

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No, Sir.

Centralisation of Power Generation and Distribution

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- *215. { Shri R. G. Dubey:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Jena:
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
 Shri A. V. Raghavan:
 Shri Pottekkatt:
 Shri P. B. Chakraverti:
 Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
 Shri Warrior:
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:
 Shri P. C. Deo Bhanj:
 Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
 Shri Kolla Venkaiah:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri B. K. Das:
 Shri D. J. Naik:
 Shri Vishram Prasad:
 Shri Himatsingka:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the suggestions of the experts to establish zonal grids involving the demarcation of the country into 7 regions with a view to centralise power generation and distribution; and

(b) the extent of progress made so far?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) and (b). The report of the experts is under consideration, and a final view will be taken in consultation with the State Governments and the Planning Commission.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether any assessment has been made of the savings to be obtained from the zonal grids and the total savings that they will have shown in power consumption, capital outlay and annual recurring expenditure?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is too early to assess the actual savings but it is accepted that the formation of the zonal grids will lead to considerable amount of savings in capital and recurring expenses. It comes to approximately Rs. 300 crores savings in capital investment and about Rs. 20-30 crores savings in maintenance. But as I said it is still in the formative stage and it is still to be decided whether we can go in for the grid system immediately.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Are we to understand that the principle has been accepted by the Government and they are awaiting this report only so far as details are concerned.

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is not exactly so. There were two seminars in the Irrigation and Power Ministry and they appointed a committee with representatives from State Electricity Boards and the Central Government asking them to formulate their proposals and they gave a report in which there were three main recommendations. These recommendations were circulated to the States. Five States have replied. The replies are not very favourable and the other replies are awaited. After that a way has to be found out.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: The country has been demarcated into seven zones. Is the Government satisfied that by this arrangement a deficit State will be supplied by the surplus electricity from the other State? Is that the objective?

Dr. K. L. Rao: That is exactly the reason why the States are not willing to accept the grids. The object of the grids is not immediately to supply or exchange power from one State to another unless there is surplus in one State and there is requirement for power in the other State. It is intended to achieve some other economies, like the standby capacity, etc. If there is a grid, the standby capacity can be much less; and at the time of the peak load, the same system can meet and cope with the higher peak load in a

better way than if there were two separate systems. The States have got a sort of a feeling that this is intended to exchange power between two States. That is not the immediate objective.

Shri A. V. Raghavan: May I know the States that have replied?

Dr. K. L. Rao: U.P., West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Orissa.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In view of the earlier advice tendered by the Government of India has the Government drawn the attention of the State Governments to the urgency of the matter and if so with what reaction?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Power generation and transmission is a concurrent subject. We have got to carry the States with us and every attempt will be made, when all the replies have been received, to try to remove the misunderstanding and see that at least some sort of grid system could be adopted in the fourth Plan.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: What would be the administrative pattern of the functioning of this grid system?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is too early to state that; actually the difference between the States and the Committee is on the administrative pattern. The administrative pattern suggested by the committee is that of the establishment of regional agencies responsible for planning and operation of this integrated system, and that is exactly what the States are not willing to accept.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether this expert committee has advised the Government to centralise all the power generating establishments in the country and, if so, how will the interests of the States be preserved?

Dr. K. L. Rao: They have not gone into the detail of recommending that the generation should be taken over by the Centre. They have only said that the planning of the generation and the distribution and the transmission must be made by the regional agency. They have not gone into the details.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether a special organisation will be necessary to give effect to this scheme?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Yes; when the grid system is established they will require a central organisation with regional branches in order to be responsible for the operation of the grid. But, as I said, it is too early to think on those lines now. We have to get some agreement among the States first.

Shri D. J. Naik: May I know the progress so far made in regard to the Narmada Valley project?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I may submit that the generation of power in the Narmada Valley is under active consideration and especially the projects of Poonasa and Barwaha are very likely to go through in the near future.

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : इस जोनल ग्रिड सिस्टम से मैंने यह समझा था कि इससे बहुत सी स्टेटों के झगड़ खत्म हो जायेंगे। लेकिन जिस तरह से रिहन्द की बिजली को सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने रेलवे के लिये ले लिया या और इंडस्ट्रीज को दे दिया और वहां की जनता उससे वंचित रखी जा रही है, उसके लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठाने जा रही है ?

Am I to understand that by forming these seven grids the disputes among the States will be settled? The electricity generated by the Rihand dam is taken by the railways and is also given to other industries, and the public of those localities are debarred from getting this electricity. May I know what the Government are considering in this matter, so that the people who are not getting power from the Rihand dam will also get it in future?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is about distribution; it is a different matter.

Shri Vishram Prasad: It relates to this question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No. no. Order. order.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : प्रान्तों में ट्यूब वेल लगाने के लिये बिजली नहीं मिल रही है, वहां पर बड़ी घांघली मची हुई है और जनता की कठिनाई हो रही है। उससे अन्न भी नहीं उगाया जाता। तो क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार इस घांघली को रोकने के लिये कोई यत्न कर रही है ?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : यही इन्तजाम किया जा रहा है।

Dr. K. L. Rao: I have not followed that question.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : मन्त्री महोदय को सारी भाषायें जाननी चाहियें।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं बतला तो रहा हूँ कि उसी के लिये इन्तजाम हो रहा है।

Shri Bhanu Prakash Singh: May I know what would be the position of Madhya Pradesh in the proposed grid system and would this system cut across all State boundaries?

Dr. K. L. Rao: As I said, these seven zones which are to be formed are in different regions and it has not yet been finalised because the States have to accept the arrangement that has been proposed. I do not think it is really necessary to give those details at this stage, namely, what the zones are to be.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know whether the Government have taken a firm policy decision in regard to this matter and then are consulting the States, the Planning Commission, etc. about its implementation, or whether they are in the preliminary stages of consulting the States and the Planning Commission before they come to a final decision?

Dr. K. L. Rao: We are awaiting the reactions of the States before any policy can be finalised.

Review of Gold Control Order

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*216. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
Shri Koya:
Shri M. K. Kumaran:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Jashvant Mehta:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working of the Gold Control Order; and

(b) if so the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):

(a) and (b). The working of the Gold Control Rules is being constantly reviewed by the Government and such action as is necessary in the light of actual experience is being taken from time to time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Gopalan.

Shri A. K. Gopalan rose—

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : आपसे एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : गोपालन साहब खड़े रहें आप बैठिए।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। इसके लिए तो गोपालन साहब को बैठ जाना चाहिए।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप उठ नहीं सकते।

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know what is the position of smuggling before the Gold Control Order and after the Gold Control Order? May I also know how much hoarded gold from big hoarders has been taken over under the Gold Control Order?