

Merely harsh measures will not serve the purpose. Stern measures must be taken against the terrorists and militants. But unless the local population is won over, nothing substantial can be achieved.

[English]

I hope you will send some priorities that will be correct.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam, we are aware of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Rajesh Pilot on the 26th August, 1993 to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in respect of Jammu and Kashmir, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 3rd September, 1993 be adopted."

*The motion was adopted.*

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15.54 hrs.

[English]

RESOLUTION RE: RAJASTHAN STATE  
ELECTRICITY BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V.  
RANGAYYA NAIDU): On behalf of Shri  
N.K.P. Salve, I beg to move the following  
Resolution:—

"That this House, in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 65 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 read with clause (b) of the Proclamation issued on the 15th December, 1992 by the President under article 356 of the Constitution with respect to the State of Rajasthan, accords approval for fixing the sum of one thousand six hundred crores of rupees as the maximum amount which the Rajasthan State Electricity Board may at any

time have on loan under sub-section (1) of the said section 65."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved:—

"That this House, in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 65 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 read with clause (b) of the Proclamation issued on the 15th December, 1992 by the President under article 356 of the Constitution with respect to the State of Rajasthan, accords approval for fixing the sum of one thousand six hundred crores of rupees as the maximum amount which the Rajasthan State Electricity Board may at any time have on loan under sub-section (1) of the said section 65."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with respect to proposal for increasing funds for Rajasthan State Electricity Board, I would like to submit that Rajasthan is a desert area which gets only one percent of the total water available in the country. It is the 2nd largest State in terms of population in the country. Today silting has taken place on a large scale in Gang Canal. Today Rajasthan is not getting its full share of power being generated in the country. All the proposals relating to share of Rajasthan in Yamuna water, Ganga water, Tehri Dam, entrusting work to Bhakhara Beas Management, Ropar, Harikesh or Ferozpur control, Chambal Project, Narmada project and providing additional funds for the completion of work of the Indira Gandhi Canal are lying pending with the Central Government.

Many a Chief-Minister came to power in Rajasthan and made efforts in their own way. The former Chief Minister, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat did his best, but it did not put any impact on the Government of India.

Today, the entire Rajasthan is experiencing drought. There was no rain. All the crops have ruined. There is scarcity of drinking water in villages. There is no water for cattle in the villages. I think never before this such a

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

drought had ever occurred in Rajasthan. If such a situation arises we will be forced to send our livestock to other States. Rajasthan is going to face the most severe drought situation.

Eleven districts of Rajasthan fall under desert area. I would like to highlight some of the points in the interest of my State. I hope you would sympathetically consider them and take a decision accordingly. Undoubtedly, energy sources are very less in the State. So we have to get electricity from joint projects of Punjab and Haryana i.e. Bhakra Beas power project. Our State will have to take power supply from first unit of Chambal and Satpura Tapti power projects. In addition to it we get power supply from the Centre. The State has to depend on Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant, Singrauli, Rihand, Anta, Auraiya and NHPC. There are only two NTPC power projects of 100 megawatt capacity in Kota in the State. And there are two other units of 2x10 megawatt in Kota. All this illustrates that there is scarcity of power projects and so the State has to depend on other States. That is why there is a big difference between demand and supply of power in Rajasthan. Forty five percent power has to be spent in industries and twenty percent on agriculture. My submission is that keeping in view the demand it is very essential to supply power to this State. In 1994-95 the power shortage would go up in industrial areas upto 41.21% and agricultural areas to 35.42%. My submission is that our State should get proper supply from the Central Electricity Projects. Besides, on the basis of Agreement on water, the State should get power supply from Satluj, Ravi and Beas rivers. In addition, it should get 52.6% water from their Dam, 20% from Anandpur-Sahib hydro electric project, 58.5% from Mukerian hydro-electric project, 45% from third stage of UPDC and 94% from Shahpur, Kandi hydro-electric project. The Central Government should say that the State should get supply from these projects. When we held talks with Punjab and Haryana, the Governor of Punjab the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Rajasthan were present. Our submission was that for agreement we should move to Supreme

16.00 hrs.

Court. The verdict of the Supreme Court would be acceptable to Rajasthan as well. Punjab has started work on all the three projects

and also on its utilisation, Rajasthan is not getting even a single megawatt of electricity. My submission is that if the Central Government finds itself incapable of taking any decision, it should refer it to the Supreme Court and until the time Supreme Court gives its verdict, Rajasthan should get its share from the Central projects.

Secondly several State projects are lying pending for approval with the Central Government. For example Dholpur Thermal Project which is an important project and would provide us 3x210 megawatt of electricity is one of them. Now the Centre side-tracking it in the name of protection of Tajmahal. The project is likely to be disapproved on this ground. Since this is an important project, I would like the Government to clear it. Similarly the Suratgarh Thermal Power Plant would provide 2x210 megawatt of electricity but even this project is not being implemented, although the Central Electricity Authority has accorded its approval to it. Lack of supply of coal at cheap rates is also one of the factors for the Suratgarh Thermal Power Plant project lying pending with the Government. Not only, this several other projects are lying pending with the Central Government. The Anta Thermal Project is lying pending for approval with the Central Government for cost evaluation. Anta thermal project with a capacity of 423 megawatt is also lying pending with the Central Government and the share of electricity to the State in the Central projects has also not been decided. There is wide difference on the question of demand and supply in the electricity projects. No decision has yet been taken in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, fifteen percent of electricity was being supplied to Rajasthan from Singrauli. Now the share has been reduced to 9.5%. The reason for this is not known. After all there is a great difference between 15% and 9.5%. Similarly Solar power plant of 30 megawatt capacity was to be set up in Jodhpur by the Central Government. But it has not been done. Similarly in another Dam project we had reached an agreement with Haryana in which we had to spend seventy percent of the expenditure and get 63% of the total generation. But Haryana has overlocked our State and started work on the project while in the agreement it was mentioned that such conditions may be prescribed. I would like to know, Mr. Minister, as to what are those conditions. Does this mean that by increasing the

amount, they need money to make payment of salaries alone? Many projects viz three units of 250 megawatt capacity in Suratgarh are lying pending. The lignite project at Jodhpur is also lying pending. It has been decided to hand it over to the private sector for want of funds. The project is lying pending for the last six years. We would have to complete both these projects. Therefore, the Government should put a restriction that eighty percent of the total allocation would be spent by the Board on the project construction and twenty percent on salaries to employees.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that the Government should give clearance to all the projects of Rajasthan and till all the disputes regarding Rajasthan are decided by Supreme Court, power supply to Rajasthan should continue. Today there is great shortage of electricity in Rajasthan. There is drought in the State. People are not getting electricity. Small scale industries are not prospering. Therefore, I demand that the transmitting charges should be reduced. Theft of electricity should be checked. Electricity should be supplied to farmers and other small scale industries on priority basis. Power cut should be checked in Rajasthan. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hope the Government would give clearance to all the projects of Rajasthan. If the Government does not take such steps the people would launch agitation. The Government should not be rest assured under President Rule. Please let us know how long the President Rule would continue.

Elections would take place in the month of November and it is certain that BJP would form the Government. Nobody can stop that. Then we would start a strong agitation on people's support. It will be better if the Government gives clearance to all the projects of Rajasthan gracefully. The Government should do justice to the State. It should check power cuts so that the money is properly utilised. Increasing funds would not serve any purpose. The hon. Minister patiently heard my speech. I hope that he would make some announcement keeping the interests of Rajasthan in mind.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has presented the statutory resolution of Rajasthan Electricity Board which seeks to raise the amount of loan from Rs. 1000 crore to Rs. 1600 crore. I would

like to submit that this is an injustice to Rajasthan. It seems that the Central authorities at Delhi have considered Rajasthan as their colony. As a result the Central Government has not approved the justified demands of the State. I am talking about electricity, be it setting up of Thermal Power Projects or due share of Rajasthan in hydro-electric projects of the neighbouring States, or construction of dam in the Central establishment or Himachal Pradesh. I would like to submit that the State is experiencing drought and there is shortage of power supply for the pumpsets. There is shortage of power for the expansion of small scale industries.

One more thing happened in the meanwhile, the Centre stated that all the electricity boards are running in loss. At that time the BJP Government was in power in Rajasthan. It took up the matter with the Government and reduced the rate of power-unit. Centre supplied power at the rate of 1.50 per unit and power was supplied to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 0.45 per unit in Rajasthan. When the Centre asked for increase in the rate, our State Government raised the rate by 5-10 paise per unit. But consequently the Congress people made a propaganda that by increasing the rate we are committing atrocities on farmers. How would double talk go on. On the one hand the Minister of Energy and Power Authorities give orders to the State Electricity Board increase the rate of power and decrease the loss. How long the Centre would supply it. If the State Governments work towards fulfilling Central directives they make wrong propaganda against the Governments in power.

As my hon. friend said just now that there has been not a single drop of rain during the last one and a half months and the State is going to face severe drought. Earlier there was good rainfall.

[English]

Indian agriculture is a gamble of monsoon.

[Translation]

Today the period without rainfall has been so long that the whole crop have started drying up. If the wells could be supplied power,

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

something could be done. For hours there is no supply of electricity while there is no shortage of supply of electricity in the houses of Ministers. Supply of electricity is done to farmers in the night. When all fall asleep they are forced to work. So the Centre should stop this injustice to Rajasthan and supply its due share.

I would not like to repeat the points that my hon. friend made. I would only like to State that this is a very serious matter and the future of crores of people have been linked to it. This is a matter of electricity. The Government knows very well that nothing can be done without electricity. Nowadays no work can be done without the help of electricity. In Rajasthan 45% of electricity is used on industries and only thirty percent is used in agricultural work. The Government says that agricultural work should be increased. Today lakhs of farmers are waiting for getting electricity connections. People who had submitted their applications in 1984 and 1985 are now getting electricity connections. You can well imagine how much the Government is concerned for the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have a sympathetic outlook for the farmers. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that it should do justice to Rajasthan in the matter of power. The State should get its due share. Rajasthan should be given its full share from the Bhakara Nangal Dam. It should get power from the projects of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Narmada Sagar. It had been decided that the matter should be referred to the Supreme Court. The Government of India has not been able to get the decision of the Supreme Court. How long Rajasthan will continue to beg. The State does not want to continue begging. We want to live a life with self-respect. We want to get our rights through struggle. But I am sorry to state the plight of the State. The Governors are Congress-Governors. They take their decisions by following the policies of the Congress party. The Governors are changed continuously like playing cards. Three Governors have been changed in a single year. Before whom should we seek justice? First Governor was appointed, then the second was and then the third one was appointed. Even then nobody is paying attention to our plight. Before the hon. Minister presents his statutory

resolution, I would like to submit him that he should take steps to wipeout corruption. He should pay special attention towards the expenditure on administration and staff. He should check theft of electricity. He should try to put a check on the misuse of power with the help of officers and supply electricity to farmers and small scale industries on priority basis. Rajasthan Electricity Board has already incurred a loss of Rs. 700 crore. Now the Government is extending the time limit of drawing loans. This would amount to more loss. Therefore, I request that power should be supplied in required quantity and on time. All our projects which are lying pending for protection of environment and forests should be accorded approval. Environment and Forests should be protected. But how can you justify not issuing licences to Thermal Power Projects in their name? I would request you to give clearance to Dholpur Thermal Power Project, Pumping set project and Ramgarh power project and other projects.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Governor of Rajasthan has increased the borrowing limit of the Rajasthan Electricity Board to Rs. 1600 crore through an ordinance. I would like to submit that the installed capacity of power generation of different power projects belonging to different State Electricity Boards is awfully less than the requirement, it is almost one third. The Rajasthan Electricity Board is also no exception to it. Power plants are being set up. Transmission loss of electricity boards is to the tune of 20 to 27 percent. The borrowing limit of electricity boards is being increased, but no thought is being given as to how the loans will be paid back. It should be given sympathetic consideration. The problems of electricity, irrigation and potable water are inter linked with regular famine and drought situation. I think, if the power problem being faced by those places is not solved, the problem of famine and drought hitting those areas every year cannot be encountered.

What is required in this country is to set up small power plants, as also to set up hydropower projects and atomic power projects. If the Government of Rajasthan thinks in this regard and considers the power problem being faced by the common people, I believe that the ordinance increasing the loan taking limit may prove useful and justified, otherwise

merely increasing the borrowing limit of electricity boards will not solve the power problem. The Government will have to resort to some alternative measure.

With these suggestions, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for giving their suggestions. The power scenario in Rajasthan is quite satisfactory. It has an installed capacity of 1,731 M.W. comprising of 966 M.W. hydro and 765 M.W. thermal power. Rajasthan has also got an atomic power station with an installed capacity of 400 M.W. which is in the Central sector.

Our friends were saying that Rajasthan is not getting their share of the Central power. I can assure them that Rajasthan is getting the due share from the Central projects located in Rajasthan as well as in the Northern region as per the formula which is accepted by all States and which is strictly followed. In fact, as a special case, the entire power generated in the atomic power plant at Kota is allotted to Rajasthan making an exception to the rule. So, Rajasthan is not being discriminated and on the other hand it has been favoured.

This enhancement of loan is being sought mainly to improve the power generation and transmission system in Rajasthan. As you know, unless we improve the distribution system, the power generated will not reach the far-off areas. Specially in Rajasthan the generating projects are located far away and in fact in some locations they are at a distance of 600 kilometres from the actual place of usage. The T&D losses in Rajasthan are also quite high. The only solution is to improve the transmission system by investing some more money coupled with the funds that may be available from the Rural Electrification Corporation as well as the Power Finance Corporation.

During the Eighth Plan also there is a proposal to add five units of thermal generation stations at Kota of 210 M.W. each and two generation stations at Suratgarh of 250 M.W. each. There are also plans to have one generation station of 500 M.W. at Chittorgarh and one of 160 M.W. at Ramgarh. We have taken an

undertaking from the Rajasthan Electricity Board that this amount will be spent only for meeting the capital outlay as per plan for improving generation, reduction of cable losses, improving revenue realisation, reduction in the cost of supply and that the loans are not to be utilised by the State Electricity Board to discharge its current liabilities.

I can assure the hon. Members that the additional loan sought for will probably be utilised to improve the generation as well as the distribution system in Rajasthan.

Therefore, I request the hon. House to approve this proposal.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all his statements that the Government will sympathetically consider this and that are empty assurances which we have been listening for so many years. This will not do any good to any body. I would like to submit one thing to you.

"Yachana Nahi Ab Rann Hoga, Sangram Bari Bhishan Hoga". Now instead of begging we will resort to a better fight. The Government may take note of it. This is the last warning. The Government should either do something for Rajasthan otherwise our party will come to power there and expose the Government who just believes in giving false assurances.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was submitting.....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken. You cannot speak again. Please take your seat.

The question is:

"That this House, in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 65 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 read with clause (b) of the Proclamation issued on the 15th December, 1992 by the President under article 356 of the Constitution with respect to the State of Rajasthan, accords approval for fixing the sum of one thousand six hundred crores of rupees as the maximum amount which the Rajasthan State Electricity Board may at any time have on loan under sub-section (1) of the said section 65."

*The motion was adopted.*