

[Shri Janardhana Poojary]

- (iii) G.S.R. 406 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 42-Customs dated the 1st March, 1978 so as to extend the concessional rate of basic customs duty of 25 per cent *ad valorem* in respect of eighty-seven additional items of machinery for the leather industry.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-920/85]

3. A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 387(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to invoke the provisions of section 11 C of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 in regard to the payment of duties of excise on certain steel ingots and iron and steel products, during the period commencing on the 20th January, 1979 and ending with the 8th April, 1979 so that the duties of excise shall not be required to be paid during the period aforesaid, issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-921/85]

4. A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1983-84—Union Government (Defence Services), under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-922/85]

5. A copy of the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 1983-84 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-923/85]

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : MR. Speaker, Sir, kindly listen to me. I am raising some other point... (Interruptions) It has been printed here...

Kindly give a patient hearing to all these things. At least the House should know all these things...

MR. SPEAKER : There is no such rule under which I may listen to whatever you say.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. not allowed. Overruled. It is irrelevant.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Calling Attention. Shri Patil.

12.14 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[Translation]

Situation arising out of Acute shortage of Power and Load Shedding in various parts of the Country

SHRI YASHANTRAO GADAKH PATIL (Ahmednagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I draw the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“Situation arising out of acute shortage of power and load-shedding in various parts of the country and the action taken by Government in regard thereto.”

[English]

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Sir, I share the concern of the Honable Members about power shortage in the country. During the year 1984-85 the total generation in the country was 156.65 billion units, 12 per cent more than the previous year and about 1.7 per cent higher than the target of 154 billion units fixed for the year. The overall shortage in the country could be brought down to 6.7 per cent from 10.8 per cent in 1983-84. In the current year 1985-86.

a target of generating 170 billion units has been fixed. It is about 8.5 per cent higher than the achievement during the previous year.

2. The total additional capacity commissioned during the Sixth Plan 1980-85 was 14226 MW against a target of 19666 MW and it was nearly 50 per cent of the total installed capacity at the beginning of the Sixth Plan. For 1985-86, a capacity addition of 4460 MW is envisaged.

3. The thermal component in the total installed capacity is about 60 per cent. The power availability, therefore, depends very substantially on the performance of thermal power stations. The plant load factor of thermal stations during 1984-85 reached 50.1 per cent as compared to 44.3 per cent at the beginning of the Sixth Plan in 1979-80. The transmission and distribution losses continue to be high, in the range of 21 per cent for the country as a whole.

4. In the Northern Region, the overall deficit during the last year was about 14 per cent. The States which suffered the most were Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and the power shortage was mainly on account of poor performance of the thermal stations and low level in hydel reservoirs. In the Western Region, the power availability was by and large satisfactory with no major shortfall in any State. In the Southern Region, Andhra Pradesh was surplus in power and gave assistance to Karnataka and Orissa. The power position in Kerala was by and large satisfactory. Karnataka faced considerable shortage and had to place restrictions on consumption by the large industrial units. The Eastern region had a power shortage of more than 17 per cent. The highest power shortage was in Bihar with about 39 per cent followed by Orissa with about 16.5 per cent. In the North-Eastern Region, the power supply position remained by and large satisfactory. Due to shortage of power in the country, most of the States had to impose power cuts and restrictions of varying degrees from time to time. However, efforts were made to give priority in power supply to agricultural consumers and core sector industries.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

5. In the total installed capacity of 42440 MW in the country today, about 88 per cent is in the State Sector and 12 per cent in the Central Sector, whereas in the total generation of 156.65 billion units during 1984-85 the contribution of Central Sector projects was about 14 per cent i.e. 21.81 billion units. The thermal stations in the Central Sector operated at a higher plant load factor than in the State Sector.

6. To improve the power supply position in the country, the Government has undertaken a number of measures including renovation and modernisation of thermal station with a Central assistance of Rs. 500 crores. This scheme will cover 36 thermal stations, and is expected to give additional generation of about 1000-1400 MW on completion in the next 3-4 years. Improvement in the supplies of coal has been effected. Special attention is being given to acceleration of commissioning of projects and implementation. The Government is actively considering implementation of schemes including installation of gas turbine, diesel engines and mini and micro hydel schemes, the gestation period of which will be less than the conventional ones. Additional Extra High Voltage lines and equipments like Static Var Compensators are being installed for system improvement. In order to transmit bulk power efficiently over long distances, a High Voltage Direct Current link is being established between Rihand and Delhi. Energy conservation is also receiving the serious attention of Government in order to improve the powerposition in the country.

7. The electricity requirement in the country is expected to go up from 181 billion units in 1985-86 to 269 billion units at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan in 1989-90. This represents a growth rate for the country as a whole of around 13.5 per cent annum in terms of peak demand. The industrial sector would continue to account for the major share in electricity consuming at about 58.7 per cent of total consumption. Agriculture with 15.8 per cent of consumption would be the next largest electricity consuming sector. The pace of house-hold electrification is expected to increase and about 35 per cent of the house-holds in the country are expected to be electrified by 1989-90 as compared to 18.49 per cent in 1980-81. Subject to constraint of financial resources, we propose to take long term measures for meeting the future power demands in the country.

[Shri B. Shankaranand]

8. Hon'ble Members would appreciate that there has been an overall improvement in the power generation. However, some States are still facing power shortage mainly on account of their own power stations not performing well as also due to low hydel reservoir levels in certain States. The deficit States are being given assistance, whenever possible from other States. We have given guidelines to the State Governments to maximise generation, and to carry out the maintenance programmes in time and as per schedules.

9. I may assure the Hon'ble Members that no effort will be spared to increase the availability of power to various categories of consumers.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL (Ahmednagar) : The power shortage is being experienced largely by the northern parts of the country and this shortage is persisting for the last two years. The Hon Minister has shown the average as 14 per cent but the shortage is 28 per cent in Haryana; 20 per cent in Punjab and twelve per cent in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

I would also like to say that the installed capacity of the five major Hydel projects, in the country is 203 MW. The power generated by these projects is far behind the target. The installed capacity in case of Thermal power stations was 1,280 MW in Sixth Plan and its production is also far behind the target.

I would like to know the steps being taken by Government to complete the on-going projects. I would also like to know the extent of loss suffered in the supply of electricity and the steps being taken by Government to prevent this loss.

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, as I have already said, we have advised the State Governments that they should concentrate on the completion of the on-going projects rather than taking up new projects when they are already short of funds. Regarding the other points, I think my main answer can still stand.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon) : Mr.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, the power sector has always lagged behind from Plan to Plan. The addition to capacity in every Plan was less than the target, with the result that the cumulative backlog has increased over the last thirty years. I am afraid, power is likely to be crucial factor in slowing down the rate of economic progress in this country. In the last 10-15 years, not a year has passed when we have not heard about the power constraint. It is a crucial factor which has prevented us from reaching the targets of industrial and agricultural production of our country and which has been responsible for our failure in achieving the targeted increase in the national income. The Hon. Minister has given an account which, to a certain extent is encouraging, but I must say that since he has said that the target for the next year, that is 1985-86, is 170 billion units and the demand will be 181 billion units, how he is going to improve the condition in this respect.

Though there has been an overall increase in the power output, but certain States have suffered very much. For instance, power shortage has increased in Haryana to 37.7 per cent, in J&K to 34 per cent, in DVC area to 20 per cent, in Orissa to 16.5 per cent, and in Uttar Pradesh to 16.5 per cent. The important cause for it is that the plant load factor or the plant utilisation is low in our country. Gradually it has increased to 50 per cent. I must congratulate the Hon. Minister for this because it had been much lower in the past. But, Sir, the international norm is 58 per cent and I do not know how many years are we going to take to reach this standard of utilisation. If the utilisation could be increased even by five per cent, our problem of power shortage would be solved. So, it is a question of management. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to tell us how he is going to improve the management and how he is going to reduce the transmission losses because these are the things which are in our control and we can improve them. When you say you are going to instal a plant which will take five years or ten years, that will take a long time, but these are the things which can be done within a short period. Therefore, I would like to know whether it is possible for the Hon. Minister to do so and reduce the power shortage during the current year by increasing the capacity utilisation and by reducing transmission losses.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, much of what has been asked has already been said in my answer, but still I would say that there are reasons for power shortage. Unless we know the reasons and indentify the problems regarding the power shortage, perhaps solutions will always be eluding. The main reasons for power shortage are : (1) the demand outs tripping the availability of power; (2) delay in commissioning of new projects; (3) inadequacies in the generating plants; (4) deficiencies in the supplies of coal, both in terms of quality and quantity; (5) performance of thermal stations below the accepted norms; (6) inadequacy of transmission system to evacuate power from surplus areas to deficit areas in the country; and (7) high transmission and distribution losses. The position in respect of each of these items has been the concern of the Government and we are taking effective measures to root out all these deficiencies.

The measures that we are taking are many, but main amongst them are : (1) assistance to State Electricity Boards power stations for undertaking plant betterment programmes; assisting the State Electricity Boards power Stations for procurement of requisite quantity and quality of coal and also spare-parts from indigenous and foreign sources; visit of task forces and roving teams to identify weak areas requiring improvement and preparation of time-bound programme for rectification introduction of centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation scheme and introduction of incentive scheme. With these measures that the Government has undertaken—of course much has to be done by the State Governments and the power stations themselves—we hope to improve the plant load factor of each power station.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Our power shortage is becoming chronic and acute day by day. Even ten per cent shortage of power means Rs. 6500 crores of loss of production annually. It is being noted that the power shortage is not a phenomenon of one region only; it is an all-India phenomena-East, West, North, South. Of course, whenever we go through the Press, always we find the headline where West Bengal only comes first. But our Power Minister himself knows...

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH (Kaiserganj) : Is it not correct ?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : It is not correct. If you compare the dismal figures of Bihar, it is not correct.

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH : I think you have not seen the comparative chart.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : I have seen that.

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH : You see that.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, there is a small poem in Bengali :

“SAB GOPINI RANGO KARE,
NINDI SHUDU SRI RADHIKAR.”

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : Mr. Choubey, it is not a poem, it is a saying.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : It means all the milk maidens flirt, but only Sri Radhika is blamed. Of course, it is a fact that in the last year power has grown more, but despite this, because the demand is more, deficit is also more. In 1984-85 deficit had been 11 per cent whereas in 1983-84 it was 10.8% and in 1982-83 it was 9.2%.

It is a fact that the plant-load factor has also improved. That is a good thing. In 1984-85 it was 50.1% as against 47.9% in 1983-84.

Hydel power has also grown, but even then the deficit has been growing.

As the Minister has claimed the Sixth Plan target was 19,666 megawatt, but its actual performance was 25.9% less. Although the actual Sixth Plan target had been slashed down by nearly 8,000 megawatts, I fail to understand why this low capacity utilisation still continues. No doubt it has improved because in 1980-81 it was 44.6% and in 1982-83 it went up to 49.4%. In 1983-84 it was 47.9% and this year it has been 50.1 per cent, whereas its average should have been 58%.

If you kindly see the different areas, you will find that they suffer differently. In respect

[Shri Narayan Choubey]

of north-eastern region it is only 29.6 per cent; eastern region-our region-it is 40.8 per cent; northern region, it is 47.5 per cent and U.P. is having only 31.6 per cent of the capacity. The southern region is good, it is 57 per cent; the western region is also good, it is 53 per cent. And it has been stated by Hon. Minister himself as to what are the reasons for this low capacity utilisation. It is due to the fact that the regions have defects of equipment, defects of maintenance and operation, quality of coal and oversized coal, management of manpower and some old, out-dated units require revamping and renewal. If you kindly see this, the disparity is also very much. Even in respect of deficit there is disparity. In the eastern region the deficit was 20 per cent as against 18.6 per cent in 1983-84, in the northern region the deficit was 17.4 per cent as against 9.4 per cent, in the north-eastern region it was 2.1 per cent as against 1.6 per cent. Western region has improved. In the Western region the deficit is 4.5 per cent as against 7.6 per cent and in the southern region it is 7.5 per cent as against 12 per cent. We know that the western and southern region is improving and in the rest of other regions improvement is not taking place. Also he has stated that there is loss due to transmission, of 21 per cent of the whole production. This is too much. That is why I want to put this question. Why the Government has failed to reach the target of the Sixth Plan? What are the main reasons and what the Government proposes to do? Why the Government could not reach the norm of 53 per cent of the capacity utilisation? And what are the special reasons in respect of the eastern region? I think Mr. Arun Nehru should speak out as to what are the special reasons. (*Interruptions*). In my opinion the eastern region has all along been neglected for a number of years -not only West Bengal, but Bihar, Orissa, Assam and north-eastern areas. The Minister will spell out as to why this region is being neglected and what steps he is going to take. I would also like to know how many of the projects of this region are lying with the Planning Commission which require clearance and what are you going to do for clearing them. You have stated in your reply that you are going to revamp some units and you have sanctioned Rs. 500 crores for revamping some of the units by which certain units are going to be revamped, by which you will

be increasing production to the tune of 1000 to 1400 MW. I would like to know how many of such units are in the eastern region and what steps you are going to take so that the 21 per cent losses which you are having due to transmission only...

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : 21 per cent.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Yes, 21 per cent of the generation is being lost due to transmission. What steps are you going to take to see that this transmission loss is minimised? Perhaps you cannot bring it to zero. But how are you going to minimise it? The Minister simply says that it is a good thing that the performance of the Central sector is better than that of the State sector although with your 12 per cent of the capacity you are producing 14 per cent of what is being produced. And State sectors as a whole are not functioning so good, but then the Central Government is meant only to blame the State Governments and SEBs. What steps you are going to take so that the State Electricity Boards can properly manage themselves in the matter of maintenance? And one of the reasons that has been stated is that deficiency of coal you have made up to some extent, but the quality of coal and the size of coal which is reaching the power plants being too big, sometimes they create difficulties. What steps you are going to take in this regard so that we can have sufficient power in the coming years?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, the Hon. Member has put the question and tried to answer himself.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : I fail to understand it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. He demands more projects.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Our Minister behaves more like a philosopher than the Power Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : As far as West Bengal is concerned, you did lot of philosophising.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I have nothing to do with the philosophy of Mr. Choubey.

The Hon. Member, Mr. Choubey has put questions and has answered them also. In the way, he admitted that 88% of the power generation is in the State sector. He has admitted that the performance of the Central sector is far better than the State sector.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Not far. But I said, a little bit.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : You have admitted that its performance is appreciably better. I have also said in my main answer that 60% of the power generation is with the thermal power stations. So, Sir, he is asking this question. He should have put this question to his own State Government as to what they are doing.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, India is not made of one State but of several States. I do not put question only for West Bengal. They are allergic towards West Bengal. I am asking about the Eastern block. What about Orissa and Bihar ? I speak of Eastern region. I do not speak of Bengal only.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : If I can only give the figure of plant load factor of West Bengal, it is very dismal. Out of all the States ..

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : You give the figures for other States also. What about Bihar and Orissa. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The plant load factor in West Bengal during 1984-85 is just 39.9% whereas, the all-India average is 50.1. Now, you can just imagine as to what is the power position in West Bengal.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : They are not functioning properly.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Now, he is asking about the disparity. Now, he has answered my question. The disparity is dependent on the performance of the respective State Governments and their State Electricity Boards.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : What about the figures for Bihar and Orissa ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : There is no uniform functioning of all the State Electricity Boards.

Bihar is 30.4%. Orissa is 32.3%. U.P. is 39.8%. Whatever it is, we do not want to say this State or that State. The plant load factor shows as to how the power stations in respect of various States are functioning and how the State Electricity Boards are functioning.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Now, what is the plant load factor, at present, in West Bengal.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : It has improved. But in other States also, it has improved.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I agree with my Hon. colleague that it has improved in comparison with their own performance of the previous year but not in comparison with other States.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : What about loss in transmission ? How to make up 21% loss which you have mentioned in your reply.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : That is what I said. You said 12%. I said 21%.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : I said 21%. You said 21%. Both.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : That is what I said.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : My question is how to make up.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Transmission losses are dependent on various factors. The problem does not end only by generation of power. It will not end. The power generated has to be transmitted by various State Electricity Boards through various systems. Unless the State Governments cooperate—then the other factor is also there—transmission losses are bound to be there. But of course.....

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : What about the other countries like U.K. and France ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What about the pilferages taking place in the transmission ? Pilferages will be there. Are there illegal connections ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Yes. Yes. It contains so many factors like pilferages; thefts etc. are also there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Shri Brajamohan Mohanty will speak.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : Sir, the Hon. Minister comes from a State which is suffering from acute power shortage. He has the bitter experience of the situation of that State. Number of States are suffering from acute power shortage where the economy has come to a stand-still.

As a matter of fact, in the Economic survey, it has been pointed out by the Ministry that certain power projects could not be completed and they were abnormally delayed and, for that reason, there has been shortage of power.

They have indicated in the annual report that certain projects could not be completed in time. Is there no question of accountability in the implementation of power projects ? That is my question. Is there any question of fixing responsibility for this delay.

The Ministry has indicated in the reasons for delay. The first reason given is the weak project management. The second reason is the delay in civil works. The equipments are lying idle at the spot as the civil works are not made ready within the time for project authorities. This has happened a number of times. There is delay in placement of orders for auxiliary equipment and other things.

Eleven reasons have been given for the delay in the implementation of the projects. I do not want to repeat them. They have got all the required information.

I would like to know whether the Government of India has called the spade a spade or not. The problem may be with the State Government, may be due to the mismanagement at the top level, may be due to the

bureaucrats at the State level or at the national level. Whosoever may be responsible, the responsibility must be fixed up. You must also fix up appropriate punishment for that.

The question of accountability and responsibility must be there and that must be fixed up.

May I know from the Hon. Minister whether such responsibility has been fixed up and, if so, what action has been taken ?

In this connection, I would place before the House the fact that in the annual report it has been categorically indicated that the Central Electricity Authority are monitoring the progress of the schemes under implementation and for their completion. In that background, I say that the Ministry must go and check up who are the persons responsible for delay. Of course, certain reasons are beyond the control of Government. That is a different thing. Supposing the acquisition of land is involved in dispute in the courts, nobody can help. But, if on account of the negligence of the concerned officer, it has not been done, the responsibility must be fixed and he must be punished.

The next point I would submit is this. So far as Orissa is concerned, it is, of course, a backward State. Our representation in the House is also very poor; we are only 21 in number and naturally our voice is weak. But it must be listened to with rapt attention. As a matter of fact, in Orissa the highest power-cut has been given effect to. Almost all the industries are in a standstill. I am told that there is a powercut of 20 per cent. Naturally the entire production in agriculture and industry has suffered very much. I would point out only one thing. The Rourkela Steel Plant last year had a production loss of 1,980,000 tonnes on account of non-availability of power. The entire State's economy is paralysed. My submission is on two things. One is that there should be a super thermal power station in Orissa. That balance between hydel and super thermal, which should be there, is not there in Orissa. We have a lot of hydel power which, as you know, is a gamble in monsoon. So far as thermal power station is concerned, we had certain initial difficulties. However, last year there was a Calling Attention Motion, and I was the initiator of that

Calling-Attention. Shri Shiv Shankar was the Minister then, and he had almost promised to give another super thermal power station to Orissa. I do not know what is the progress in that regard. I would again urge on the Hon. Minister to give a super thermal power station to Orissa.

It seems that diesel generating sets in a cluster with a capacity of 30 to 35 MW can be temporarily supplied to all the States suffering from acute power shortage. It has been reported in the press that the Karnataka Chief Minister met the Union Minister and he has been assured that they should ask for the same and that the Central Electricity Authority would consider to supply them. My submission would be that Orissa and Bihar, along with Karnataka, should also be taken into consideration and supplied with diesel generating sets in a cluster with a capacity of 30 to 35 MW.; these should be supplied to all the States which are suffering from acute power shortage.

Another submission would be that the plant load factor in Orissa is very low. According to the press report it is 41 per cent in Orissa. It is much below the national average. The States have been given guidelines by the Central Electricity Authority in this respect. I want to know whether the States have complied with them or not—not only Orissa but other States also. This must be checked up by the Ministry and they must place it before the House. The Central Government is not there only to give money; they have to look after the performance aspect also, so that things will improve.

Another point is this. There was a proposal for Hirakud Stage-III in the Mahanadi downstream. That will answer our problem to a great extent. The Government of India is reluctant to finance it. They want a share in power for the Central sector. The Government of India says that they must have a share in power, so that they can advance the funds. My submission is that, so far as backward States are concerned, their demands should be considered very liberally. The whole idea is to bring those States to the national level. In that background my submission would be that they must consider favourable setting up of a super thermal power station in Orissa, the Hirakud Stage-

III and also supply of diesel generating sets in a cluster with a capacity of 30 to 35 MW—here I do not say that only Orissa should be supplied with these diesel generating sets; Bihar and Karnataka also should be supplied.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : By hearing the voice of the Hon. Members today in the House nobody would say that the voice of Orissa is weak. The way he is pestering and persisting about the needs and demands of Orissa every year as he himself said that he tabled a calling attention previously also shows that Orissa is never weak.

The Government also has an equal concern as the Hon. Member has in respect of Orissa and other backward States. I do agree that backward States do need nursing to the extent possible. But by nursing alone will not help any States to come up unless the State itself tries to get up and move fast.

The problem regarding Orissa, as I have earlier said, is the plant-load factor. It is very low but now it is improving and its performance is better than what it was in the previous year.

The main demand and thrust of the Hon Member's remarks looking to the entire argument is that he wants that we do take a decision to have a super thermal power plant. Perhaps that is the result and the thrust of the argument of the Hon. Member. I have already said that we have taken up the renovation and modernisation schemes to improve the performance of the various power stations in the States. In Orissa, if I can mention, central assistance of Rs. 19.60 crores is being given to Talcher Thermal power station—out of Rs. 500 crores for renovation and modernisation programme.

Regarding Talcher, I am informed a team has already left to know the problem and to improve its performance.

Regarding the Rourkela steel plant, the Hon Member raised the question. Unfortunately, if we have power in Ramagundam, the AP State Electricity Board have their transmission lines and unless we have transmission lines right from Ramgundam to reach Orissa and Karnataka, perhaps this problem will

[Shri B. Shankranand]

persist. We hope to overcome this problem very shortly. I will not say that Andhra Pradesh is holding us to ransom because of the transmission lines though we have the power. Still the problem arises and unless we have our own transmission lines, it will be there and we hope to overcome it shortly.

The Hon. Member, I will not say, is misinformed. I do not know where he got this information from regarding my promise or anybody's promise to Karnataka Government. (*Interruptions*) I am not relying on the press report. You are relying on the press report. We have never promised any government regarding Gas Turbine generating units in any States. Of course, the Karnataka State did come with such a proposal but they have not submitted anything in writing and there is nothing before us.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :
Why don't you give consideration ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The question of consideration will arise only when we receive the proposal.

Regarding accountability, I should say that there should be accountability and responsibility. The persons who deliberately cause delay and interfere with the routine progress of any project, should be held responsible. But it is not the person. In a whole project there are many people working at various levels. It is not one person responsible for completion of any project. The problem is funds. That is the main problem and not the persons.

[*Translation*]

SHRI. LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, power is a very important subject on which depends the future of our country whether it is rural development or industrialization. If the power situation in the country is not satisfactory, the future of the country cannot be bright. In the report which the Hon. Minister has read out, it is written that 60 per cent of the total installed capacity is that of thermal powers. I would like to say that there is need to bring about some change in the policy in this regard. I think it is not a

correct policy to depend only on this 60 per cent thermal power. Since thermal power is based on coal, gas turbine, petrol and diesel and all these sources are going to be exhausted in ten, twenty or thirty years time. I fail to understand how our Thermal Power Stations will function after 30 or 40 years. An important aspect is that the power generated by them is five to six times costlier than that generated in the hydel power station. I would like to say that this Ministry should be provided with more funds so that the energy crisis could be overcome. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to lay more emphasis on the installation of hydel power station than on the Thermal Power Station in the plan. It is correct that it takes 6 to 7 years to install a hydel power station, but then the power generated thereby is cheaper and this source is inexhaustible also. The water source is inexhaustible. Water will be available even after five hundred or one thousand years and the problem which we are facing today will not arise. In our country the national grid has not been created as yet. It is written in the same report that in many States electricity, power and energy were available in surplus. The need of the hour is that a national grid should be created so that the power from the surplus States could be diverted to the deficit States.

The Rural Electrification Corporation releases funds to the States so that development takes place in the villages and more electricity is made available there. I am sorry to say that there are many States whose power generation is far below the national average. In order to cover up weakness, the States divert the funds received for the Rural Electrification Corporation elsewhere instead of spending them in villages. This needs to be looked into. It should be ensured that the funds received for rural electrification are spent in the villages only. The States should not be allowed to give up the works for which funds are allocated to them and to hide their weaknesses in this manner. I think the main cause of the present power crisis is the poor management. You see the case of U.P. In U.P., there are 27 units and 23 units out of them are lying idle.

13.00 hrs.

Besides, some days ago, fire had broken out in Obra Unit at Mirzapur. You will be

surprised to know that against its installed capacity of 2650 MW, only 750 MW power is generated there, which comes to about 30 per cent. When the power generation is 30 per cent of the installed capacity, naturally, there will be power crisis in the country.

Take for example the Badarpur Power Station of Delhi. Its installed capacity is 720 MW but it sometimes generates 150 MW power, sometimes 100 MW and sometimes 200 MW. I think the cause of so much low power generation is poor management. The bureaucrats sitting there are either asleep or one engaged in making money. They are all corrupt officers. They do not know how to handle the employees and the workers working there. Due to the carelessness of the bureaucrats or the technocrats in charge of management, the generation of power in the Badarpur Power Station is not up to the level of its installed capacity. It is able to generate sometimes 25 per cent and sometimes 30 per cent power. This is also the reason for the power crisis in our country.

I would like to give an example regarding accountability. The question before us is whom should they be accountable and answerable for all this. I want to establish that accountability should not be to the Central Government only. They should be accountable to the people and to the elected representatives of the people. If they are accountable to the elected representatives of the people, the crisis created due to the poor management will come to an end. I would like to give an example.

The Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has only one power station, i.e., the I.P. Power Station and its whole management is in the hands of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The working of the I.P. Power Station and the power supply position is discussed daily before the representatives of the people. The management of the DESU has to explain the reasons for the power shortage. They are responsible for it. They know that if they do not do their work properly, the representatives of the people in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi would take them to task. So, they work properly. Due to this reason the production of power in the I.P. Power Station is about 200 MW as against

its installed capacity of about 280 MW. I think the generation of power of I.P. Power Station is more than that of any other power station in India. The reason being that in the meetings of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the management of the DESU is asked to explain the reason for the power shortfall. On the other hand, there is Badarpur Power Station in Delhi whose management is in the hands of the Central Government. There are two power stations in Delhi. One is the I.P. Power Station whose installed capacity is 280 MW and the generation is 200 MW. On the other hand, the installed capacity of the Badarpur Power Station is 720 MW but only 150 or 200 MW of power is generated there. The reason for it is that the management of the Badarpur Power Station has no accountability. The Central Government administers it directly whereas the I.P. Power Station is accountable to the representatives of the people.

I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that when Badarpur Power Station was installed, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi was made its licensee. According to the decision taken at that time, under one of its clauses, the Badarpur Power Station was to be handed over to DESU but till today it has not been handed over to it. It is being run by the Central Government and this is the reason why the Badarpur Power Station is in such a bad shape. Its handling is poor, the performance is poor and the management is poor. So, I would like to urge that as per the decision taken earlier, this Power Station should be handed over to the DESU without any delay. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi is the proper licensee of the Badarpur Power Station. So, I demand that, this Power House should be handed over to the Corporation without delay.

So, far as transmission of power is concerned, if we consider it honestly, it can appropriately be termed as theft; because the word "transmission" is a polished expression. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the figures given here, there has been a loss of as much as 21 per cent of power due to transmission. I would like to know the reason why the transmission loss is more where industries are located in good number and it is less in the villages the only reason for this is that the theft of power takes place more at places

[Shri Lalit Maken]

where there are factories and in this way much loss is suffered whereas in the village, the consumption of power is less and so the loss there is also less. So, I would like to say that the 21 per cent loss is not due to the transmission, but due to theft. The big officers sitting in the management are corrupt ... The factory-owners in collusion with them commit theft of power. It causes two types of losses. Besides the loss of revenue, the other loss is that if there is no theft of power it could be supplied at those places where it is in short supply. Not only in Delhi, but at all the places where big industries are located when the employees of the DESU go there to check the theft, the owners of all the factories unite and manhandle the employees. The management of the DESU is helpless in such a situation. The Delhi Administration is also helpless. So, I submit that it is necessary to stop this theft. I shall not call it transmission. If it is checked, the power crisis can be overcome. I, therefore, demand that a separate legislation be enacted to provide for stern action against those who commit theft of power so that when the employees of the DESU go there to apprehend them, they are not beaten up but they are able to arrest them and hand them over to the police. The theft of power could thus be put to an end to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another aspect is that the meters showing consumption of power are in the reverse direction. The owners of the factories in connivance with some people set the meters to more in the reverse direction and then they say to the electricity department that they have charged more from them and so they should refund their money. When the meter is set to more in the reverse direction, naturally, it will show the consumption as declining and will give less reading. This should be checked.

I think it is irresponsible to term the 21 per cent loss as transmission loss. This is not transmission loss but is theft. Stern measures should be adopted to stop this theft. A legislation should be enacted under which deterrent action could be taken against those who indulge in the theft of power.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, besides this, the factory owners resort to another practice.

When the street light is on, they put another wire on the wire of the street light, as a result of which the light is supplied to their factories and houses till the street light remains on. This should also be checked. The theft of power is taking place at different places. If this is checked, the power crisis can be overcome to a large extent.

Sir, I would also like to submit that a ban has been imposed on recruitment. The DESU and certain other Electricity Boards of the country, with a view to please the Government, say that they are carrying on the work with less workers and there is no need to recruit more workers and, thus, they are saving lakhs and crores of rupees of Government. I would like to say that this is a big fraud with Government. It is a matter for happiness that the Finance Minister is present here. I want to bring it to your notice that the big bureaucrats sitting in the Boards are not saving the money of the Government, they are rather squandering it. I will tell you in what way they are squandering money. These people, instead of recruiting workers, give work to the contractors. In this way, they pay many times more money to the contractors than would be given to the workers in the form of salary after their recruitment. So, either you say that these contractors will work without taking any money or you recruit workers. Those contractors indulge in such dishonest practices that our whole system has gone away. For example, Sir, I would like to tell you about Delhi. Here, the power can be divided into two parts—the power generated here and the power that is taken from Uttar Pradesh and other parts and brought to Delhi. After this, the power is distributed from here to the houses and factories. The DESU employee does not undertake the work of distribution of power, this work is done by the workers of the contractors. It is a technical work and it involves work like laying of cables by digging roads, placing bricks on both sides, filling sand on it and then installing transformers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will be surprised to know that the contractors do not engage trained workers for doing such important and technical work but employ persons who carry load on the roads for laying cables, as a result of which our transformers go out of order and the cables are damaged. It results in loadshedding and the people are put to inconvenience.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the DESU and the Electricity Boards are treated as essential services. The Hon. Finance Minister is present here. I would like to urge him that like the Delhi Transport Corporation, there should be no ban on recruitment in such essential services. DESU is an essential service. It is essential for the public. So, why has a ban been imposed on recruitment? Why should the contract system not be done away with and work like laying of cables and installation of transformers be done through the skilled workers so that the shortage of power could be removed?

May I know whether it is a fact that some new power stations and gas turbines are being installed in Delhi by Government? If it is so, when is this work likely to be completed?

DESU is an essential service and the ban has not been imposed on recruitment in the essential services. Lakhs of rupees are being wasted on the contractors. Will the Hon. Minister consider abolishing the contract system and get the work done by skilled workers so that the power situation remains satisfactory in Delhi?

I would also like to ask of the Hon. Minister the percentage of load shedding resorted to owing to the defects in the cables, due to the transformers going out of order and due to the collapse of the infrastructure of the DESU, respectively?

May I know whether Government would hand over the Badarpur Power Station to DESU as per its decision and commitment or whether they would be adamant in not transferring it to the DESU?

The Hon. Minister may please also state how many States are producing less power than the national average.

Like the DESU, which is working under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and is accountable to the Corporation, will Government make the Electricity Boards in the country, whether it is of Uttar Pradesh or Bihar, accountable to the elected representations of that region so that they may be asked regularly about the electricity supply position?

Like DESU in Delhi whose chairman is a representative of the people, will Government appoint elected representatives as chairman of the Electricity Boards in the whole country or give them representation on the Boards, thereby making them accountable to the elected representatives so that the people may be able to voice their grievances and the working of the Electricity Boards may be streamlined.

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The Hon. Member has been so enthusiastic in putting forth the public grievances through the elected representatives in Parliament and elsewhere and he desires that the management or the authority of managing the affairs of such institutions should be handed over to the elected representatives by way of either making them Chairmen of the electricity supply companies or electricity Boards. At the moment, there is no law or rule that only the elected representatives should be made chairmen of the electricity supply companies or the electricity Boards.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: According to our schedule, we were to have lunch break today. But as there are a number of items on the order paper, I propose that we dispense with the lunch break today and continue to sit.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will continue to sit without lunch break today.

Mr. Minister may please continue.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The Hon. Member has really raised very important questions and I must reply to them. I am glad to hear from him that the representatives elected from Delhi are taking a keen interest in the power generation distribution and supply. I must thank them because they alone can be the eyes and ears of the Government to see the lapses whether in regard to management personnel, workers or whatever it may be.

The Hon. Member mentioned about the law with regard to supply of electricity. As

[B Shankaranand]

far as the law regarding electricity supply is concerned, according to me also, it needs a revision, because the needs of the society have changed. The development pattern of this country is fast changing and with modern technology unless we have enough power, perhaps we will not be able to cope up with the demand that is made on the supply of electricity. Sir, in the heat of his argument, he criticised the management of the Indraprastha and Badarpur Power Stations.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Not Indraprastha. I criticised only the Badarpur Power Station. I appreciated the management of the Indraprastha Station.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The Hon. Member knows that we have appointed a One Man Committee to go into the question of the ownership of this power station. And I am very much in the know of the fact. We know the problems facing the workers and we also know that sometimes the management are manhandled by the workers. We know both sides of the problem and that is why we have set up the Committee and I am awaiting the report of the Committee to take a decision on the matter.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : What about giving the management of the Badarpur station to the DESU, Sir ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I cannot assure that to the Hon. Member, unless I examine the *pros and cons* of the problem. This is not a problem of management alone that would solve the matter. Otherwise, there would not have been any problem through out the country and every power station would have performed its work very satisfactorily. It is not the management alone. There are other factors also.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I have said a different thing. When the Badarpur Power Station came into existence, there was a clause which was a part of the agreement that this Badarpur Power Station would be handed over to DESU. But it has not been done so. I simply want to know this. As per your agreement with DESU, Delhi Municipal Corporation is a licensee of the Badar-

pur Power Station. So, will you please implement what your Ministry itself has said ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Whatever I do, I must see to the result of my action and not the purpose of any other thing. I am not taking any decision at this moment. I have said that I have appointed a Committee and I am awaiting the report of the Committee.

Sir, the Hon. Member has rightly raised the question of national grid. I must appreciate it because this is being depreciated now. We must have an efficient system of evacuating and transporting power from the surplus States to the deficit States, and for this we need the cooperation of the various State Electricity Boards and Departments of those States where there are no Electricity Boards and also the Centre as well. We have started establishing and constructing long transmission lines, HDVC lines for the first time in the country. Unless we have the cooperation of the States, perhaps the dream of having the National Electricity Grid may not be realised. It all depends on how far the State Governments are going to cooperate with this. This alone will greatly solve the problem of power supply in this country.

Sir, I have already referred to poor management. I have mentioned about the law regarding electricity supply also. The only thing left is this. The Hon. Member asked about the installation of gas turbines in Delhi. Perhaps by a year or a year and a half, six units of 30 megawatts of gas turbine stations will be realised.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : In 15 months.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Electricity supply of Delhi will be augmented to that extent. Delhi has been very fortunate, being the capital of this country, to enjoy power at the cheapest rates, not knowing the value of it. Now I would request the Hon. Member to ask the people of Delhi to cooperate. Regarding workers, I would request him to tell them, whether they are in Badarpur or Indraprastha, to cooperate with the managements, so that.....

SHRI LALIT MAKEN rose.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I am not yielding. If the Hon. Member wants to discuss with me, he is free to do so. For that, we need not waste the time of the House. I know he has a cause and a reason to argue the case of the workers, he being the leader of the workers. I do appreciate his interest. Perhaps it would be better if the Hon. Member discusses with me the problems of the workers who perhaps need his advice more than that of mine.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : It is a general question which is concerned with the Finance Minister also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can go and discuss with him, he says. He is calling you to his Chamber. You can go to him and discuss with him. Please sit down. He is not yielding. Please sit down.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I have only one question. DESU is an essential service.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister has said that he is not yielding to your question.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Otherwise I will definitely go to meet and discuss with him. Because the Finance Minister is here I want to avail of this opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. How can you insist on it here? He cannot speak, because the Calling Attention does not concern his department. So, you cannot straightway insist on it here.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : There is no room for any ban on recruitment. So, this contract system should be abolished. He should at least give an assurance that he will look into the matter.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Recruitment is dependent on the need of the situation. There just cannot be a recruitment for ever

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Thousands of workers are suffering, and lakhs and crores of rupees are going down the drain, which is not in the interests of the Government.

That is why I had raised a basic question. Kindly give a categorical answer.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Nobody will recruit anybody who is not wanted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister's answer is simple...

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I do not understand. Maybe, I do not have the calibre to understand this answer. My question was : DESU being an essential service, there is no need for the ban on recruitment. So, the ban must be lifted, the contract system must be abolished, and a new... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister says that if at all it is necessary, recruitment will be done.

SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : It is a universal phenomenon in our country. It is a very important question.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I demanded that a new law should be enacted to arrest those people who are stealing electricity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Definitely. Government will take necessary action.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Perhaps the Hon. Member did not understand what I said. I said : the law needs revision.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : After listening to the Members' observations, I feel they are insisting on hydel projects, because thermal power costs more. That is what they are suggesting.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Hydel potential can be exploited wherever it exists, and not everywhere. Where it exists, it is being exploited.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What about my constituency? There is... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I will look into the problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the Hon. Minister of Finance will make a statement.