त करने में बहुत परेशानी होती है । दो-तीन साल हुए मैं अपने क्षेत्र में किसानों के पास गया और उनसे कहा कि आप लोग जमानत का पैसा जमा कीजिये, आपको बिजली मिल सकती है । लोगों ने कुआँ पर बिजली की मोटरें लगवालीं, लेकिन जब कनेक्शन के लिये बिजली वालों के पास गये तो वहाँ पैसा दिये बिना कनेक्शन नहीं मिलता । मध्य प्रदेश में इतनी खराब हालत है कि पहले हम कहते थे कि पटवारी बहुत दुखदायी है, लेकिन अब ये बिजली वाले दुखदायी हो गये हैं । मेरा सुझाव है कि जिला स्तर पर एक डिस्ट्रिक्ट एडवाइजरी कमेटी बनाई जाए, जिसमें जनप्रतिनिधि त्व एवं एम० पी०, एम० एल० ए० हों और देखें कि बिजली के कनेक्शन के लिये कितनी दरखास्तें आई हैं और वे कनेक्शन्स दिये जाने के लिये जल्द से जल्द निर्णय करें । आज लोग इंजीनियरों के पीछे घूमते रहते हैं, कभी मिलते हैं, कभी भोपाल चले जाते हैं—काम होने में बहुत दिक्कतें आती हैं । अगर लोगों को समय पर बिजली नहीं मिलेगी तो उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ सकेगा । लोगों को कठिनाइयों को दूर करने के लिये ऐसी एडवाइजरी कमेटी शीघ्र स्थापित की जानी चाहिये, ताकि लोगों की समस्याएँ दूर हो सकें और वे भी देश की प्रगति में अपना हाथ बटा सकें ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विषय का समर्थन करता हूँ ।

श्री निरंजित मिश्र : (मोतीहारी) : स्थापित जी, यह बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट बिल है,

मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ । लेकिन एक बात मुझे कहनी है—आपने कुछ ऐसे नियम बनाये हैं कि अगर किसी को 5 हास-पावर या 10 हास-पावर बिजली मिली है और अगर वह उतना न चलाये, तो उसके ऊपर टैरिफ लगाया गया है कि उतना पैसा उसको देना ही पड़ेगा । यह ठीक नहीं है, जो जितना इस्तेमाल करे, उतने का पैसा दे, न इस्तेमाल करे तो उससे पैसा नहीं लेना चाहिये ।

हमारे गोबले साहब यहां बैठे हुये हैं, उन्होंने अभी संविधान संशोधन पास कराये हैं, उनमें यह भी था कि डिस्टरिक्ट दूर होनी चाहिये, इन-इक्वेलिटी दूर होनी चाहिये । लेकिन आप जरा उत्तर बिहार में देखिये—वहां की पापुलेशन 3 करोड़ है, लेकिन पर-आवर 10 किलोवाट बिजली मिलती है, जब कि पंजाब में 221 किलोवाट है, तमिल-नाडु में 144 किलोवाट है, महाराष्ट्र में 174 किलोवाट है—इस तरह की डिस्टरिक्टों को आप कब तक बरदाश्त करते रहेंगे । देश के उत्पादन के लिये बिजली बहुत जरूरी है, लेकिन उत्तर बिहार, जिसके नजदीक में कोयला खाने हैं फिर भी वहां सबसे कम बिजली है ।

दूसरी बात—डा० के० एल० राव साहब यहां बैठे हैं और इन के सक्सेसर बिजली मंत्री भी यहां बैठे हैं—यह तय हुआ था कि चकिया में बिजली का कारखाना लगाया जाएगा, लेकिन यह फैसला नहीं हो पाया था कि चकिया में लगेगा या मुजफ्फरपुर में लगेगा—उसके बारे में क्या फैसला हुआ ? तीन करोड़ की पापुलेशन को बिजली नहीं मिल रही है, बतलाइये हम क्या करें ?

25 साल की आजादी के बाद अब हम कहें श्री मोहनदास कर्मचन्द गांधी को बुलाने जायें, ताकि वे आकर हमारा कल्याण करें । आज गांधी के अन्दर बहुत से पम्प बिजली के वगैर बँकार पड़े हुये हैं । मैं पन्त जी से यही कहूँगा कि आप जरा उत्तर बिहार की तीन

करोड़ पापुलेशन की हालत को स्वयं देखिये। पंजाब का पापुलेशन कितना है, हरियाणा का पापुलेशन कितना है, महाराष्ट्र का कितना है और तमिलनाडु का कितना है? इसके मुकाबले में नार्थ बिहार का पापुलेशन तीन करोड़ से ज्यादा है और उसको कितनी बिजली मिलती है? अगर इस तरह से सरकार एक खास एरिया के साथ व्यवहार करती रहेगी, तो आप यह समझ लीजिये कि, जैसा श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त ने कहा है, यहां पर नक्सेलाइट मूवमेंट रुकने वाला नहीं है और वह होने ही वाला है। हमारी जो स्टेट है, उसका नेपाल से सम्बन्ध है और उधर चाइना से सम्बन्ध है। इसलिये मेरा कहना यह है कि सब एरियाज के साथ एक सा बर्ताव कीजिये और सब एरियाज को बिजली दीजिये।

मेरे जो दो एमेंडमेंट्स हैं, मैं उनके बारे में जब मौका आएगा तो कहूंगा लेकिन इस वक्त मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि बिजली के बारे में पन्त जी को हर स्टेट के लोगों को बुला कर बातचीत करनी चाहिये और उनकी जो कठिनाइयां हैं, उनको मालूम करके उनको दूर करना चाहिये।

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to stress one or two points, specially with regard to labour.

As far as the national power policy is concerned, it should include the electricity workers also because, under the 20-Point Programme also it has been stated that, to streamline the entire process and the system, in order to eliminate the losses, it is necessary to take the cooperation of the workers and that they should have effective participation in the management. Therefore, in the Board and also in the Central Electricity Authority which is going to be created now, the trade union representatives should find a place.

As far as the qualifications of the Members are concerned, one of the

Members of the Authority must be one who has the capacity and experience to organize the workers. There should not be any charge against him of suppressing the workers or taking drastic action against them or unnecessarily interfering with the workers' rights and also of corruption. Where there are such charges, they should not be taken.

For a uniform national policy, what I would like to suggest is this. The entire object is that we should have abundant generation of power. This would need a guideline or a directive, and I do not find any such thing here. What I would suggest is this, wherever there are economically viable projects, whether in Orissa or West Bengal or Kerala or in any other State, irrespective of political pressure and other things, we should take up because the entire national policy should be to develop such economically viable projects which could fulfil our aim of generating electricity in abundance. For that purpose, what I want to say is this. There should be the concurrence of both the State and the Authority. Take, for instance, some project which is being undertaken. The establishment of generating station requires many things. Suppose, it is on a river. Then, it affects the riparian rights, development of coal mines, drawal of water from major rivers for cooling purposes, and so on. All these social aspects are connected with this. It is not that we are opposed to generation by the Centre. Rather, we insist that it is the Centre who should have the exclusive right to develop these things. But, at the same time, the direction must be for regional development. The direction must be to see that in States like Orissa where natural resources are in abundance, electricity as an instrument should be utilised for regional development and for elimination of regional imbalances.

श्री राम हेड्राऊ (रामटेक) : सम्पत्ति महोदय, बिजली, व्यक्ति एवं राष्ट्र के

[Shri D. K. Panda]

जीवन में प्रकाश और शक्ति प्रदान करती है। किन्तु बिजली के पर्याप्त उत्पादन, उचित संचालन और सुयोग्य वितरण के अभाव में उम्मीदवारों को हमेशा बिजली के घक्के खाने पड़ते हैं। मेरे क्षेत्र में एक दस एकड़ के किसान से बिजली का कनेक्शन लेने के लिए 55,000 रुपये की मांग विद्युत बोर्ड द्वारा की गई। बिजली विभाग में जो भ्रष्टाचार व्याप्त है और जनता को सताया जाता है। भ्रष्टाचार और जनता को सताने की जो नीति है उन से लोग बहुत तंग आ गए हैं। दरखास्तें करते रहने के बाद भी उन्हें तुरन्त इंसाफ नहीं मिलता है।

कुछों को बिजली उचित मात्रा में और उचित समय पर नहीं मिलती है। इसका परिणाम यह होता है कि फल सूख जाती है और किसान बेचारा चिल्लाता रह जाता है। विदर्भ में जो बिजली निर्मित होती है उस में से अस्सी प्रतिशत बिजली बम्बई और पश्चिम महाराष्ट्र के कारखानों के लिए दे दी जाती है और बचो हुई बीस प्रतिशत बिजली में से भी विदर्भ को बड़ी कंजूसी से बिजली की सप्लाई की जाती है। उसका परिणाम यह होता है कि वहां के कारखानों और गृह उद्योग चलाने वालों को बिजली नहीं मिल पाती है। यह जो असंतुलन है इसको दूर किया जाना चाहिये। इस दृष्टि से मैं कहूंगा कि विदर्भ में बिजली निर्माण के दो केन्द्र तुरन्त स्थापित किये जाने चाहियें। वहां पर वेतगंगा, मैनगंगा और बर्बा जैसी विशाल नदियां बहती हैं। वेतगंगा जल विद्युत प्रकल्प की यदि स्थापना हो तो विदर्भ के लिए यह बरदान सिद्ध होगा।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं और चाहता हूं कि

सभी लोगों को, सभी अविकसित भागों को विद्युत की पर्याप्त सप्लाई हो और देश-विकास में उसका पूरा पूरा उपयोग आम जनता के और पिछड़े हुए लोगों के हित में किया जाए।

SHRI K. C. PANT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members, who have participated in this debate, and for the general support they have given to the Bill which I have brought before the House. I find that they have made references to many aspects of power policy, which may not fall strictly within the four corners of the debate which is based on the Bill that we are discussing. Nevertheless, I was interested in hearing their views on these aspects also and since the House does not have many opportunities to discuss power, I was happy that on this occasion, Members took the opportunity to express their views. I have made a note of them and I shall try my best to benefit from them.

References were made by many hon. Members to regional imbalances. I recognise the validity of the points, for instance, made by our senior leader, Shri Bibhuti Misra, about the difference in per capita consumption of electricity in different parts of the country and the fact that North Bihar is backward. There are other pockets in the country also and one need not dilate on that; but I would only make one point and that is, that backwardness of a region cannot be removed merely by supply of electricity, but electricity should be supplied where load builds up, I know there is a hen-and-egg situation, but I would say that in the coordinated programme for the development of a backward area, power is important and it is with that approach in mind that the Rural electrification Corporation, for instance is drawing up plans and programme to help rural electrification in those States which are backward, and to those areas which are backward and to supply electricity at

concessional rates to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. These are having some impact, but that cannot be a substitute for what the State has to do in this matter itself. This is one aspect which was raised by many members and I thought I should refer to it in passing.

I shall now try to refer briefly to the points made by the members, seriatim, if I can, but I cannot possibly answer every point that has been made.

Dr. Roy said that the Government brought forward an ordinance and his objection is that we did not withdraw the Bill. The point is that we introduced the Bill in the Rajya Sabha because we thought that it was urgent and we would like to pass it as quickly as possible. But it could not be taken up in the Rajya Sabha. Then we were still anxious to get it adopted quickly. So, an ordinance was passed and already people knew about it because when we introduced it in the Rajya Sabha these provisions were known. I think he should compliment me for at least having brought it before the country through the Rajya Sabha. What is his objection to that? After the ordinance has been passed, I have come to the Lok Sabha as quickly as possible. He himself said it was 20 days. I do not remember the number of days. But how could he say that I did not come to the House as quickly as possible? He used some phrases saying that by doing this I am somehow hoodwinking the people. Now, these are his favourite expressions, not only his but his Party's. Therefore, my suggestion to him with all respect is not to devalue these terms unnecessarily. Let him use these terms at least when there is some justification. He can argue the case. Let him argue the case but to use them in such circumstances and to devalue them in such circumstances will not help because next time when he uses them, everybody will know what he means thereby. So, I suggest for his own sake, let him

be more careful in the very use of these terms.

He said that the Centre was taking all the power and not respecting the federal structure of the Constitution. We heard many forceful and eloquent speeches in the House and it was suggested that we had not gone far enough in the direction of centralisation. Therefore, as in most of the other cases these days, I think, my hon. friend finds himself in the minority of one.....

DR. SARADISH ROY: Which are the State Governments that have objected to this Bill?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Many State Governments have many points of view in these matters and I am not suppressing anything. The State Governments are very eloquent. They are not the people who can be suppressed. What their views were and what their pleas were, you can read about them.

But the point that I would like to make to Dr. Rao and my friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta, who, amongst others, referred to the need for centralisation is that we have discussed this matter with the State Governments I think at three Ministerial conferences—three times. Besides that, when we were considering the provisions of this particular Bill, again we discussed it with them. The State Governments' point of view, at least in respect of some States, was represented by Shri Vayalar Ravi today though I think he was confusing the national grid with the ownership of the power stations. But I can see the point because I have heard the States make that point. Therefore, I would suggest that what we have done here in this Bill is what ought to be done at this stage of our development and I think I have no hesitation in saying that considering the complexities of the subject we have come up with a solution which, I think, is ideally suited to to-day's situation. We have

[Shri K. C. Pant]

to take into account the fact that power is a concurrent subject. The States are also not only involved in it but they have a preponderating interest in the generation and distribution of power. It has been my attempt ever since I have come to this Ministry to increase central generation and it is in pursuit of that policy that we have taken these steps. We are trying to have four large super-thermal stations in the country in the Central sector. Two of these stations would be 2,000 m.w. The third one would be 1200 m.w. and the fourth one would be 1000 m.w. The proportion of Central generation to total generation would go up considerably. We can take up many worthwhile projects and in a sense the States are also happy if we take up these projects, because lot of resources are required and perhaps we would be in a better position than them to execute them quickly and in time.

While we have a policy in this direction to increase central generation, I would say, the States also have a role to play. And I don't see any reason to do away with that advantage which we have today. To do away with that role would lead to many complications. The States have fairly large structures built up in the field of power industry. Each department in each States has got a large number of employees. They have their own power stations. They have their own network of transmission and distribution lines. I do not think it is a practical and feasible suggestion to take over these things. The implications of this suggestion must be clearly understood. Will be able to supply power to every village? Everyone who spoke about the problems relating to supply of power in the rural areas. They voiced the problems faced by the kisans, that he does not get connection without having to pay money, then even when the connection is given, when he wants it for the crop, at that time he does not get it, and

so on. One hears these complaints. If we take up in the Central sector there would be greater repercussions. I do not think we should regard States as non-functioning bodies. They are functioning bodies and they are best fitted to handle these matters. Distribution is done by them. My friend would be glad to know that we are going in for 400 KV line. There will be 400 KV line connecting many of these generating stations and I think this will be the skeleton of our National Grid. Shri Indrajit Gupta referred to inter-State lines. We are financing Inter-Statelines from the Centre and where necessary these inter-State line construction would be handled by the Hydro Power Corporation. We have made a provision whereby we will be able to take it up if necessary.

Sir, there is no hesitation to move towards a national grid. I would like to make it quite clear that our policy is to have a national grid. A reference was made to regional grids, I would like to assure my friends, Shri P. K. Deo that it is not we are slowing the progress towards a national grid but strengthening of regional grids is necessary in the intermediate stage in moving towards the national grid. Even in relation to the process of setting up a grid rather it is not something which will come up overnight. All the time, in each State, there is need for a better grid within the state. There is need for a better grid between the regions which requires to be strengthened. That is how the national grid will come in. Even to-day theoretically it is possible to transmit power, say, from Bhakra system to Cape Comorin. But the links are so weak in many places, it is wrong to call it a national grid.

Therefore, there is no hesitation in this matter but the process will take time. In the meantime there seems to be some confusion about the transmission of power from the surplus State to a deficit. State, I think Shri Vayalar Ravi—he is not here now—referred to

the disadvantages accruing to his State. But, I would like to remove this misunderstanding from his mind. He referred to the fact that by giving power to a deficit State, Kerala would somehow lose or there would be a disadvantage accruing to Kerala. Nothing can be further from the correct position because, if Kerala has surplus power, it is not giving that power free to any other State. It is earning money for it. And I can assure my Kerala friends that they are earning money for that. The only point is that they cannot waste it. (Interruptions) I would say with all respect to Shri Tiwary that you cannot waste power but you can only use it for which you should have load centres. You cannot use power just like that; You cannot consume it.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN (Ernakulam): But, there are not adequate infrastructures in our State. That is why we have to give power at cheap rate.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I am not here to solve all your problems. But, I am only saying that if your State can use power, let them use it. If you cannot, You sell that power and you are gaining on it. In the meantime, you can build up the load centres. I am for it. I am only saying that it is sometimes a wrong notion to think of not having a grid. Many States want to have inter-state grids. By holding on to the surplus power they are gaining nothing, but they are also gaining something by selling the power, their surplus power. I want to clear this misunderstanding in order to persuade the States that, in their own interest, if there is a deficit State, they should give surplus power to that State. If it is a surplus State, in the interest of earning some money for their surplus power, they should readily agree to have inter-state lines, this is something which is so self-evident that I am sorry to have to state that here. Another point was made by many hon. Members. I shall here try to cover as many points as I can. A point was made by several Members that power was being given at concessional rates to Birlas for their

aluminium plant. I think this was raised by several C. P. (M) Members as well as by Shri P. K. Deo. It has been revised and it has gone up from 2 paise per K.Wh. last year to 12 paise per K.Wh. plus the fuel surcharge. The rate now is over 12 paise per unit. You must understand that aluminium is a very heavy consumer of electricity.

Although I do not want to go into the question of tariffs, many hon. Members have made a reference to uniform tariffs and to the desirability of reducing the tariff for agriculture etc., etc. When I come with the financial Bill later that would be an appropriate occasion to discuss all these matters. The point that I would like to make is that it is good if you understand the implications of stepping up this rate from 2 paise per unit to 12 paise per unit for aluminium industry. It has certain implications in the cost of aluminium and aluminium is used mainly by the electricity industry for cables. If effects the price of cables. So, when you step up the price of power it affects the cost of aluminium and the aluminium produce. Nevertheless, this has been done because we do not want to give them cheap power. But please understand the other implication also and if you understand the other implication you can suggest to us as to what is the aluminium price acceptable to you and also work back as to what is the cost of power acceptable to you. Power is a kind of raw-material for the aluminium industry.

Then, Sir, Dr. Roy raised the question of foreign companies delaying the supply of machinery and making undue profit. This is a case in which he seems to have lost track of the recent developments. Now, we are not importing machinery for power production. It is a thing of the past. BHEL and some other concerns are manufacturing all the machinery.

Sir, he also talked of the power crisis. That again luckily is a thing of

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the past and in most parts of the country, I am glad to say, compared to the situation two years ago the power situation is very much better and easier today. There are some pockets where there are difficulties and some States like Maharashtra and Karnataka suffer from these difficulties. I agree with Dr. Roy that generation of power has not grown as fast as the demand.

Dr. Rao referred to the question of having a national power policy and he said that it should be by Government and not Central Electricity Authority. We have not amended the reference to the development of a uniform power policy. It is the same as it was in the previous Act. We have not changed it and Government would be interested in evolving a national power policy. He also referred to the presence of part time members in the Central Electricity Authority. Let me explain as to why the part time members are there. We have given to the Central Electricity Authority the task of finally giving techno-economic approval to the projects which come from the States and also for Central projects. Because of this, the Finance Ministry, the Planning Commission and other Ministries felt that if they were not represented on the CEA when we considered the power projects for approval, they would have to again repeat the process of examination of these projects. We did not want to duplicate that. Therefore, we have provided for this part time representation or non-expert representation. It is official, but it is non-expert presentation in the CEA. But by wording it subtly we have left the door open to get some experts, if we can find them. This is the general position.

There are a few non-engineers to whom Dr. Rao made a reference. They are put there deliberately, people experienced in finance, industry, in commerce. As I explained in my opening speech, power is becoming very capital intensive and these power units are very large units with a lot of capital invested in them. They have to be

managed with the best skills we have. Those skills are not only in engineering, but skills in accounting and modern management of various kinds including commercial. Therefore, I think the CEA must have all these disciplines represented on it. Otherwise, it will not be able to take care of the multi-disciplinary approach required for modern management of these huge undertakings.

Shri Narasimha Reddy raised the question of a super thermal station in the south. He knows that we do intend to have one super thermal station in the central sector in the South. We have sent to the World Bank two project reports from South India. One is related to the exploitation of the lignite at Neyveli and the other to coal in Ramagundam. Taking a broad approach and here we have talked of a national power policy—I would say that in South India where two of the States have total hydro systems, Kerala and Karnataka, and two others have reserves of lignite and coal, we should have a plan to develop the resources and the power structure in such a way that we can utilise the lignite of Tamil Nadu and coal of Andhra Pradesh to have thermal power in these two States not only for themselves but to supplement the power with the hydro States and ultimately think of a southern grid with the hydro resources and thermal resources supplementing each other. With a hydel base provided and thermal resources, one can have a very rational system in the south.

In North India, I would say that along the Himalayas there is still vast potential of hydro resources. Luckily all along the plains not too far from the Himalayas, there is a coal belt stretching from Bengal to Maharashtra. Again in due course it is a combination of these two which will provide the proper mix for north India. Therefore, I think we are well placed in the matter of macro power planning.

Referring to specific plans, we can say that there can be one central super

thermal station in the south, and one super thermal power station perhaps jointly built by the four States in the south. I think this is feasible. I have discussed it with some of the States, but I will not say more about it till I have discussed it with all the States and have got their reactions. In that way, perhaps we can have two big super thermal stations, based on coal and lignite, and link it with the grid in the southern region.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY (Udipi): Can we not have a nuclear power station in Karnataka?

SHRI K. LAKKAPA (Tumkur): Thermal station also. That point may be replied.

SHRI K. C. PANT: You will have to make a choice between hydel and other sources. There are no absolute answers in these cases. It is all comparative. At a given point, would you like to have this or would you like to have that? You cannot have both. You will have ultimately to decide whether you prefer thermal power station or hydel power station.

There are advantages in both. Now, they are a little better off than what they were.

16 hrs.

SHRI P. K. DEO: What about the Indravati project?

SHRI K. C. PANT: It has been pending with the Planning Commission. What can I do? How can we approve of it?

SHRI P. K. DEO: You put some muzzle in it.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I think you have enough muscle. Now, Shri Shankar Dayal Singh had asked me to ensure that the CEA should undertake National Load surveys which determine the requirement of power in different regions. Already that is being done and

in fact we have nearly completed the 10th load survey. So, this aspect of investigating the future requirements of power has already been done by us. Then, he referred to rural electrification and he said that due to political considerations his scheme went somewhere else. I thought that he was one of the most vocal Members in this House and I am surprised if there is anybody in this House who can take away his scheme. In any case, he will be glad to know that I am thinking of setting up a special committee of my Consultative Committee which will go into the question of the functioning of the Rural Electrification Corporation Schemes. Many hon. Members have privately expressed to me their difficulties and their problems in respect of rural electrification schemes and, therefore, I have asked some of my colleagues in the Consultative Committee to go round and look into these things and I think this will meet the approval of the House.

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: The Members of Parliament can be the members of this Committee.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I do not think that really the CEA is a body where you should ask for representation of Members of Parliament because it is an expert body ultimately.

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: There are some expert Members in the House also, like Dr. Rao.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Then why should you consider that they would be excluded? Now, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that the super power thermal stations were not going through because of disputes regarding locations. There is really no dispute regarding location. Therefore, I think that he has got some wrong information.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: Some States are forming some companies and there is a multiplicity of agencies.

SHRI K. C. PANT: The second point he talked about is multiplicity of agencies in this Bill. There is no multi-

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plicity of agencies in this Bill. If States get together and form a generating company, that would be a very desirable development but I would not call it a multiplicity of agencies. These are agencies which are required to separate generation from power. But it does not bring in a quantitative difference or a qualitative multiplicity of agencies. They would be agencies of some kind, that is for the generation of power and it is a deliberate advice which we are giving to States that we would like them to set up separate agencies because we see the advantages. And one State, that is, Karnataka, is now constructing the Kalinadi hydro-power project through a company. They found it wholly satisfactory and somebody asked whether Karnataka Corporation could be deemed to be one of the generating companies. My answer to that is 'Yes'. It would be one of the generating companies and others are free to set up a similar generating companies. Shri Swaran Singh Sokhi has raised a point which I think is not really a point. If he reads it properly, he will understand the point. But he has not read the word 'or'. Now I think, he has seen that.

Shri Mahajan referred to the gas turbine for Maharashtra. One has to be very certain that the gas is available and the availability of gas is not confirmed, as far as I know. Therefore, I cannot proceed with this unless that is taken care of. He also referred to the sanctioning of projects of Maharashtra. We have sanctioned a number of projects in Maharashtra. I have given the list only recently and he is welcome to have a look at it. Some of the projects which he mentioned have other implications. I do not want to go into them now.

श्री राम हेडार्क : विदर्भ में कोई प्रोजेक्ट सैंक्शन हुआ है

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : विदर्भ में कई प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं क्योंकि वहां पर काफी

कोयला है। चन्द्रपुर में बड़ा ग्रन्थ प्रोजेक्ट है और मैं खुद वहां जा कर देख आया हूँ।

Mr. Naik said that electrical engineer has been taken out of the list of members and created an impression, by referring to Dr. Rao, that we were doing it deliberately. I have gone through it again and I find they have not been taken out. I do not know how he got that wrong impression.

Shri Panda referred to the need to have the concurrence of the States along with the CEA when projects are approved. I think that goes counter to what Mr. Indrajit Gupta said earlier.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: I have limited it to the social aspects.

SHRI K. C. PANT: You are saying that States should be consulted. He is saying "Don't consult the States." Whatever the reasons, the end effect is there. You should agree on the end effect.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: We have total agreement. I only suggested that with regard to these aspects, not merely information should be sent to them, but previous consultation should be there.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Shri Rana Bahadur Singh referred to MHD and geothermal research. Research has been included specifically this time as one of the functions of CEA and both MHD and geothermal research is done not by the CEA but elsewhere. I need not refer to it in great detail here.

I may tell Ahirwarji that a pithead super thermal station will come up at M.P. Also 15 per cent of power is going from Riband to M.P. since last year. Earlier this was not there, but since last year, it is going.

श्री दिव नाथ सिंह (मुम्बई) : इंडस्ट्री और एग्रीकल्चर के कन्जम्प्शन यूनिट

रेट्स में बहुत बड़ा फर्क है, इस के बारे में भी कुछ बताइए ।

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : रेट्स के बारे में मैं कुछ नहीं कर सकता ।

Each State determines the rates for different consumers. I cannot impose any rates.

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी (गोपालगंज) : श्री बिभूति मिश्र ने कहा था कि बिहार इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड ने एक नियम बनाया है कि चाहे बिजली जलाएँ या न जलाएँ 10 रुपये एच०पी० के हिसाब से बेरूपया चार्ज कर लेवे हैं । इस का नतीजा यह होता है कि एक-एक आदमी को 600, 600 रुपया देना पड़ जाता है जबकि वह केवल 200 रुपये की बिजली जलाता है ।

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : हर राज्य सरकार को यह निर्धारित करना पड़ता है कि किस तरह के उन के यहां रेट्स हों और कितने मिनिमम रेट्स वे अपने यहां लगाए । इस मामले में राज्य सरकारों की जो भी योजना है, उस में मैं दखल नहीं दे सकता ।

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी : सलाह तो दे सकते हैं ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : सलाह तो आप भी दे सकते हैं । हमारा सलाह देना ठीक नहीं है क्योंकि यह राज्यों के करने की बात है । अलग से उन से बात कर सकते हैं लेकिन औपचारिक रूप से उन्हें सलाह देना ठीक नहीं है क्योंकि यह उन का काम है ।

I think I have answered most of the points raised. I would conclude by thanking the members once again for their constructive suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the clauses. I think there are no amendments to Clause 2.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3—(Amendment of section 2.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are amendments No. 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in the name of Dr. K. L. Rao.

DR. K. L. RAO: I am not moving.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment No. 39 in the name of Mr. D. K. Panda.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: I beg to move:

Page 3, line 2,—

for "Company" substitute "Corporation" (39)

The word 'Corporation' has a different and genuine implication; it will be definitely more befitting than the word 'company'. I do not want to speak much on it; but let it be accepted.

SHRI K. C. PANT: It is under the Company Law that this will be set up. We may call it a corporation, or a company. It does not make a difference. If it has to be a statutory corporation, it will have to come before the House. Otherwise there is no difference.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No. 39 to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 39 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now about clause 4. No amendments have been moved to it.

The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4A (New)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now clause 4A. It is a new clause.

SHRI P. K. DEO: I beg to move:

Page 4,—

after line 39, insert—

'4A. After section 3 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"3A. The Central Electricity Authority shall fix up uniform tariff of power generated by—

- (i) Hydro electricity projects;
- (ii) Thermal projects;
- (iii) Atomic power projects

so that agriculture, industry and rural electrification may get a boost." (15)

So far as the freedom of the States to regulate the electric tariff is concerned, I would like to suggest that there should be a national guideline

issued to the various States. We are given to understand that the Government of India are about to evolve a formula so far as the tariff is concerned, varying from 6 paise to 13 paise, depending on the mode of generation. If it is purely hydro, it is 6 paise; if it is purely thermal, it is 13 paise; and in between if it is a combination of both. I do not know how far my information is correct. I hope some light will be thrown in this regard and if possible a directive might go to the various States to have uniformity as far as practicable, so that agriculture, industry and rural electrification can really get a boost.

SHRI K. C. PANT: It is much cheaper to generate hydro-electric power than to generate thermal power. It costs more if you generate from coal or from nuclear sources. So, the complexity of the factors is very vast, the range is very wide, and even in thermal power, it depends on all kinds of factors, including the distance from the pithead etc. Therefore, I do not think that we can issue a directive to the States to have certain uniform rates until one goes very deep into this matter. So, I cannot interfere with the tariff structure of the States. That is why I said earlier that I would not like to interfere with the tariff structure of the States.

SHRI P. K. DEO: I would like to withdraw my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has he the leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

Amendment No. 15 was, by leave withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 6 and 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 6 and 7 were added to the Bill

Clause 8—(Insertion of new section 15A).

SHRI M. C. DAGA: I beg to move: Page 6, line 38,—

after "organising workers" insert—

"as well as in representing workers' interest in the Generating Company" (3)

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna): I beg to move:

Page 6, line 38,—

after "organising workers" insert—

"and defending and safeguarding their rights and privileges before the Generating Company or Corporation;" (28)

SHRI D. K. PANDA: I beg to move: Page 6, line 18,—

add at the end—

"in accordance with the National Power Policy of removing regional imbalances" (41)

Page 6, line 25,—

add at the end—

"in accordance with the National Power Policy of removing regional imbalances" (42)

SHRI B. V. NAIK: I beg to move:

Page 6,—

after line 30, insert—

"provided that local interests will be represented in the form of part-time members to an adequate extent, being not less than a third of the total number of members." (36)

श्री मूल चन्द डागा : श्रीमान्, मुझे केवल एक बात कहनी है कि आप जब कम्पनी फॉर्म कर रहे हैं, और 20 सूत्री कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत तथा अभी आप ने जो संविधान संशोधन विधेयक पास किया है उस में लेबर पार्टिसिपेशन की बात रखी है तो मेरा कहना है कि कम्पनी के अन्दर एक डायरेक्टर वर्कर्स का भी हो ।

Why should he not be appointed one of the directors of the company? Where you are having so many directors, you kindly appoint as one of the directors a person who is a worker in the company.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : सभापति जी, माननीय डागा जी ने ठीक बात कही । मेरे संशोधन का आशय भी करीब करीब वही है । जहां बोर्ड आफ डायरेक्टर्स की योग्यता की बात कही गई है जिस के सिलसिले में (ग) में उल्लेख है organising workers जो श्रमजीवियों को संगठित कर सके उसी के आगे हम चाहते हैं कि :

"and defending and safeguarding their rights and privileges before the Generating Company or Corporation;"

ऐसे व्यक्ति उसमें जरूर रखें जो मजदूरों को केवल संगठित ही न करें; बल्कि उनके स्वार्थों को देख सकें, उनकी कठिनाइयों, मांगों का हल निकालने में उनकी मदद कर सकें । अगर वह ऐसा नहीं कर सके तो मजदूरों का विश्वास उन्हें प्राप्त नहीं होगा और बिजली पैदा करने वाली कंपनी होगी, उसमें गड़बड़ी होगी, हड़तालें होंगी, बेराब होंगे और तरह तरह के आन्दोलन होंगे । (अन्तर्वाहवाहं)

श्री शंकर दयान सिंह : बेराब नहीं होंगे ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : शंकर दयाल जी, आपके कहने से तो मैं मानने वाला नहीं हूँ ।

इसलिये ऐसे लोगों को जो मजदूरों के बीच में जा नहीं सकते हैं, उनको न रखा जाये । मेरे संशोधन का यहो आशय है, मेरे ब्याल से मंत्री महोदय इसको अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं क्योंकि उनको वास्तुमूर्ति ।

SHRI B. V. NAIK : Sir, the purport of my amendment is to represent in these generating companies some local interests and to provide them part-time members. In the course of the thoughtful reply to the debate, the hon. Minister said that we cannot take up the distribution of electricity to every nook and corner of the country. But we have been distributing letters, telegrams, telephones, wires, etc. for the last hundred years. I think, we would like to stand by our Minister in taking a decision in regard to centralisation but he should also represent local interests, that is, those people who are living nearabout these areas. They know where the shoe pinches. I hope, the hon. Minister will accept in spirit at least what we are submitting after our experience and accept the amendment.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Sir, I have already explained the whole thing. What I want to stress here is that since the hon. Minister has not refuted or rejected the points I have raised, I think, he has almost accepted it. As far as the regional imbalance is concerned, we all know and we are fully aware that it is the monopoly growth that has resulted in this regional imbalance.

As far as this particular amendment is concerned, it is with regard to removing the regional imbalance. Then, automatically, it becomes an instrument for proper regional development specially in the field of agriculture and industry. From that

point of view, because it has not been refuted or rejected, I hope, it will be acceptable to the hon. Minister.

SHRI K. C. PANT : As regards the point made by Mr. Daga and Mr. Shastri is concerned, I do not see why they are pressing a point which will exclude them from the possibility of being included as members in the Board. There will be a possibility of including persons like them in the board and, subsequently, when the labour leaders establish themselves in this field, they can also be taken in the board. Why should they exclude themselves?

Mr. Naik wants the representation of local interests. What is local interest? Who will define what is local interest? Is it the local M.P. or is it the local district or is it the local State? Therefore, I think, it would be wrong to include such a flexible and ambiguous term in a law. Whatever local interests are involved will naturally be taken care of by whoever is in the board.

So far as the point raised by Shri Panda goes, I think, he will agree with me that the question of regional imbalances is not going to be affected too much by our including the words 'removal of regional imbalances' in this Bill. The important thing is that, as a part of our planning process, we have to remove the regional imbalances. Therefore, I cannot agree to include it in the Bill. But I would agree with him that it should be in the overall strategy of planning in the country. He and I can get together and try to remove regional imbalances wherever they are, but not by including it in the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is Mr. Daga pressing his amendment?

SHRI M. C. DAGA : No, Sir; I am not pressing. I seek leave of the House to withdraw it.

Amendment No. 3 was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. B. V. Naik.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: I am also not pressing; I seek leave of the House to withdraw it.

Amendment No. 36 was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall I put all the other amendments together?

SHRI D. K. PANDA: I am not pressing Amendment No. 41.

Amendment No. 41 was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put Amendments Nos. 28 and 42 to the vote of the House.

Amendments 28 and 42 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 and 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 11 (substitution of new sections for section 18.)

SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: I beg to move:

Page 8 line 8,—

after "State" insert—

"and to adopt a flexible and differential consumption tariff so as to secure equitable benefits and incentives for lift-irrigation in drought-prone areas and for rural cottage industries". (18)

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: I beg to move:

Page 8, line 8,—

after "State" insert—

"and to adopt such a reasonable and differential consumption tariff so as to secure maximum benefits and incentives for lift irrigation in drought-prone areas, for poor and marginal farmers, poor people and small scale industries in town and cottage industries in the villages;" (29)

SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA. I beg to move:

Page 8,—

after line 36, insert—

"18B. It shall be the duty of the Generating Company to make arrangements with the electricity distributing agencies in such a way that the electricity generated by the Generating Company is sold at a uniform rate throughout the country and that the village industries and farmers throughout the country are supplied electricity at cheaper rates than the other consumers." (38)

SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: The Minister has already explained that, in the matter of tariff, it is not proper for us to interfere and fix the rates which the State Electricity Boards are more competent to do. But, in spite of that, I would request that my amendment, which reads as follows, be accepted:

"Page 8, line 8,—

after "State" insert

"and to adopt a flexible and differential consumption tariff so as to secure equitable benefits and incentives for lift-irrigation in drought-prone areas and for rural cottage industries."

[Shri P. Narasimha Reddy]

This amendment does not fix any rate; it only gives a hint, an indication, to the Electricity Boards to adopt such a flexible policy. In the circumstances, this amendment should be acceptable to the Minister.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : सभापति महोदय, मेरा एमेंडमेंट संख्या 29 श्री नरसिम्हा रेड्डी के एमेंडमेंट से लगभग मिलता-जुलता है, और उस के द्वारा ये शब्द जोड़ने के लिए कहा गया है

"and to adopt such a reasonable and differential consumption tariff so as to secure maximum benefits and incentives for lift-irrigation in drought-prone areas, for poor and marginal farmers, poor people and small scale industries in town and cottage industries in the villages;"

यह संशोधन रेट के बारे में है, जिस के संबंध में मंत्री महोदय ने बहस का जवाब देते हुए कहा कि हम अभी उस पर विचार नहीं कर रहे हैं, उस को बाद में देखेंगे।

तो मैं यहां यह बात कह देना आवश्यक समझता हूँ कि रेट एक तरह का नहीं होना चाहिए। अभी एक तरह का रेट है बल्कि अगर कोई फर्क है तो पूँजीपतियों के लिए फर्क है। मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हिंडालको को, बिरला को दो पैसे से बढ़ा कर 12 पैसे कर दिया लेकिन अगर आम जनता को कितना बढ़ाया उस का सिंहावलोकन करें तो मालूम हो जायगा कि 24 पैसे और 27 पैसे तक वह चला गया है। तो जो बेचारे गरीब हैं देहातों के अंदर जिन को धान पटाने के लिए पानी नहीं मिल रहा है, अभी मेरे पास कल चिट्ठी आई है हमारे क्षेत्र के और धनरुआ पतोड़ी अंचलों में पानी नहीं मिल रहा है। पहले बाढ़ में फसल

समाप्त हो गयी जो बच गई थी वह अब सूखे में जा रही है। उन को बिजली नहीं मिलती। और कई जगहों में ऐसा ही हाल है। उन को ज्यादा रेट देना पड़ता है। छोटे छोटे किसान हैं। बड़े किसानों से आप लीजिए मुझे कोई एतराज नहीं है। लेकिन छोटे किसानों से भी वही रेट लें जो बड़े लोगों से लेते हैं यह ठीक नहीं है। शहरों में जो छोटे उद्योग धंधे चलाने वाले हैं उन से भी वही रेट और बिरला टाटा से भी वही जिनके पास बारह बारह और आठ आठ अरब की सम्पत्ति है, यह बात समझ में नहीं आती है। एक छोटी सी झोपड़ी वाला है जो अपनी झोपड़ी में एक बल्ब जलाता है उस से भी वही रेट और जो बड़े बड़े शीश महलों में रहते हैं उन से भी वही रेट। तो मेरा कहना यह है कि रेट में तफर्क होना चाहिए और जो गरीब तबके के लोग हैं जिन का जिक्र आप ने 20 सूची कार्यक्रम में किया है उन के लिए कोई सस्ता रेट बिजली का तय कीजिए। मेरे संशोधन का आशय यही है। मुझे विश्वास है कि मंत्री जी मेरी बात स्वीकार करेंगे।

श्री विनूति मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मेरा एमेंडमेंट सादा सा है कि जो देश में बिजली तैयार हो सारे देश में यूनिफार्म रेट से उस का बटवारा होना चाहिए और उस बटवारे में किसानों को और गांवों की इंडस्ट्रीज को सस्ते से सस्ते दाम पर बिजली दी जाय। मैं समझता हूँ कि मंत्री जी इस को कबूल करेंगे कि गांवों में जब तक सस्ते दाम पर बिजली नहीं देंगे तब तक कूटी उद्योग नहीं चलेंगे। गांवों में सस्ते दामों पर बिजली नहीं देंगे तो किसानों को फायदा नहीं होगा। किसान अन्न नहीं पैदा करेंगे। इसलिए जो बिजली पैदा हो उसके बटवारे का एक तरीका ऐसा बना दिया जाय कि गांवों में

में कितनी जायगी। मेरा यह साधारण
सा प्रेममेंट है। मंत्री जी इस को
स्वीकार करें।

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, I would request Shri Reddy, Panditji and Shastriji to look at section 18(a), which reads:

"to arrange in coordination with the Generating Company or Generating Companies, if any, operating in the State, for the supply of electricity that may be required within the State and for the transmission and distribution of the same."

I would request the hon. Members to note the next words:

"...in the most efficient and economical manner with particular reference to those areas which are not for the time being supplied or adequately supplied with electricity".

That, I think, is justified and should be there in a Central Act, but things like what tariff should be there in each State and which section of the consumers should subsidise another set of consumers, we leave it to the States. We cannot possibly in a Central law lay down either uniformity in this matter or lay down principles which will be applicable to each State because of the different systems existing in the States. As I explained, this is the main difficulty.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : उस में दिक्कत यह है कि फार्मर को और विलेज इंडस्ट्री को जिस के लिए गांधी जी कहते थे बिजली नहीं मिल पाएगी। उस के लिए कोई डायरेक्शन दें या उपाय करें जिस से फार्मर को और विलेज इंडस्ट्री को बिजली आप दें। यह जो आप का है इस में फार्मर और विलेज इंडस्ट्रीज नहीं आती।

SHRI K. C. PANT: I am completely in sympathy with the desire to take power to the rural areas and I would like to see power reaching every

village. 180,000 villages are already serviced with power and I would like it to expand rapidly, and I am doing my best for that. The matter of rates is, however, different:

SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA: I seek the permission of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment No. 38 was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will now put amendments Nos. 18 and 29 of Shri Narasimha Reddy and Shri Ramavatar Shastri respectively to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 18 and 29 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 to 16 were added to the Bill.

Clause 17a—(Substitution of new sections for sections 28 and 29)

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: I beg to move:

Page 10, line 37,—

after 'papers' insert—

"such as Hindi, English, and other State languages of the regions which have wide circulation," (30)

सभापति जी, मेरा संशोधन पृष्ठ नं० १० पर है जोकि इस प्रकार से है :

"such as Hindi, English, and other State languages of the regions which have wide circulation,"

इसमें बाइड सर्कुलेशन लिखना भी जरूरी है और हर तरह की भाषा की चर्चा करना भी जरूरी है इसलिये कि अगर कोई कहीं विज्ञापन या और कुछ

[Shri Ramavatar Shastri]

देना चाहे तो इस तरह की तीन भाषाओं में देना चाहिये और जिसका सर्कुलेशन ज्यादा से ज्यादा हो उसको देना चाहिये। यह संशोधन मैंने इसलिए दिया है कि हमारे बिहार में घनबाद में इंडियन स्कूल आफ माइन्स है, उसका सम्बन्ध भी हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी से ही है, उन्होंने कई करांड पया उसके विस्तार के लिए दिए हैं—वह अलग सबाल है जिसके लिए मैं अलग से बात करूंगा—लेकिन वहां पर एक दो लाख रुपया एडवर्टाइजमेंट के लिए रखा जाता है और चालीस, चालीस अखबारों के नाम उनके पास हैं। आल इंडिया नेचर के अखबार हा, अंग्रेजी, उर्दू, बंगला के हालांकि उर्दू का नाम नहीं था। बहरहाल जो भी अखबारों के नाम हैं उतने नाम नहीं होने चाहिए। साथ ही घनबाद में जो लोकल चार पांच अखबार निकलते हैं उनके भी नाम थे, उनको भी विज्ञापन दिया जा रहा है तो उससे क्या फायदा होने वाला है इंडियन स्कूल आफ माइन्स को और उन पेपर्स का क्या सर्कुलेशन है? कुछ भी नहीं, केवल एडवर्टाइजमेंट के नाम पर खाते पकाते हैं। चूंकि घनबाद के अखबार वाले डायरेक्टर के गुगगान करते हैं, उनकी तारीफ में लेख छापते हैं इसलिए उनको विज्ञापन मिल जाता है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि वाइडली सर्कुलेटेड न्यूज-पेपर्स का इस्तेमाल ही सरकार को करना चाहिए। अब समय आ गया है कि भारत सरकार अपने तमाम संस्थानों और प्रतिष्ठानों को कुछ समाचार-पत्रों की सूची, जोकि वाइडली सर्कुलेटेड हैं, तैयार करके दे दे ताकि उन्हीं को विज्ञापन दिये जायें। इसी उद्देश्य के लिए मैंने यह संशोधन दिया है।

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : शास्त्री जी ने नीति का सवाल उठाया है, यह विषय

सूचना विभाग के विचाराधीन हो सकता है, सूचना विभाग को इस के बारे में सोचना पड़ेगा....

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : लेकिन आप ने इस में लिखा है।

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : जरूर लिखा होगा, फिर भी यह नीति का प्रश्न है। जहां तक मेरा सम्बन्ध है, मैं तो यह समझता हूं कि यह प्रैसला बोर्ड को करना चाहिये।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will put amendment No. 30 to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 30 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 17 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

Clause 18—(Amendment of section 30)

SHRI D. K. PANDA: I beg to move:

Page 11, line 41,—

add at the end—

"on the basis of assessment made by the concerned State Governments" (44)

Page 11, line 45,—

add at the end—

"With particular object of making such power an instrument for regional development, namely agriculture and industry in backward areas" (45)

Page 11,—

after line 45, insert,—

“(h) in allotting priorities to different schemes, the authority shall give preference to such schemes which can be found economically viable and contribute relatively more to the national economy.” (46)

Taking the whole approach and the direction which we should follow, we have to go in for regional development of the country. Certain States are gifted by nature. Those natural resources should be fully made use of. They should be fully developed. They should be developed in such a way that they can make their maximum contribution to national power and national wealth. Therefore, I want that power should be generated and produced in such a way that it should be used as an instrument for regional development. Unless this approach is there, unless this finds a place in the Bill itself, things may be let to the sweet will, the whims and caprices of different bodies. There may be some occasions when there may be misuse of these things. Therefore, there must be a clear-cut direction in this regard. That is why I have brought in these amendments and I request the hon. Minister to accept these amendments.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, If Mr. Panda had carefully gone through the duties of the State Electricity Boards, he would have found this. We have said that the Boards, in coordination with the generating companies shall arrange for supply of electricity in a most efficient and economical manner with particular reference to those areas which are not being adequately supplied with electricity. We have said that this should be done in a most efficient and economical manner. That includes taking an overall look at the whole region. We are slowly moving from the State to the region in respect of power planning but yet we have still to take in-

to account that the States are full entities which count in these matters, and the point of view of the States will have to be taken into account.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now let me put amendments Nos. 44, 45 and 46 to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 44, 45 and 46 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That Clause 18 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment to Clause 19 by Mr. Daga. He is not here. There are no amendments to Clauses 20 to 28. So I will put clauses 19 to 28 to the vote of the House. The question is:

“That clauses 19 to 28 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 19 to 28 were added to the Bill.

Clause 29—(Amendment of section 74)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment by Shri Ramavatar Shastri

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: I beg to move:

Page 14, lines 24 and 25,—

for “servant of the Board or of a Generating Company”
substitute—

“employee of the Board or of a Generating Company”
(19)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may speak on your amendment.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : सभापति जी, धारा 29 में मेरा संशोधन इस प्रकार है—पंक्ति 24 और 25 के बीच में—

"for the words 'servants of the Board' substitute the words 'employees of the Board'.

समाजवाद का नारा आपलगाते हैं और 'सरवेन्ट' शब्द इसमें में लिखते हैं इस का मतलब यह है कि अभी भी अंग्रेजों की स्प्रिट हमारे देश में कायम है और जो दास प्रथा थी, उस चीज को यह शब्द दर्शाता है। आजादी के इतने दिनों बाद भी हम किसी को सरवेन्ट कहें, यह हमें शोभा नहीं देता है। आप यह देखें कि अपने घरों में भी जिन लोगों को हम रखते हैं, उन को घरेलू सरवेन्ट नहीं कहते हैं बल्कि अब उन को घरेलू सेवक कहते हैं। घर में तो हम उन को 'सेवक' कहते हैं लेकिन इस बिल में आप ने 'सरवेन्ट' रख दिया है। यह न समाजवाद से मेल खाता है और न जनतांत्रिक पद्धति से मेल खाता है और न ही देश की आजादी से मेल खाती है। इस से पहले भी एक विधेयक जो इस सदन में रखा गया था, उस में भी 'सरवेन्ट' शब्द रखा गया था और उस समय भी मैं ने इस 'सरवेन्ट' शब्द का विरोध किया था और उस समय मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि आयन्दा हम इस बात का ख्याल रखेंगे कि इस तरह का शब्द विधेयक में न हो। 'सरवेन्ट' शब्द को बदल कर क्या आप 'एम्पलाई' शब्द नहीं कर सकते हैं। 'एम्पलाई' शब्द रखने में कोई शंका नहीं है। मेरे ख्याल से आप को भी यह बुरा लगता होगा कि किसी को 'नोकर' कहें या 'सरवेन्ट' का है। इसलिए कम से कम इस छोटे से मेरे एमेंडमेंट को तो आप मान लीजिए और 'सरवेन्ट' के स्थान पर 'एम्पलाई' रख दीजिए।

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : सभापति महोदय शास्त्री जी अगर थोड़ी सी तकलीफ करते, तो जहाँ जहाँ 'सरवेन्ट' शब्द आया है, वहाँ वहाँ के लिए 'एम्पलाई' शब्द रखने का एमेंडमेंट देते। अगर वे ऐसा करते, तो शायद मैं इस के बारे में सोच सकता था। बहुत सी जगहों तो इन्होंने इस शब्द को एक्सेप्ट कर लिया है और सिर्फ एक क्लॉज में ही इस के बदलने के लिए एमेंडमेंट दिया है। इसलिए मैं इस को एक्सेप्ट नहीं करता।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No. 19 to vote.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैं ने इस बिल को पढ़ा है। और कहीं यह शब्द नहीं है। आप टैकिंगेलिटीज का सवाल नहीं उठाइए। मेरे इस एमेंडमेंट को मानना चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I am on my legs, you will please sit down. I shall put amendment No. 19 to Clause 29 moved by Shri Ramavatar Shastri to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 19 was put and negatived

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put Clause 29 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Clause 29 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now come to Clause 3. There is an amendment by Shri M. C. Daga. He is not here. I shall put Clause 30 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Clause 30 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30 was added to the Bill.

Clause 31—(Insertion of new section 75A.)

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:
Sir, I beg to move:

page 15, line 6—

For 'six' substitute "three". (20)

यह संशोधन पृष्ठ 15 पर है। इस में जेनरेटिंग कम्पनीज को हर साल साल खत्म होने पर रिपोर्ट और एकाउन्ट्स बरकरार देने की बात है जो सरकार को या संबंधित लोगों को वे देंगी। मेरा कहना यह है कि इस के लिए 6 महीने देने की क्या जरूरत है। 6 महीने तक आप उन को मौका देते हैं कि वे रिपोर्ट दे सकते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस समय को कम किया जाना चाहिए। क्या वे तीन महीने में उस रिपोर्ट को नहीं दे सकते हैं? इस में उन को क्या कठिनाई होगी? उन के यहां आफिसर्स और एम्पलाइज की कमी नहीं है क्योंकि आफिसर तो ज्यादा से ज्यादा अफसर बहाल किये जा रहे हैं।

एम्पलाइज कम हो रहे हैं। छः महीने का समय बहुत ज्यादा है। इसको कम किया जाए और इसको तीन महीने कर दिया जाए। तीन महीने में इन को जो रिपोर्ट देनी हो दे देनी चाहिये। इसलिए मैंने छः महीने के स्थान पर तीन महीने कहा है।

को कुछ बंद रखें। कम्पनी ला में भी कम्पनियों को छः महीने का समय

मिलता है, प्रॉफिट एंड लास एकाउंट होता है, उसके बाद ब्रांटिडर्ज की रिपोर्ट है, एनुअल रिपोर्ट है, ये सब चीजें तैयार करनी पड़ती हैं। अगर सभी कम्पनियों को छः महीने मिलते हैं तो आप इनके लिए तीन महीने क्यों करना चाहते हैं। बाकी सब के लिए जिस दिन कम कर देंगे इस में भी हम कर देंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will put amendment No. 20 moved by Shri Ramavatar Shastri to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 20 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 31 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 31 was added to the Bill.

Clause 32 to 34 were added to the Bill.

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

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

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up next item on the agenda, which stand in the name of Shri H. R. Gokhale.

16.52 hrs.

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (EXTENSION OF DURATION) AMENDMENT BILL

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the further extension of the duration of the present House of the People, be taken into consideration."

Last week when I made a statement in the House I had taken the House into confidence and said that it was Government's intention to bring a Bill for the extension of the duration of the House in this Session. When I had spoken on a similar Bill last year I had given the reasons as to why at that time an extension of the duration for one year was necessary. Most of the reasons which I had mentioned then do hold valid even today but before I go into those reasons I would like to mention generally with regard to the situation that we find in the country today after the promulgation of the Emergency about sixteen months ago.

Sir, we have definitely seen that in many fields—particularly in the economic field there has been a greater achievement and in the administrative set-up too in the desire to implement these objectives there has been more discipline. I have said that there have been impressive foreign exchange earnings, unprecedented growth in our gross national product, control of the inflationary trends and our economy has attained a certain measure of stability and capacity for sustained growth. These things I am mentioning now because this is just the time when we cannot afford to be complacent. When we have seen that there are in some fields definite gains of emergency it becomes the more important that we not become complacent

and see that the possibility of achieving greater stability in these matters is obtained and it is necessary, therefore, that the atmosphere which is created by the Emergency which has led to these results is further helpful in the immediate future. But that is not to say that the conditions which necessitated the extension of the House last year do not exist. In fact, all these elements which had suddenly activated against all democratic institutions and the functioning of democracy and have been using violence and other anti-democratic, disruptive methods, are still there and it is not right to think that they are not active. Most of them are still active. It is quite conceivable that these elements who have been behaving in this way if not kept under curb, as they have been kept, to a certain extent, under control till now, will again flare up and create a situation which will put the whole clock back both in respect of our economic measures and also in respect of our other things which were sought to be achieved in the course of the emergency.

We know that here, for example, suddenly there is a spurt of activity, particularly by people operating from abroad, Indians operating from abroad. New organisations have come up and they have shown a sudden interest in favour of what they call democracy in India. Some of them are really fugitives from the law. They have run away from the country. Reference was made to this by one hon. member on the other side in the course of the discussion on the Constitution Amendment Bill. It is necessary to see how all these elements which operate from other countries have suddenly become active and have suddenly begun propaganda against what is being done here and to propagate for democracy—as if the urge for democracy has now suddenly shifted from this country to, say, America or other countries.

Now, this is somewhat significant, because the way in which some of these elements are functioning in India with the support of some of these elements who are operating from abroad is an indication of how the whole thing is resulting in a situation where we cannot certainly afford to be complacent.

We know that some political parties who have been talking very loudly about democracy and the need for elections have, at any rate, not done anything to condemn these anti-national activities which have tended to lead to violence and disruption. They have not done so. They have only indulged in tall talk about democracy and the need for elections and so on and so forth. It cannot fit into their mouth to say when they want democracy that they will tolerate these activities which have been going on, which are clearly anti-democratic and subversive while it enables them to keep silent on this in a way lending tacit support to all these activities of these subversive elements.

If we take these things into account, it is not proper to consider whether elections should be held or not merely on the ground whether we will win or lose the elections. As I said the other day, if at all that was the consideration, probably the Congress Party would have thought this the best time to go to the polls. But when we consider these matters, it is not really the interest of a political party which is predominant, particularly in an emergency when a situation of this type exists; what is important is the larger interests of the country. If the larger interests of the country demand that going to the polls in such a situation will be harmful, is not desirable not only for the country but in the long-term interests of democracy itself, then it is desirable that we should sacrifice our immediate gains which we might get by way of elections by

getting a majority in the House and so on and so forth.

Therefore, it is wrong to say, as some people have been saying, when they were talking the other day that the Congress Party is now not willing to go to the polls or is hesitating to go to the polls because they will not win. On the other hand, as I have stated that if that were the consideration, and if the situation had not been emergent, probably this was the time when the Congress Party could very willingly, speedily have gone to the polls and come back with a thumping majority as large, if not larger than what it is today (*Interruptions*). Therefore, it is completely irrelevant to say that 'you will lose election; therefore, you are not going' or 'you will win and therefore you are going'. That is not the consideration which should be important in deciding a major thing whether or not in the interest of the country, of the nation and of its people it is right to hold elections now.

Moreover, it is well known that elections in a big country like India where the organisation is very big, where large numbers of people have to go to the polls and where a large amount of expenditure is also involved, all these, of course, are part of democracy and the people of the country have to do it when the elections are held, but such forces can be released in an election—that is the legitimate fear—which are subversive, which will again surface. It may be that that is not the right thing to do at this moment.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM (Srinagar): Therefore, you will never have elections. (*Interruptions*)

17 hrs.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: I do not know whether it is logic at all, because if you don't go to the elections now, by what test of logic does it follow that we will not go to election

[Shri H. R. Gokhale]

next year? Therefore, it is a matter where when time comes, we objectively see the conditions. But the point is that Shri Shamim cannot rush to that conclusion, apart from merely intervening when I am speaking. It helps nobody and it is not in consonance with logic at all. Shri Shamim makes so many statements and sometimes creates so many scenes also in the House as we saw the other day. So, all these things had already been mentioned by me last year, that is, with reference to the Emergency, particularly, with reference to the operation of these elements which had created an atmosphere of disorder in this country and which was curbed merely by an effective step taken at the appropriate time. If these steps are not continued and we do not stop the elements of disorder from recurring, then we will go back again to square one. All these things will be putting the clock back again and will mean losing of the gains of the Emergency. There is a lot still to be done. It is not as if everything has been achieved. I only mentioned a few things. There are many more things to be done. There was a good atmosphere and a sense of discipline prevailed. But it has now slackened. But it does not mean that we should not look further into this and see that the good atmosphere is restored. But the point is that in a condition where elections will not only not support the furtherance of the democracy but it will create an atmosphere which will lead to subversion and will lead to the growing of these subversive and anti-democratic forces, is it right or is it not right to hold elections at this time? And to me, it appears that it is not right to do so because if the election is held, immediately all these disruptive and anti-democratic forces will come up again to the surface and we may be again where we were. These are the main things which I wanted to mention at this stage. I will deal with this more, if necessary, after I hear

the debate and I again categorically repeat that it is not that the Government is shirking from going by the democratic path, at least not that Government has abandoned the policy of following the democratic method of obtaining the verdict of the people. It will be going for elections when the appropriate time comes and at that time it will certainly hold elections. But this is not the time now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the further extension of the duration of the present House of the People, be taken into consideration."

Shri Jharkhande Rai, may I know whether you are moving your amendment?

SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI (Ghosi): Yes, Sir. I am moving it.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 3rd February, 1977." (1)

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the speech made by the Law Minister clearly proves that the reasons behind the Emergency is to suppress all democratic rights, by resort to draconian measures. And all these things are related to the economic necessity. Sir, yesterday, I said that for the big monopolists and the multi-national corporations, this is the most favourable condition. They are now telling them openly and you are going to hear their voice here on the floor of the House. Why? Because they are getting protection at the cost of the workers. Workers are thrown out of the factories. One worker is being forced to produce double or treble the quantity.

The management has declared that two-thirds of the workers are surplus because the total production is being done by one-third. You raised the slogan that by increasing production, you will solve the unemployment problem. But here by increasing production you are increasing unemployment. This is the fact and reality. Factories after factories are being closed. I am talking about the economy, which is related to the emergency. You have to understand the very character of the economy you are defending. Jute mills after jute mills are being closed. Already 80,000 workers in the jute mills have been declared surplus. They are *badiwalas*.

17.06 hrs.

[SHRI BHAGWAT JHA Azad in the Chair]

What is the result? In the industrial field, there is chaos. Even a few days ago, in the conference of State Labour Ministers, the Union Labour Minister openly stated that there are more lockouts, more layoffs and more attacks on the working class. It has appeared in the newspapers. This is the atmosphere which the capitalists and monopolists want. You are acting as their instrument. What is the result? Only day before yesterday, Mr. Ramavatar Shastri said that prices are rising. Immediately Mr. Bibhuti Mishra said, "My experience is that the peasantry are not getting adequate price." I said at that time, both are correct. The peasantry have given more production, but they are getting no price. In this very House members have said that producers who have produced more are getting price of their products less than 50 per cent of their cost of production. That is why producers are not gaining by the emergency. Mr. Ramavatar Shastri said, "My wife goes to the market every day to purchase things and she knows how the prices are increasing." He is correct. Consumers are paying more. To whom have the fruits of the emergency gone? Who is getting the benefits?

The middlemen, hoarders, landlords and capitalists get it because of the protection given by the government and because of the policy of the government. This is the class policy pursued by the government to defend the vested interests. That is why you want to stabilise this emergency. What is the economic consequence? If the peasantry lose their purchasing power, the internal market is bound to shrink. The peasantry are losing their purchasing power, because they do not get the proper price for their produce. If production in the cloth mills increases and if purchasers lose their purchasing power, the stocks of cloth accumulate unsold. There develops a contradiction between the internal market and the sources of production. This is operating before our very eyes. That is why there is accumulation of stocks. The only way out which the government is thinking of is export. But when you export there is competition in the external market and you have to sell at a cheaper price relatively. So, you lose. That is why the employers are wanting tax remissions and subsidies and the government is giving them. Nearly Rs. 100 crores of tax remission has been granted to jute mill-owners. Even then they were not satisfied. They wanted that there should be cash subsidy; and for every tonne of jute goods, a cash subsidy is being provided, out of the money of the common man. This is happening in all other industries. The tendency is to reduce the cost of production, to be competitive in the outside market; and the main necessity for reducing the cost of production lies in bringing down the wage scale of the workers first, and then the prices of the raw materials. That is why the jute growers are getting low prices on raw jute; the jute mill owners are gaining and the jute workers are thrown out of jobs and their income is reduced and their wage scale brought down. The totality of the picture is that the internal purchasing power and the internal market capacity are shrinking. The only

[Shri Samar Mukherjee]

thing that is emerging out of this situation is the slogan for more exports. For effecting more exports, bigger and bigger concessions to the monopoly houses, and liberalization of the old restrictions are all allowed. Concessions after concessions are being given to the big monopolists; not only national but also foreign monopolists and multi-national corporations. Emergency has provided the most favourable conditions necessary for them, because of the workers are thrown out of jobs, they will naturally resist; you don't allow them to resist. If there is parliamentary democracy, at least the Fundamental Rights must be in operation. In that case the workers will at least have the right to express his opinion. He will have the right to protest; he will have the right to form an organization. He will even have the right to strike. So you have deprived him of this fundamental right. That is why Emergency is necessary, in your opinion. When the villagers are exploited, you don't allow them to register any opposition, even by organizing a demonstration. These things had never happened in Indian life; but now they are happening before our very eyes. We work among the working classes. We are a party of the proletariat. We are in the thick of it. The whole picture is very clear. This is the class basis which the Congress government is now defending. But the most funny thing is that when they are giving concessions after concessions, and open concessions to the big monopolists, they are incorporating the objective of socialism in the Preamble to the Constitution, as if Indian socialism will be built up by giving concessions to the monopolists, by suppressing the working class movement and by suppressing the democratic movement. Fortunately for them, people are still alive to reality; but reality will be dawned. You cannot expect that people will remain dumfounded. That is why elections are

provided. But you don't want to have elections. You say that the atmosphere is not favourable. When you prepare for elections, all these forces will get at least some scope to express their views, to raise their demands and at least to have the opportunity of protesting against this type of brutal oppression and repression. You would not allow that protest. That is why all the monopoly circles are not in favour of elections at this stage. This is now an open talk. There is nothing to be hidden. You come to know much earlier that because Big Business was not interested in elections, there will be no elections this time. But you want to manoeuvre and give the people the impression that there will be an election. Only on the 23rd, August last, the Minister of State for Law said that there will be elections in the normal course. (Interruptions). We knew. The Law Minister also knew. You are bound by the forces which you are defending. You have lost the confidence of the masses. We are very much interested in defending parliamentary democracy, because it would at least give the right to set up some organizations.

At least some trade union activity is allowed. We do not believe that in your parliamentary democracy socialism will be established. No. Socialist democracy is a far higher and different type of democracy, but we want parliamentary democracy because it will give scope to the workers who are thrown out of jobs at least to register some protest. Had it been normal times, there would have been a series of strikes...

SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT
(Kolaba): That is what you want.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: ... because you want to tie them hand and foot and throw them at the feet of the capitalist employers, big business, and that is the biggest achievement which Mr. Gokhale claims.

The economy is heading towards a bigger crash, take it for granted, because you cannot withstand competition in the export market from other countries, because in other capitalist countries also the same crisis is being faced and they are also boosting the exports of their own industries. There is intense competition in the export market. Particularly in jute, we know all the details. Bangla Desh is competing with West Bengal jute products. Other countries are also taking to jute. If China succeeds in the production of jute, your jute industry will completely collapse. In this way, you will have to face bigger and bigger competition in the export market, and the internal market is shrinking because the purchasing power of the masses is going down.

You are saying that you are giving priority to the directive principles. What are the directive principles? One of the directive principles is that the disparity between the rich and the poor should be reduced, but in practice you are giving more concessions to the big monopolists and throwing the workers out of jobs. Is this the way of reducing the disparity?

This is the phenomenon in all the capitalist countries, and this is one of the basic laws of capitalism which is based on the motive of profit. If production is meant for profit, this is the logical result. And parliamentary democracy is based on capitalism. It is so in England, America, France, everywhere. Nowhere in the world has there been socialism under a parliamentary democracy.

In the past people were allowed to cast their votes freely because the ruling classes were in a position to normally influence the masses, but now they have lost that basis. They are faced with a deepening crisis and the entire burden of the crisis they want to throw on the shoulders of the workers, the employees, the peasants, the poor masses. That is why discontent with capitalist exploita-

tion is bound to grow, and the more the discontent grows, the more the ruling party loses its democratic character, and they become more and more anti-democratic. This is the process, and this process is going on. And now you have come to stabilise the emergency and suppress parliamentary democracy.

Yesterday the Law Minister said that a party like the Marxist Communist Party which believes in Marxism should not talk of democracy because they do not believe in democracy. Democracy is the monopoly of the ruling party here. Yes, we are a Marxist party. We believe in Marxism and Leninism. You know that socialism was first established 59 years ago in 1917 in Russia under the leadership of Lenin through the Proletarian Revolution which is called the November Revolution. We are now in the midst of that month. From that Revolution there emerged a system which is called the Soviet system. (Interruptions) I want that this debate must go on here so that the issues are made clear to the people. Once you have taken up socialism as your objective, you must know what is socialist democracy, what is socialist system, how socialism has been built up and how they have abolished unemployment, poverty and ended the exploitation of man by man.

SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: What has that to do with the extension of the term of the Lok Sabha?

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Yesterday, I have been told by the Law Minister that Communists do not believe in democracy.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: I did not say that. What I said yesterday he confesses today.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I would request you to consult the proceedings of yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us speak for today on this Bill, not talk about yesterday.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I am reading from Lenin. In the course of his reply to Kautsky where this type of questions were raised regarding democracy in general or parliamentary democracy or there is no democracy under the system of socialism, all these questions were dealt with by Lenin. Lenin is more authoritative than me. I am quoting Lenin:

"Under bourgeois democracy, the capitalists by thousands of trick—which are more artful and effective, the more "pure" democracy is developed....drive the people away from administrative work, from freedom of the Press, freedom of assembly, etc."

श्री बिभूति मिश्र (नोतीहार) : समापति जी, मैं इन से एक बात पूछना चाहता हूँ, इन की पार्टी के आदमी हर महीने में दो बार वीरगंज किस लिये जाते हैं, कौन से काम के लिये जाते हैं, कौन सी डेमोक्रेसी का थैला लाते हैं :

श्री समर मुखर्जी : हम मार्क्ससिस्ट पार्टी के आदमी हैं—हम को इसे एक्स-प्लेन करने दीजिये ।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : वह तो हम जानते हैं, लेकिन आप हर महीने वीरगंज किस काम के लिए जाते हैं—यह बतलाइये ।

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Further, I quote:

"The Soviet government is the first in the world (or strictly speaking, the second, because the Paris Commune began to do the same thing) to enlist the people, specifically the exploited people, in the work of administration. The working people are barred from participation in bourgeois parliaments (they never decide important questions under bourgeois democracy, which are decided by the stock ex-

change and the banks) by thousands of obstacles, and the workers know and feel, see and realise perfectly well that the bourgeois parliaments are institutions alien to them, instruments for the oppression of the workers by the bourgeoisie, institutions of a hostile class, of the exploiting minority....

The old bourgeois apparatus—the bureaucracy, the privileges of wealth, of bourgeois education, of social connections, etc. (these real privileges are the more varied the more highly bourgeois democracy is developed)—all this disappears under the Soviet form of organisation. Freedom of the press ceases to be hypocrisy, because the printing-plants and stocks of paper are taken away from the bourgeoisie."

"The same thing applies to the best buildings, the palaces, the mansions and manor-houses. Soviet power took thousands upon thousands of these best buildings from the exploiters at one stroke, and in this way made the right of assembly—without which democracy is a fraud—a million times more democratic for the people...."

I am not reading the whole thing. This is Lenin's quotation:

"Proletarian democracy is a million times more democratic than any bourgeois democracy; Soviet power is a million times more democratic than the most democratic bourgeois republic."

This is the outlook of a Marxist in regard to democracy. In other socialist countries where socialism has been established like China, North Korea, Vietnam and Cuba—I have brought all literature—they are all completely different types of democracy. This is the direct democracy which is built up in a socialist country. This is Cuba's new Constitution; I am quoting from that:

"Another important fact in his opinion is that the draft constitution and the way in which it was submitted to the consideration of the population, reflect the reign in Cuba of true democracy, different from the so-called representative democracy."

"Almost six million citizens debated it and made suggestions for changes before approving it. The draft was then carried to the Party Congress (December 17 to 22, 1975) which studied and approved it."

"That is democracy. That is Constitution which comes out of the people, is of the people and for the people, and genuinely responds to the interests of the people. It is not only in its contents but also the way in which it has been made that true democracy in our country is reflected."

There is socialist democracy in a socialist country. That is called proletarian democracy, and that democracy is directly the rule of the people. That is why they say, in a socialist society, the people are the real masters of the society. There are no capitalists to exploit the common people; there are no landlords to exploit the peasantry; there is no profiteering. You have taken your objective as socialism, and when you have taken 'socialism' as your objective, you should have the mind to learn from the socialist countries. When you say that the Marxists should not talk of democracy, this shows that you are still having the old bourgeois prejudice against the socialist society, and this anti-communism is still lingering in your mind. Or, out of sheer ignorance, you might have said this. My point is that Parliamentary democracy is still in existence in India, though in a gasping condition. We have to defend the democratic rights of the people. Immediately, the Emergency must be withdrawn; immediately all the leaders who have been arrested must be set free. What the arguments given by the Law Minister mean is: You are counterpoising eco-

nomic advancement of the country and democracy. That means, if there is democracy, there is no advancement; democracy is opposed to advancement. This is the counterpoising made by the Law Minister here. If that is the position, then it shows that you have turned totally anti-democratic. It is a very great danger to our country.

I want that this Bill must be withdrawn and full preparations must be made for free and fair elections. Before that, the Emergency must be withdrawn because people must be given a chance to express their will. This is the meaning of democracy. People must be given a chance to express their desire on which type of Government they want, which system of administration they like, which type of society they want to build. In socialist countries, there is the right to recall. The right to recall means that people are sovereign, people will decide whether a Member will remain in the House or not. So, this position must be seriously thought over. The policy which the Government is pursuing now must be immediately stopped and all arrested leaders must be released and censor must be withdrawn. Time should be given for free and fair elections so that people can express their views freely. If you are not afraid of elections, why are you opposing these now? This only shows that psychologically you are very much afraid of the people's verdict.

With these words, I oppose this Bill.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am deeply thankful to Shri Samar Mukherjee for the speech that he has made. This speech has relieved us of the necessity of explaining the justification for this Bill. The speech has eloquently told us why the Emergency must be retained, why the Bill must be passed and why the elections, that he was speaking of, should not be ordered immediately. He has told us the political purpose of the Communist Marxist Party. In his view, the democracy that we have today is a bourgeois democracy and that, according to him, is

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an instrument of oppression, and, therefore, it must be replaced by what he called a proletarian democracy. This line, the Marxist Communist Party has been taking all along and that was one of the major factors, as far as I know, for the split in the Communist Party.

We find a strange situation in India today. The people, I mean the political parties, are divided in two camps. We find certain parties are opposing the Emergency and they are the Jana Sangh, the R. S. S., the Anand Margis and the whole breed of them. You also find the Marxist Communist Party hobnobbing with them, negotiating with them and coming to some arrangement with them, because the purpose is common. The purpose is to demolish what, according to the Marxist Communist Party, is a bourgeois democracy, to demolish what, according to the Jana Sangh and RSS band, is a secular socialist democracy. They agree on one thing that this must be abolished. They bid with one another and day-dream that once the demolition takes place, the Marxist Communist Party would come to power. The reactionary forces also day-dream that the power can be taken over by them. This conspiracy started not today, not yesterday. This conspiracy had its full manifestations and blooming in what is known as 'grand alliance' on the eve of elections in 1970.

The Marxist Communist Party raised the absurd slogan of a third block, but they joined hands with the reactionary forces of princes and everybody. They demonstrated this attitude in Kerala when they were in power. When they took this policy rather too far, the United Front split and the Marxist Communist Party had to leave the power in Kerala. But they have not learnt the lesson, they are still carrying on their red book. Which Marxist in the country, which democrat in the country, which political student in the country has not read the Lenin's speeches. He has given an extract of it from out of the context. He has

said that Lenin for all times to come has condemned, what he terms, as the bourgeois democracy. The point is that they have not learnt the lesson. The result is that the Marxist Communist Party today stands completely isolated from the international communist world. There is no communist country in the world to own Marxist Communist Party. Not China, not Soviet Russia, nobody, not even Albania is prepared to own you. Nobody is prepared to own you. Isolated completely from the international communism, isolated completely from the socialist movement of India, isolated completely from the democratic movements of India and having been taken as a child in the arms of the RSS, the Jana Sangh and the Anand Marg and with no political salvation to look to, you are coming to this Parliament of India and read out and tell us what the Parliament should do and what it should not do. Sir, I, in my parliamentary career, have not seen anything more ridiculous than this. Should he not realise that we are political students? Should he not realise that we too have read something, we have also read the political literature of democracy the Marxist literature and Mao's literature? We also have read something of that. As if he is the whole repository of the quintessence of all the 60 volumes that Lenin wrote, he is coming and reading it to us! Anyway that is a very irrelevant matter.

The only relevant matter is: What is their strategy? He has declared their strategy and that is to demolish the bourgeois democracy. He comes here and asks you and all of us to go to the people. He speaks of elections. Last time when the first extension Bill came, his colleague, Mr. Chatterjee was speaking and I have got his speech with me. He said, 'Go back to the people and get their mandate'. They also sometimes think of the mandate of the people. Is it that they want us to go for elections? Is it to get the mandate of the people? Or is it a ruse to see that the saboteurs in the country can be set at large so that his

policy of destroying the bourgeois democracy can be achieved?

That is exactly their purpose. The purpose is absolutely clear.

They speak of mandate. Therefore, they too at times consider that by election there can be a mandate of the people. But do they accept the mandate of the people? In 1971 we went to the people and got their mandate. But did you accept that the people gave us our mandate, that the Government of Bihar got its mandate, that the Government of Gujarat got its mandate, that the Government of Kerala got its mandate, that the people gave them their mandate? You are not prepared to concede that election result will be reflected in the mandate of the people. Then all your cry for election is only an exhibition of rank, rotten political hypocrisy and it is not for the mandate of the people.

You never want the mandate of the people. If you concede that there is a mandate of the people, then what is your allegiance to the mandate of the people? You repudiate the mandate of the people in this Parliament, you repudiated the mandate of the people in Gujarat.

You repudiated the mandate of the people in Bihar, you repudiated the mandate of the people in Kerala who rejected you and accepted the United Front as the repository of their confidence and you carry forward a campaign. You create unholy scenes here. You created a scene in Kerala which Mr. Chandrapan in his speech last time characterised as 'the chappal democracy' which you demonstrated there.

You have wonderful friends to join hands with. You speak of monopolists. Who are your comrades? Have you got the Communists of this country as your comrades? Have you got the socialists of this country as your comrades?

You have got your comrades in the Jana Sangh, RSS and the Ananda Marg. Am I to take a new philosophy that you are advocating that the RSS, Ananda Marg and the Jana Sangh are the true Marxist-Leninist democrats? Is that the socialism that you want us to accept? You are joining hands with several of them and telling us that there is monopoly capitalism here. Well, if monopoly-capitalism is there, you must fight, you must have the manliness to fight us and them, even alone if need be. But speaking and basking under the sunshine of these illiterate-haunted parties you are coming and telling us what democracy is, what progress is and what socialism is! You are only vilifying the name of Lenin and his corpse will turn in the grave if you are quoting Lenin in the Parliament of India. That is their past and that is their history. Rejected by the people you are coming and telling us these things!

What is it that brought the Emergency in this country? Let us look at it.

There were two aspects. One is the positive aspect; the other is the constructively negative aspect. The constructively negative aspect is declaration of war against the anti-democrats of this country, against the anti-socials of this country. The marxist communist party has always been shielding the reactionaries in this country. That is what they have always been doing. Who does not know what the position in the country was? It is writ large in the history. It is absolutely clear. Everything was cracking and you were succeeding in your attempt to smash what you call the bourgeois democracy but which according to us is the haven of the freedom of the people and democracy which we want to defend. Therefore Emergency was declared. For what purpose? The purpose was to put under manacles the persons who wanted to sabo-

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tage democracy in this country. That was the negative purpose. Let us be very clear about it. And what happened? If we look into the jails, who are there? Certainly some politicians are there. They have got to be there. Have you ever seen such large number of exploiters, blackmarketeers etc. being caught up under MISA and kept in jail? Have you ever seen it in this history of our country? You are speaking about the price rise and all that.

The picture is very clear. What was the position before the Emergency? What is the position after the Emergency? Has not the position improved? Would you deny that the position has not improved? If you deny, that means, you are keeping your head duck in the soil and therefore you cannot see what is happening around you. May I ask you a question?

Am I to take you as a revolutionary party or not? In which history has a revolutionary party sunk in the way you are sinking today? You are acting cowardly certainly. Then why are you not leading the people against the Emergency? It is not because you do not want it but you know that the people have learnt enough of you and your call to the people will not be responded by them. You know it very well. Otherwise in the past 19 months or 20 months you would have let the people against what you call the position of betrayal against the people of this country. You have failed there. People are not with you. You are aware of that. That is the real position.

Then, what is the positive aspect? The positive aspect is this. The economy must be strengthened. Discipline must be restored. National wheel must move forward. The nation must come by itself, self-discipline must be instilled, and our people like oneman, must stand up to the rest of the world and India must come forward to its own, and must march forward. That

was the positive aspect of it. Nobody except one who has closed the windows of his heart to the realities would deny this. You say it has improved because the instrument with which you tried to smash the democratic apparatus, the butcher's axe against the democratic structure of the country, has been taken away from you, and you have been disarmed for the time being. You want the butcher's axe back to destroy the democratic structure of this country. This is what has happened according to us.

Now, therefore, the question comes to this.

Now, that one year has gone by. Another year is to begin. Are we to restore the old position and put all these forces back so that they may renew their attack against the democratic structure? It is not as if so long as Emergency is there, there shall be no election. Certainly not. Even in Emergency, there can be election. But the point is: whether ordering of an election will necessitate taking up certain steps which will give a new lease of life to the forces which now have been put under bridle, in their efforts to undermine the democracy. That is the question. Have those forces, according to us, they have not been completely inactivated, not rethought their position and reformed themselves? If we feel that these forces will get a new lease to start every where, then, we will be betraying the people of this country and the democracy in this country. If we allow the enemy of democracy to have a new attack against these democratic forces, they are considerably to be put under restraint. This is one thing that has to be considered. According to us, the forces have not disappeared. They are still active and no rethinking has taken place.

Look at the price front. The prices shot up very recently. And it was brought down again. How does the price shoot up? Not because of any economic forces at all if it were so—but because Government came with a de-

claration that some stern measures would be taken, if the prices did not come down, it came down. The prices shot up on an all-India plane from Kashmir to Cape Comorin. Government came out with a declaration and took steps and so the prices slumped again. This shows that the prices are being manipulated; this also shows that the anti-national conspirators are still active. This shows that their backbone has not been broken. This shows that the nation will have to be careful against these manipulators—these anti-democratic and anti-people forces. That is one aspect of it.

Emergency was being slightly loosened; persons were being released. We know that quite a number of them are being released. What are they doing? What are they up to? We have information that they are back to the old type of confabulation and conspiracy in order to renew their fight against the democratic forces in this country. Among them are the Jansangh and R.S.S. fellows. We know what is happening. Therefore have they rethought their position? Have they reconsidered their position? They are still in the era of half a century back speaking about bourgeois democracy. Do you want to take the blood of bourgeois democracy? Do you want us to allow that? Do you want to smash this democratic system so that it may germinate germs which will corrode the basic structure of democracy? Do you want us to do that? So long, our assessment is that these forces have not reformed themselves and have not come to the line of a democratic structure in the country. Till such time, the nation has got to be vigilant. Let us remember that after the second world war, many countries were liberated—a large number of them lost their democratic structure. India alone keeps its democratic structure and democratic form. Do you want to smash that democratic structure? So long as you try to protect such democratic structure, it is perfectly all right. That continues to be there. Do you want to smash it? We

intend to protect our democratic structure by putting fences and trenches against that attack. Whoever tries to attack that, will be manacled and kept under restraint.

Therefore, is it an affront to defend the democratic structure which you want to smash? And this is what has happened. That has got to be looked into. That is another aspect of it. So, the question is not whether the emergency must continue or not. That is not the question. It is not the question whether in an emergency, elections can take place or not. But the question is whether the forces which necessitated the emergency have been put under complete restraint or not. Well, Sir, according to me—I am not speaking for my party here—and according to my personal information, there is no other alternative except this. Those persons who connived at the destruction of the democratic structure of the country must learn a lesson. They should reform themselves and come to the right path. So, if our democracy is to survive here, then the backbone of these evil forces must be broken. That has got to be done. There is no other alternative. Now, why do they want elections! As the Law Minister said, "Who can doubt that the people of this country will accept with an overwhelming majority the leadership of Smt. Indira Gandhi?" Look at the meetings she is addressing! Look at the meetings Shri Sanjay Gandhi is addressing! Look at the meetings which are being addressed by the Congress leaders and the Ministers! And also look at the meetings you people are trying to address. It is not as if meetings are not being allowed to be held. Let Mr. Samar Mukherjee come to Kerala and I can show him how Mr. Gopalan was going from place to place and addressing the meetings condemning the 42nd amendment to the Constitution. If the people do not gather at your meetings then we are not to be blamed. I am saying this if the result of the election is the question then this is the time for the Congress to go to the elections.

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Why do you want to have elections? Do you expect to come to power and unseat us? It is not so. The purpose of your saying to hold the elections is not to unseat us but it is a camouflage behind which you want the status quo and anarchy to be restored in this country. Kindly remember we are also politicians. We know the interests of the people and, therefore, we stand by that.

There is another slogan which our friends from the CPI will be raising. They ask us: Emergency is all right. Forces are still at large. We have got to be careful about them but conditions are not now bad and, as such, why not go to the people and get the mandate. This is a very tempting slogan they will be raising before us. I was reading Mr. Chandrappan's speech on the Kerala Bill wherein he said:

"Conditions are good for the elections. The country is ready for elections. I am sure Congress party will definitely win."

This is what he said. Well, Sir, therefore why not go to the people and get the mandate. This is a very tempting question. Sir, at this stage I am reminded of a parable which happened in the life of Jesus Christ. After his long fast he was taken to the pinnacle of the temple of Jerusalem and asked, "Look at the multitude of the people down here. Why don't you make a jump? God will send the angels to save you and also the people will be convinced about you." Jesus Christ said, "Don't tempt your God?" This is the reply which he gave. Definitely if Christ had jumped angels would have come and held him up. No hurt would have come to him. Likewise, if we hold the elections certainly we will win. People will take us in their arms but the question is whether election prospects is the only issue involved in this because only then we should go to the polls. But that is not the issue involved. The issue involved is the repercussions in the country. What hap-

pens to the emergency? Will the anti-democratic forces not get a new lease? That is the question. We have got to look at it that way.

If the CPI feels that all the dark forces have gone, by all means we must think of it. But if they agree that the dark forces are still strong, then the emergency which we had will have to continue for some time more. That is what I would say.

One more point. We have also to take note of the positive aspects. These positive aspects of the emergency will have to be consolidated. In the gains of the emergency, I will give number one priority to disarming of the anti-democratic forces, a thing which I have already emphasized. The next gain of the emergency is discipline. Increase in production is another positive aspect. A sense of dedication that is there is on the positive side. A sense of self-confidence in the nation is on the positive side. Raising of the stature of the nation in the international world is another positive aspect. The capacity of the leader of the nation to speak out the feeling of the whole nation to the whole world and the whole world listening to her as if 60 crores of people who have performed a miracle are speaking out to the world—that is on the positive side. These positive aspects have got to be consolidated. We had 27 years before the emergency: we have a period after the emergency of 18 or 19 months. Just make a comparison. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. In these 19 months, the nation has made a progress as never before. That does not mean that the democratic process is to be smashed. If the democratic structure goes, the nation will have no moorings at all. The democratic structure has got to remain. That is an article of faith with us.

There is another thing. Take Britain's case. We know they do not

have a written constitution. The term of Parliament is five years. They have no power to extend it. But yet in the war period, they extended it. So by extending the period, the mandate of the people is not lost. They are also elected for a five year period. But for certain reasons, they had to extend the period.

We have to take care of the interest of the people. Here the correct note was struck by Shri H. N. Mukerjee when he was speaking on a similar Bill last year.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): You are quoting Satan?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I am quoting Shri H. N. Mukerjee. I consider him a great democrat. Therefore, I am quoting him. He said:

"But the position has to be reconciled in the interest of the people because the danger is still there; the dangers which call for the emergency have still to be fought efficiently and for that reason if you want extension of the life of the House of the People, after all it is a flea-bite. It is a drop in the ocean, to speak, so far as time is concerned. Our people have inherited the idea of acquiescence in maintaining the *status quo*. The heavens would not fall. But we have to justify ourselves to the people, tell them specifically and earnestly that we are going to do these things objectively. If you do not, then we shall become the butt of ridicule and that would be bad, that would detract from the efficiency of the struggle against neo-fascism, the struggle for the achievement of people's objective. Therefore, I would say that it is a great pity that Government does not come forward before the people with explanation of its intentions which would make sense..."

They must explain the position. I am explaining the position.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: When was it made?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: When the Bill was moved here last time.

Therefore, the question is whether the forces are still active, whether those forces must not be fought, whether the neo-fascist forces are still at large or not, whether they must be fought. If they are to be fought, extension is called for, an extension which, according to Shri H. N. Mukerjee, is only a flea-bite in the long time spectrum in which we are functioning. Within this one year, the things done do not show that we could put them under full control. It is in this context we should view the specious suggestions made by the Marxist Communist Party. They are still dreaming of the long struggle, dreaming of strikes, dreaming of sabotage, dreaming of smashing the bourgeois democracy. Bourgeois democracy may be according to them, but this is a democracy by which we swear, for which we will give our blood.

18 hrs.

Whoever comes against it will have an axing at our hands and is not going to be spared. That is the position. Therefore, this is an effort to defend democracy against enemies of democracy. Let it be known and let it be understood and there shall be no apology about it. Our assessment is that the time has not come when the anti-democratic forces could be allowed to have a new lease of attack against the democratic structure. That has got to be restored gradually. Gradually democracy has got to be strengthened, gradually the gains of democracy have got to be consolidated, gradually the persons who are now descend-

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ing on democracy and bedraggling of democracy must be brought to a sense of realism and back to the path of understanding of the democratic structure. In that spirit in a spirit of Service to the nation, in a spirit of a sense of realism, in a spirit of battlecry against timely democratic forces, in a spirit of the manly defence of democracy which our forefathers in their struggle handed down to us, the spirit of the structure of the democracy must be protected against the anti-democratic

evil force, the detractors of the democracy, of the left and the right. We renew our pledge that democracy be strengthened and for that purpose, the elections be postponed so that the gains of Emergency may continue. I support the Bill.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November, 5, 1976/Kartika 14, 1898 (Saka).