

red and he was taken in procession to the Worli police station last Thursday, to teach the Dalits in the BDD chawls a lesson. This is a serious matter. In the front page of the Times of India, there is this news also: "Poona: Four persons were arrested today for allegedly outraging the modesty of a 14-year-old Harijan girl in Karamoli village in Poona district last night. One of them is a primary school teacher." The entire House was concerned at what happened in Nagaland and Manipur and you also expressed your sentiments. These things will have a very bad effect. I would appeal to the Home Minister who is sleeping... (Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): I am not sleeping.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): Anything can be said here by anybody. He is overdoing it. He says that the Home Minister is sleeping here. Can anything like that be said here?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not proper. We should be more courteous to each other.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: He was out of his senses; that is why he says he is sleeping. Why should he say this in the morning? I can understand, if this has happened in the evening. (Interruptions).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: May I assure hon. Mr. Stephen that I have got more regard for the Home Minister, than he has

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: It is not a question of regard. It is a question of healthy behaviour, how to talk and how remarks should be made on any matter. It is a matter of concern to others also. (Interruptions).

This shows, he is not concerned about this issue. He is concerned about something else.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Sir, I feel sorry if I had injured his feelings. But, the question is, I do expect that he will keep his eyes open. The question is, he should make a statement and allay the fears in the minds of Harijans.

13 16 hrs

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED MAJOR POWER FAILURE IN THE NORTHERN REGION

SHRI M. C. DAGA (Pali): Sir, I call 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:

'Reported major power failure in the northern region of the country.'

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): Before I make the statement, may I briefly refer to some of the remarks that were made this morning, if you will allow me? Firstly you were good enough to observe that I am always very particular about my respect to the House and then you mentioned that it would be better if we listen to our loudspeakers in the rooms. I may, on a point of information, mention that all of us do not have loudspeakers in our rooms. In fact, most of us do not have. If, Sir, through your good offices, we could get loudspeakers in our rooms, it will greatly facilitate our work. Secondly, you were good enough to say that it would be good if we come early to Parliament House. I was, in fact, here since 10 A.M. this morning and I arrived here at about one minute to twelve. Normally if questions had continued business would have been smooth.

[Shri K. C. Pant]

From my room, it takes about 4 minutes to come here. Even if I had loud-speaker in my room, I would not have known that the business had collapsed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It did not collapse. It went off at great speed.

SHRI K. C. PANT: But, it ended before. Some of our rooms are very far away and even if I walk fast,—I am a fast walker in the Cabinet—it would take me normally 4 minutes to come here. The third point is as you yourself mentioned, I was in touch with the Punjab Government and till now, I was trying to get as many facts as I could. This is all I want to say.

A double-circuit 220 KV transmission line exists between Bhakra-Nangal and Delhi. This line normally carries about 300 MW of power of which 80 MW is available to Delhi, 20 MW to Punjab and the rest to Haryana and Chandigarh. On the 16th April, 1974, at 0215 hours, one of the angle towers of this line fell as a result of two legs being cut near the ground level. According to the Punjab Government, this act of sabotage is suspected to be related to a strike by some of the employees of the Punjab State Electricity Board. As a result of this Act the power supply to Delhi, as well as to Haryana and Chandigarh, has been interrupted. It has been possible to make alternate arrangements for supplying some power to Haryana and Chandigarh from the Bhakra system through other transmission links which exist in the area and thus maintain supply to essential services. The quantum of power supply is, however substantially less than the normal supply.

The supply of power as a consequence of the feeling of this line has been reduced only in the States of Haryana and the Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh. In Delhi, the generation was 200 MW on 17th April 1974, since one set of 62.5 MW of the I.P. Station had been on forced outage due to super heater tube leakage

since 14th April, 1974. In addition, a super-heater tube leakage on the 16th April afternoon has caused shut-down of the 100 MW unit of Badarpur station. The 62.5 MW set at the I.P. Station is expected to be commissioned today itself. The Badarpur station is also expected to come back to-day.

Delhi had to resort to load shedding as a result of the shortage of about 30—35 MW during normal times, and 60—85 MW at the peak load time. This was despite U.P. giving assistance of 20 MW to Delhi. It is hoped that normal supplies will be restored to Delhi later in the afternoon today.

Haryana would receive some relief with the 62.5 MW set in the I.P. Station of Delhi and the Badarpur unit coming back. However, significant improvement will only take place when the 220 KV transmission line is restored. The situation in Chandigarh can only improve with the restoration of the 220 KV transmission line.

Senior engineers of the Bhakra Management Board, Haryana State Electricity Board and the Punjab State Electricity Board are at the site and the work is going on round the clock for erection of the angle tower after repairs and restoring the line. It is expected that line would be energised on the 28th of April, 1974.

While the feeling of the angle tower did not by itself affect power supply in Punjab, there have been reports of interference with a number of transmission lines in the State and then being put out of action through acts of sabotage resulting in disruption of power supply to agriculture and industry. Water supply in some urban areas has also been affected.

The Punjab Government have taken all necessary steps for the protection of the transmission lines and substations against sabotage. Patrolling has been intensified and the cooperation of villagers has been enlisted to help in watching the safety of the power transmission system.

I am sure all sections of the House will join me in condemning these acts

of sabotage. Such antinational activities result in considerable dislocation of normal economic activity over large areas and cause unnecessary suffering to the common man.

श्री नृप चन्द शर्मा (पत्नी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय के स्टेटमेंट को सुनकर हमारी गर्दन शर्म से झुक जाती है। यह कितने खेद की बात है कि आज हमारे देश में इस प्रकार की घटनाएँ होती हैं। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ अमरीका में बिजली का पर-कैपिटल कनवर्जन 6,612, किलोवाट, कैंनेडा में 8,111 किलोवाट, यूरोप के कन्टीज में 2,500 किलोवाट और जापान में 2,377 किलोवाट है, वहाँ हिन्दुस्तान में केवल 72 किलोवाट है। हिन्दुस्तान में इतनी कम बिजली मिलने पर भी समय समय पर उसमें ब्रेक डाउन होते हैं, लेकिन सैबोटेज ही उसका कारण नहीं है। हाँ सैबोटेज उसका कारण हो सकता है। लेकिन इस तरह जनता की जिन्दगी के साथ जो खिलवाड़ किया जा रहा है, उसके लिये जिम्मेदार कौन है? समय समय पर बिजली का ब्रेकडाउन होने से जिन्दगी के सब काम काज रुक जाते हैं। इसके कारण फरीदाबाद में पचास हजार मजदूर बेकार हो गये हैं और जगह जगह नुकसान हो रहा है। दूसरे देशों में ऐसा कानून है कि बिजली का डिमरशन या ब्रेक डाउन होने पर काम्प्लेन्टरी सूट फाइल किया जा सकता है। हमारे देश में हालत यह है कि लाखों करोड़ों रुपये लगाने के बाद भी बिजली की सप्लाई बार बार बन्द हो जाती है। मिर्चाई और विद्युत मंत्री ने कह दिया है कि हमने इंजीनियर्स को इस काम पर लगा दिया है। उसके लिए बड़ा धन्यवाद। उन्होंने बहुत बड़ा काम किया है।

बदरपुर स्टेशन सिर्फ तीन महीने पहले खोला गया था और उस के लिए मशीनें रांची से भेजी गई थीं। क्या बजह है कि उस की ट्यूब इतनी जल्दी फल हो गई? इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है? क्या सरकार यह चाहती

है कि जनता सफर करती रहे और आवाज न उठाये? फरीदाबाद से करोड़ों रुपये के सामान का, हैवी इंजीनियरिंग गुड्स का, एक्सपोर्ट करना है, लेकिन बिजली न मिलने की बजह से वहाँ के कारखाने काम नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। हमारे विभिन्न राज्यों में स्टेट इंजीनियरिंग बोर्ड्स को 32 अरब रुपये का बजट दिया गया है, जिस का ब्याज 1974 में 4 अरब रुपये होता है। आज उन इंजीनियरिंग बोर्ड्स के चेयरमैन कौन हैं? वे कोई टेक्नीशन नहीं हैं। दिल्ली में श्री शर्मा हैं। उन्होंने कौन सी बिजली की इंजीनियरिंग पास की है?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I really do not see where the relevance is.

SHRI M. C. DAGA: I am explaining how this position has come about. I am not confining myself to the failure at present. May be, it is not relevant to today's motion I am putting the question. Before that I am giving the background

सवाल यह है कि इन इंजीनियरिंग बोर्ड्स के चेयरमैन कोई टेक्नीशन क्यों नहीं बनाए जाते हैं। बदरपुर पावर प्लांट रखाये हुये अभी सिर्फ तीन महीने हुए हैं। उस के फेगल होने के लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है? क्या सरकार ने इस मिलमिले में किसी इंजीनियर के खिलाफ कोई एक्शन लिया है?

मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पंच ब इंजीनियरिंग बोर्ड के कर्मचरियों की हड़ताल का क्या कारण था। वे लोग क्या चाहते हैं? वे चाहते हैं कि उनको इन्टरिम रिलीफ दिया जाये। वह क्यों नहीं दिया गया? क्या संजी

[श्री मूल चन्द डाग]

महोदय ने उन लोगों को बुलाकर उनसे बातचीत की है। आज हरियाणा चंडीगढ़ और पंजाब में बिजली की सप्लाई के बारे में खिल-वाड किया जा रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इलेक्ट्रिसिटी एकट में यह प्रोजेक्शन होना चाहिये कि बिजली की सप्लाई बन्द होने पर लोग हर्जाना बलेस कर सकें।

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER. He should ask the question now

SHRI M C DAGA Even when a point is raised under rule 377, the member is given some time to explain the point. For the Calling Attention a Member is given ten minutes. I have not completed my question and I am being disturbed every one minute. I should not be disturbed like that. It is difficult to put a straight question.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER You are giving facts which have no relevance to this discussion.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK (Rohtak) Sir, you are not here to teach him. Let him explain it in his own way.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा जिन लोगों ने सैक्रोटेज किया है क्या उन के खिलाफ कोई केस रजिस्टर किये गये हैं? ये घटनाये 16 और 17 मार्च का हुई और आज 18 मार्च हो गई है। क्या उन लोगों का गिरफ्तार किया गया है और इस बारे में कोई एनक्वायरी की गई है? अर्थात् यह सैक्रोटेज करने वाले कौन लोग थे? मानव हानि है कि इलेक्ट्रिसिटी ब्रोड में काम करने वाले कुछ इन्डस्ट्रियल आदमियों ने यह काम किया है। इसका कारण क्या है? 'इंडियन कमिशन' में कहा गया है

"According to a spokesman there was considerable resentment among the power employees and engineers against interference by the officials and bureaucrats in the working of the power house. These officials issued orders for the maintenance of the power house without any basic knowledge of the work. They also prepared plans and designs without any consultation with the competent staff. Political patronage has made a mess of the working of most of the power houses"

श्री मूल चन्द डागा जिन लोगों ने सैक्रोटेज किया है क्या उन के खिलाफ कोई केस रजिस्टर किये गये हैं? ये घटनाये 16 और 17 मार्च का हुई और आज 18 मार्च हो गई है। क्या उन लोगों का गिरफ्तार किया गया है और इस बारे में कोई एनक्वायरी की गई है? अर्थात् यह सैक्रोटेज करने वाले कौन लोग थे? मानव हानि है कि इलेक्ट्रिसिटी ब्रोड में काम करने वाले कुछ इन्डस्ट्रियल आदमियों ने यह काम किया है। इसका कारण क्या है? 'इंडियन कमिशन' में कहा गया है

आप अपने एलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड के अन्दर उन लोगों को चेयरमैन मुकरर करते हैं और यह टेक्निशियम और इंजिनियरिंग का काम है। आप टेक्निशियम का क्या नहीं मौका देते हैं? इस का क्या कारण है?

एक चीज मुझे यह बताएँ कि दिल्ली में एक साल में कितनी बार ब्लैक डाउन हुए हैं? कितनी बार बिजली गई और उसमें कितना उत्पादन को नुकसान हुआ? मैं एक साल का आकड़ा पूछ रहा हूँ दिल्ली को और हरियाणा, चंडीगढ़ और फरीदाबाद (अवधवाल) में दिल्ली की बात पूछता हूँ। आज भी दिल्ली के अन्दर 50 हजार किलोवाट बिजली आप आगे को हीट करने में खर्च करते हैं और 1 लाख किलोवाट बिजली कूलर्स और एयर कंडीशनर्स में खर्च करते हैं? जब आस्ट्रेलिया की बात करते हैं तो क्या आप का इनकी बिजली एयर कंडीशनिंग और हीटिंग पर खर्च करना जायज है? क्या इनका आपको इस के निचे खर्च करना चाहिए और दूसरा का उत्पादन कम करना चाहिए? यह आप ठीक समझते हैं?

फिर आपके प्रिजेंटिंग मेजर्स क्या है? जा आप खर्च करना चाहते हैं आप कृपा करके बताएँ प्रिजेंटिंग मेजर्स क्या है। क्या आप वर वर उन मामलों की चौकस करने हैं? नहीं, केवल पता खर्च होता है और आप का वही कोई बक नहीं है। ट्रान्समिशन लाइन कितनी है? 25 परसेंट है। उसके बारे में क्या लोका आप ने सोचा है?

SHRI K. C. PANT: The questions that the hon. Member has raised are wide-ranging. I do not mind taking them one by one and answer them. It will take a bit of time.

The first point that he raised was about the Badarpur Power Station and how this affected the power situation in Delhi. As the House knows, the Badarpur power has been going to U.P. 100 MW power unit and, except that, at one stage 0.2 million units was going to Punjab and 0.2 million units to Haryana. But lately, only 0.2 million units is going to Haryana and the rest is going to U.P. This has not really affected the power situation either in Delhi or in Punjab, only to a very marginal extent in Haryana.

The other point that he mentioned was as to how many times there should be repeated break-downs in this three-months old plant. This is a new plant and, because this is a new plant, there have been certain teething troubles also. I went into it in some detail with technical people. The main reason is that the quality of coal supplied, the thermal value of it, has varied with the result that sometimes the temperature has been very high inside the furnace. This has led to the leakage to some of the super heater boiler tubes. All I can tell my hon friend is that while there were three break-downs in February and one in the beginning of March, this is the next break-down in the middle of April. The frequency is, certainly, going down. But we are trying to see, that is, the local management and the engineers, that the temperature is properly controlled. To some extent they can do it. As regards the variation in the quality of coal, it is difficult for them to control.

Another question that he raised was about the break-down in power supply in Delhi. Since I have been here in this Ministry, this is the first occasion when there has been a partial shedding of power; and all these months I do not recall any

other occasion when there had been shedding of power.

The next question was about the hartal by the Punjab Electricity Board workers, whether we had called them here. The simple point is that they are the employees of the Punjab Government and they have to negotiate with the Punjab Government, and it is for the Punjab Government and themselves to settle this matter. We really do not come into this question except to the extent that there is a Wage Guidelines Committee which recommended certain interim relief, which was called at the Central level. Except to that extent, the rest is really between the State Government and its employees. Even the recommendations of this Committee are not mandatory, they are recommendatory by their very nature.

Then he asked whether cases had been registered or not. Cases have been registered by the Punjab Government and rightly so. About arrests, I have been informed that the Punjab Government has certain leads and in cooperation and coordination with the Haryana Government, is following up these leads and hopes to make certain arrests soon.

Then he asked why this sabotage took place. He has said that, perhaps, it is because the technicians do not get enough of an opportunity. I have great respect of Mr. Daga and I am surprised, I am amazed, that he should be asking for reasons for sabotage taking place. It is an amazing statement. Instead of condemning outright, instead of condemning strongly, this kind of anti-national activity, to try to find even the remotest occasion for it by talking about technicians in this context is, I think, very very unfair to the people who have suffered because of this kind of sabotage. I would only say that, if there were enemy agents who had been sent into the country to disrupt our power lines, this is the kind of thing they would have done. Therefore, it is this kind

[Shri K. C. PANT.]

of condemnation coming from this House which is needed at this time and not seeking justifications for this kind of sabotage.

As for priorities and rationing of power when it is in short supply, these are matters we have gone into; we have written to the States and we are reviewing this matter constantly so that we can curb unnecessary consumption of power when it is in short supply, and we give to those industries which are priority industries priority treatment in the supply of power.

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi): It is very gratifying to note from the statement of the hon. Minister that Government has taken very urgent steps to rectify the mistake in Badarpur power station and the sabotage and xing of the tower between Bhakra-Nangal and Haryana. It is very distressing to find that, when the country is passing through serious shortages, there are people in this country who indulge in sabotage and disrupt the life of peace-loving citizens of this country. The power shortage not only disrupts industry but even the normal life of people is disrupted. Power failures have become a routine; we find that there have been power failures all over the country; not only in the northern region, in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, since the last two or three years, there have been many occasions of power failures which have caused losses to the extent of crores of rupees to industry and agriculture also. From that point of view, it is very necessary to see that there are no power failures and the working is very efficient. I do not know whether these regional grids: five regional grids, have been formed and the Regional Electricity Boards have been set up. I do not know whether the functioning of these Boards is efficient and whether there is any co-ordination between these Boards.

I would like to pose some four questions to the Minister and I would like to know specific answers.

My first question is: is it because the inefficient and unsatisfactory functioning of the Northern Region Electricity Board that has caused all these failures and shortages in power supply?

(2) Will the Minister explain whether labour involvement in generating power and distribution centres will be considered by the Government? Just how he said that there was a sabotage and they have resorted to sabotage at various places not only on towers but also on transmission lines. If labour is dissatisfied, these things are bound to happen and there are people to encourage these people to take to sabotage and create disruption in the entire country. I would like to know whether the Government will think of formulating a general policy of involvement of labour in all these power plants, both in the generation and distribution centres.

(3) What will be the long-term and short-term measures to alleviate this recurring problem of power shortages and power failures?

(4) How is the Minister going to consider, to reduce the transmission loss of 18 per cent? Does he intend to take to decentralised small power houses which will have lesser length of cables and which will minimise the transmission loss?

With these few words I would like to know what steps the Government are intending to take.

SHRI K C PANT: There was power shortage in various parts of the country upto June last year. Then with the monsoon coming, the situation materially improved except in certain areas and two of the important areas were UP where the Rihand dam did not get the water expected and Sharavati where also water did not collect sufficiently in the enclosed lake. This was the position in June or July 1973 and gradually then over the year we found that after the month of November roughly, the situation started getting more serious in many areas in

the country and with the irrigation demands for Rabi the situation became quite critical in two of the areas although in some of the other States the position was comfortable or there was a marginal surplus. So, the picture is different in different parts of the country and I have indicated the position that is likely to prevail in the different States. Elsewhere I have done it on another occasion giving the names of States which are likely to be in a comfortable position and those States which are likely to be short of power.

As far as the regional grids are concerned, there are five regions. The Southern Grid is functioning fairly well. In the north, I would not agree that the shortage has been caused by malfunctioning of the regional grid because, as a matter of fact, wherever shortages have taken place, those States themselves have helped to a very large extent by transmitting power to their neighbouring States... (Interruptions) There is co-ordination between the State Electricity Boards and the Centre. It is not a question of formal co-ordination only, but there is actual, practical co-ordination and we have found that wherever there was some difficulty, we have called the other States and they have talked to each other. The important thing is that there has been a willingness to help and this willingness to help has been reflected sometimes in States even curtailing some of their requirements to help the neighbouring State. For instance, UP gave something to Delhi yesterday. This has been going on for the last few months and all the States have been co-operating with each other in this matter. So, I have no complaint at all on that account.

About the short-term and long-term measures, long-term, of course, we are trying to see that the Fifth Plan targets are achieved and we are making arrangements and we are gearing ourselves to see that this is done of course, with the co-operation of the States because States do actually put up most of the projects. There

are various steps which we are taking all of which will take a pretty long time to be outlined here, that is the long term perspective. As for the short term perspective, we are trying to advance to the extent possible completion of the projects, to make use of the capacity already established, etc. and this is the best way and the only way, I think, to quickly increase the availability of power. With regard to the other point mentioned regarding transmission losses, I may submit, the Rural Electrification Corporation has taken up certain schemes to improve matters to cut down transmission losses and I think there are about 22 schemes. Some of them involve installation of capacitors, more of substations and so on. Industry and agriculture have also to cooperate in this matter and we do discuss with States and see what should be done. I myself have had several discussion with industrialists who have come to see me to see that we set up more capacitors, we try to cut down transmission losses and so on and this has met with some response, I should say. Regarding the question of labour involvement, as a matter of principle also, we are sympathetic towards labour and we are wishing to have labour involvement and that is always attempted in the public sector. It is difficult to answer the other question which he raised. He said, if the labour is dissatisfied sabotage will take place. I am really surprised.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: There are people who are encouraging the labour to take to sabotage. That is what I said.

SHRI K C PANT: What I like is a categorical, unqualified, strong condemnation by the House of sabotage activities. If there is any attempt to make a scapegoat of anybody or to offer some explanation, I think that is a misplaced attempt and we should condemn such activities. We are always for legitimate trade union activities to be encouraged. But among trade unionists themselves, I

[Shri K. C. Pant.]

am quite certain, they themselves rightly condemn and come out strongly against such kinds of sabotage activities... This condemnation would have a healthy effect.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA (Dausa): It is most unfortunate that some of them are not coming out with such a kind of attitude.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): We do not support sabotage; we are against it.

SHRI K. C. PANT: We have to isolate the saboteurs; we are not interested in allowing the saboteurs to escape beneath a cloak of trade union activity and all that. I don't think anybody in this House or any trade union leader would be interested in providing any cloak of trade union activity to any saboteurs. All of us have to see to it that they are isolated, they are dealt with severely, sternly, and punished and also we have to see that a necessary climate is created in this country whereby everybody knows that no one in this country would allow this kind of a thing to happen. And if it does happen, any person who indulges in such things, who is guilty of it, will be regarded as the enemy of the people. Therefore, Sir, this is the kind of a climate which we have to create.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, देश में पिछले दिनों बिजली की कमी काफ़ी रही है और मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि अब वे उसका हल धीरे धीरे निकालते जा रहे हैं। यह सब लोग चाहते हैं कि बिजली की कमी की पूर्ति हो, लेकिन आज हम विचार कर रहे हैं कि पंजाब स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड के 30 हजार कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल की वजह से पंजाब, हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, चण्डीगढ़ और साथ ही दिल्ली में जो बिजली की कठिनाई पैदा हो गई है उस कठिनाई को कैसे दूर किया जाय। इस सम्बन्ध में मंत्री जी ने सग़रम

सत्ता दो पृष्ठ का बयान दिया है उस में एक शब्द हड़ताल के बारे में कहा गया है और सैब्टाज, तोड़-फोड़ का जिक्र भी किया गया है। तोड़-फोड़ का समर्थन हम कभी नहीं करते हैं। लेकिन मुझे अफसोस है कि तोड़-फोड़ के शब्द का इस्तेमाल कर के उसकी ग्राड में आपने 30 हजार एम्प्लोईज पर चोट करने की कोशिश की है। काश! आप चोर बजारियों, मुनाफाख़ोरों और देश से जो जनतन्त्र को मिटाने का सपना देख रहे हैं उन के खिलाफ भी इसी तरह से बोलते और कहते यह सारे लोग देशद्रोह का काम कर रहे हैं, तो मुझे बड़ी खुशी होती। लेकिन आप ऐसा करने के लिये तैयार नहीं हैं। जब भी मजदूरों की बात आयेगी सरकार देशद्रोह का पाठ पढ़ाने लगती है। अभी आपने पता नहीं लगाया कि किसने तोड़-फोड़ की, पर आपने झूठ से तमाम मजदूरों को इस डंडे से पीटने की कोशिश की और जनता को आपने उन के खिलाफ खड़ा करने की कोशिश की जिस प्रयास का समर्थन कोई भी नहीं कर सकता और मैं तो इस प्रयास की निन्दा ही कर सकता हूँ। आखिर हड़ताल हुई क्या? आप जानते हैं कि 9 जनवरी को भी इसी साल हड़ताल हुई थी, कामयाब हड़ताल हुई थी और उस समय समझौते के बाद मसला हल हो गया था। लेकिन उस के बाद क्या हुआ? पंजाब राज्य विद्युत् बोर्ड ने एक दिन की उनकी नब्बाह काट ली और 10 हजार बर्क चार्ज मजदूरों को छंटनी की नोटिस दी। इतना ही नहीं, उन के बहुत से नेताओं के ट्रान्सफर कर दिए तथा उन्हें तरह तरह की और सजायें भी देने लगे। आपकी यह भी कोशिश होने लगी कि जो पंजाब स्टेट एलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड एम्प्लोईज फेडरेशन है, जिस के लीडर श्री केबल सिंह हैं, उन के खिलाफ आपने दलाल यूनियन खड़ी करने की कोशिश की ताकि मजदूरों में फूट

पड़ जाये या जो आप चाहते हैं, एलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड चाहता है पंजाब का, वह मनमानी करें और मजदूरों की दमन की चक्की में पीस डालें। लेकिन मजदूर इससे डरने वाले नहीं थे। उन्होंने फिर 11 मार्च को अपना आन्दोलन शुरू किया, एक महीने की नोटिस दी राज्य विद्युत् बोर्ड को, 30 हजार एम्प्लॉईज ने एक साथ इस में भाग लिया भूख हड़ताल की और कहा कि आप नहीं मानेंगे तो हम आगे हड़ताल करेंगे। उस के बाद हड़ताल हुई।

मंत्री जी ने ठीक कहा कि एलेक्ट्रिसिटी बेज गाइडलाइन्स कमेटी की थी, उस ने रेकमेड किया 30 रुपया इन्टेरिम रिलीफ देने के लिए, तमाम देश के बिजली मजदूरों को 5 लेकि 11 राज्य विद्युत् बोर्डों ने अपने कर्मचारियों को यह 30 रुपए की इन्टेरिम रिलीफ, अन्तरिम सहायता 1-10-1973 से देना शुरू किया और पंजाब राज्य विद्युत् बोर्ड ने अभी तक नहीं दिया। इतना ही नहीं, उन ने मांग है कि उन्हें 20 फीसदी बोनस दिया जाये और जो कर्मचारी काम कर रहे हैं उन में से ही 50 फीसदी कर्मचारियों को प्रमोशन दिया जाये। उन तमाम सबालों पर मंत्री जी ने कुछ नहीं कहा। उन्होंने केवल स्ट्राइक की बात कही कि स्ट्राइक हो गई, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो उन की मांगें हैं क्या उनको क्या आप उचित समझते हैं, अनुचित समझते हैं? कोई बात तो आप को कहना चाहिये और जो एलेक्ट्रिसिटी बेज गाइड लाईन्स कमेटी ने बिजली की है 30 रुपया अन्तरिम सहायता देने के लिए उस के बारे में आपका क्या कहना है? इन तमाम बातों पर आपने कुछ भी कहने की कोशिश नहीं की है। आपने स्ट्राइक काबिज किया तो आपके लिए

लाजिम था कि यह भी कहते कि स्ट्राइक इन कारणों से हुई। तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि हड़ताल क्यों हुई और उन की मांगों के बारे में आप को क्या कहना है? क्या इतना ही कह कर आपका कर्तव्य समाप्त हो जाता है कि राज्य बिजली बोर्ड का यह ममला है? बिजली का सवाल पूरे देश का सवाल है, आपसे भी किसी न किसी रूप में सम्बन्धित है, जैसा आप समझते हैं तो फिर जो झगड़े के सवाल हैं उन मुद्दों के बारे में आपकी क्या राय है? आप समझौता करने के लिए पंजाब एलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड को सलाह देना चाहते हैं या नहीं। इन तमाम बातों पर हम जानना चाहेंगे कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ जो कार्यवाहियाँ की गई हैं, उन के नबादने किए गए, दूसरे तरीके से उन्हें जो परेशान किया गया उन के बारे में आपका क्या कहना है तभी कोई रास्ता निकल सकता है। केवल देशद्रोही कहने से काम नहीं चलेगा। मैं तोड़-फोड़ का समर्थन नहीं करता लेकिन यह कहकर उन्हें दबाने की कोशिश करे तो ठीक नहीं है।

आखिरी बात यह है कि आपने बयान दिया है, पञ्जाब में यह बात निकली है कि हड़ताल की वजह से बिजली की कमी है लेकिन ऐपगियल सर्विसेज को आप बिजली मोहैया करने है। तो मैं इस के बारे में जानना चाहता हूँ कि ट्राम्पेटल्स और नर्मिंग होम देश के कोने कोने में फैले हुए हैं और जहाँ हड़ताल चल रही है—पञ्जाब, हरयाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, दिल्ली, चंडीगढ़—वहाँ पर भी हम्पताल और नर्मिंग होम हैं, उन को आवश्यक सेवा भालकर वहाँ किसी भी स्थिति में बराबर बिजली मिलनी रहे इसके बारे में आपका क्या कहना है, क्या इस के बारे में आप रोगनीड करेंगे?

SHRI K C PANT: Sir, I would be very happy if Shastriji could persuade those who are going on strike to spare

[Shri K. C. Pant.] hospitals and nursing homes for which he naturally has some sympathy. I think these essential services should be spared under any circumstances. If he could exercise his good offices in the matter that would certainly help the Punjab Government.

I have already briefly mentioned the reason for the strike. I said the Guidelines Committee had recommended interim relief of Rs. 30/-. Some of the State have given this interim relief while some others have not given it. I met the other day Haryana Chief Minister and asked him about it. He told me that he had given Rs. 30/- to his employees only a short while ago and as such, he could not give them another Rs. 30/-. This is a matter which each State has to consider in the light of its wage structure in the State. I have not talked to all the States but with a few States I talked to each one of them looked on this question from the point of view of their own wage structure within the State for all categories of employees.

श्रीरामावतार शास्त्री: दस हजार मजदूरों
के रेवेमेंट का मसाला बहुत बड़ा मसाला है।

14 hrs.

SHRI K. C. PANT: The Punjab Government has taken certain steps and has tried to deal with this. They are the best to deal with this matter. They did not seek our advice. We are not required to advise the State Government in this matter. It is a matter between them and their employees. This is a matter which they will have to deal with. Shastriji said that I should invite them to find some way out. Reasonableness should be on the part of all. I am sure that he would agree that reasonableness can be hoped from all if they are advised properly. His advice probably is likely to count in certain quarters more than mine. Whether they are traders or they are certain political elements or whether it be anybody else, anyone indulging in activities of sabotage of this kind has to be condemned. The maximum which Shri

Shastriji was prepared to go to was that he would not support the sabotage. He only said 'Ham samarthan nahin karenge'. As I said earlier, I had hoped that he would come out in strong condemnation of sabotage and that he would condemn those who had indulged in this sabotage. I would expect nothing less from him. After all, he is a very senior Member here and we all look up to him. Here is a case when strong voice from him will do a lot of good, and even after I sit down, I expect him to get up and say that he condemns anybody who has indulged in this sabotage. This is the kind of thing which will have a heavy impact and not just saying that he does not support sabotage. I would never dream of accusing Shastriji of supporting sabotage. But I would expect him to condemn it, and this is the minimum that is required in this situation. He should not twist it to say that I am using sabotage as a weapon against the workers. I am not; I want to isolate the saboteurs. He should not accuse the workers...

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:
Who are the saboteurs?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I am only trying to isolate the saboteurs. He has tried to confuse the issue so that all workers are condemned for sabotage. I would request him not to condemn all the workers. He should condemn only the saboteurs but condemn them strongly. I have great faith in the workers of this country, and I have great faith that they will see through any attempt which is made to confuse them, and any attempt to mix up the saboteurs and the workers so that the saboteurs cannot be isolated is bound to fail.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:
Who are those saboteurs? He did not mention their names. This way he wants to condemn the entire working class of 30 000.

श्री मुक्तिधर सिंह बल्लिक : हिन्दी
स्पीकर साहब, एक बसल मजदूर है कि
बाद वह जो सर चढ़ कर बोले। हमारे मंत्री

महोदय ने काल अंश का जो अमली मुद्दा था उस को बड़ी होशियारी से दूसरा पहलू देने की कोशिश की ।

He has begun to appeal to the better sentiments of the Members of the House.

यह ठीक है कि यह सैंडोटाज का केस हो सकता है । उन को कौन कडेम नहीं करता । मेम्बरों को अपील करना है और उन का कोओपरेशन तलाश करना यह तो सरकार अपनी कमजोरियों को छिपाने के लिये हमेशा करती रही है ऐलीबाई डबली ग्री है और सारा दोष दूसरे पर ढकेलती है । समझ में नहीं आता कि माननीय सभाजाल जी को यह बात टच करती है कि नहीं ।

आप कहते हैं कि एग्जीक्यूटिव प्रोडक्शन चाहिये । आज हरयाणा और पंजाब के अन्दर केवल इन्स्टीट्यूट का ही नहीं बल्कि एग्जीक्यूटिव का भी भट्ठा आप बैठाने जा रहे हैं । तीन चार महीने में राजधानी फरीदाबाद और मोतीपन में जहाँ जहाँ इन्स्टीट्यूट है उन का बिल्कुल ही सफाया हो गया है । इतना नुकसान पावर की वमी पर हो रहा है कि उद्योगपति वहाँ में भाग रहे हैं । जहाँ हरियाणा एग्जीक्यूटिव में सल्फसफिशियस है उस के अन्दर भी एग्जीक्यूटिव का बड़ा धक्का लगा है । देश के अन्दर पावर और ऐनर्जी की क्या कमी है मैं नहीं समझ पाया । मेरी समझ में पावर और ऐनर्जी की हमारी समझ में कमी है । आप इस को ठीक करने में प्रयत्न हैं । दादू साहब का दोहा मुझे याद आता है

दादू दुनिया बाबरी परिया पूजे ऊन,
अपन मौता मर गये, उन गे भाये पून ।

इस को हल नहीं कर सके आज तक । एक ही बात पर चलते हैं कि सैंडोटाज है । आप हम से कडम करवा ले, हम सैंडोटाज को कडम करते हैं । लेकिन इस बैकडाउन और शट डाउन का आज तक कोई हल

तलाश करने की आपने कोशिश की ? जो कर्मचारी रोजाना हड़ताल पर जाते हैं ऐसा क्यों होता है आप ने कभी सोचा । उन को बिबिम्साइजेशन पीनल पेक्शन की प्रमोशिया देने में फिजिकल फोर्स से यह सम्मया हल नहीं होने वाली है । हरियाणा का चीफ मिनिस्टर रहता है कि इलेक्ट्रीसिटी बोर्ड के कर्मचारियों को भांगे पीटों और कोर्ट रिपोर्टें दर्ज नहीं की जाएगी क्या यह लालच नहीं को प्रीच करना नहीं है । आपिन मीटिंग में इन चीजों में काम चलेगा जहाँ पर कर्मचारी स्ट्राइक पर जाते हैं उन के गवर्नर कर निगोनियेशन करना पड़ता है उनका डिमान्ड को माचन पड़ता है अब सम्मया को हल किया जा सकता है, न कि भारने पीटन में मैं कहता हूँ कि अगर कुछ आन्दोलनों को भारा जाएगा, आन्दोलन का टाग दूँगी है तो लाग बिजली के टवरों की टाग ताड़ देंगे जैसा कि आज अखबार में आया है ।

आप सैनीटियर्स को गोली मार सकते हैं । लेकिन हम तो यह जानना चाहते हैं कि जिन उद्योग नुस्मान हो रहा है क्या उसके बारे में आप ने सोचा कि ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है ? जो पावर कट्स में, शट डाउन में ब्रेक डाउन में उद्योगों का और एग्जीक्यूटिव का नुस्मान हो रहा है क्या आपने उसकी अपेक्षा करने की कोशिश की है ? एम्पलाइज की डिमान्ड क्या है । उस के क्या फाइनेयल इन्क्विजिशन है क्या आपने इस को देखा है ? मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर कर्मचारियों को शांति देना देकर उन को स्टम्फाइड कर देना उद्योग नुस्मान अपने आरम्भ हो जायेगा ।

फारा का रमी में आज पूरा उत्तर भारत फरा हुआ है । १०० की बायन अखबार में गहरा है कि वहाँ पावर फाइमिस होने की रजह में 10,000 कर्मचारी प्रनगम-प्लामे फेस कर रहे हैं । यहाँ भी अगर 10,000 को हटाना चाहते हैं ।

[श्री मुक्तिधर सिंह मलिक]

राजस्थान के अन्दर भी एक दफा स्ट्राइक हुई, मैंने एक दफा कहा था कि आप पूरे भारतवर्ष में इलेक्ट्रीसिटी बोर्ड के कर्मचारियों की यूनियन पै स्कैल्स कर दीजिये। एक सुझाव मेरा और है कि एक तरफ स्टेट्स पावर को डील करते हैं और एक तरफ केन्द्र में आप की सेन्ट्रल भार्गेनाइजेशन है और इतनी मिनिस्ट्रीज हैं कि उन में आपस में कोई कोऑर्डिनेशन नहीं है इस प्रोबलम को डील करने में। इसलिये हम की सेपरेट मिनिस्ट्री होनी चाहिये यह स्टेट्स के वम की बात नहीं है। एक अलग मिनिस्ट्री होने से आप पर्सपेक्टिव में पावर क्राइसिस का हल जल्दी से निकाल सकेंगे।

साथ ही मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आज जो शट डाउन्स और ब्रेक डाउन्स होते हैं उस का कोई स्टैंडन्स बाई अग्नेजमेंट आप ने आज तक किया है या नहीं? एक तो पंजाब के अन्दर टांग टूट गई, ताँ दिल्ली की आख फूट गई, बदरपुर और आई० पी० स्टेशन की यूनिट खराब है।

मैंने सुना है कि यू० पी० में प्राइवेट एन्टरप्रेनर्ज को इन्वेस्टिमेंटी प्रोड्यूस करने की इजाजत दी गई है। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि मिनिस्टर साहब इस बारे में सीरियसली थिंक ओवर करें, वह स्टेट्स का इस बात के लिये फ्री कर दे कि वे प्राइवेट सेक्टर में बिजली प्रोड्यूस करने की इजाजत दें तब देश में बिजली की कमी को पूरा किया जा सके और राजधानी के इस के नुकसान को बन्द किया जा सके।

अखिर मैं मैं यह दरखवास्त करूँगा कि हकूमत एमलाइज के साथ बैठ कर नेगोशिएशन करे, उनका पीनलाइज या विक्टिमाइज न करे, उन के खिलाफ क्रिबीकल क्रोस इन्वेस्टमेंट न करे उन के खिलाफ जो गलत कार्यवाहियाँ की जाती हैं उनसे बाध आये और इस मामले को ठीक ढंग से हल करने की कोशिश करे। मैं समझता हूँ

कि इसी में देश का भला है, सरकार का भी भला है और एग्रीकल्चरल और इंडस्ट्रियल सेक्टर का भी भला है।

SHRI K. C. PANT: I was not making the point that the power situation was easy. I know it is difficult, and we have often discussed it in the House. So, there was no question of finding an alibi for that. The only point was that once the power situation is known to be so difficult and the agriculturists and workers are both dependent on power today to a much larger extent than previously—even agriculture is very much more dependent on power—acts of sabotage of this kind are, as I said, anti-national and anti-people. That was the point I was making. (Interruptions).

I am surprise that some Members feel uncomfortable when I talk of condemning sabotage. Why should they feel uncomfortable and this kind of discomfort? It does not display a very healthy attitude towards sabotage.

Sir, I know and agree with Mr. Malik that there has been difficulty in Haryana, both in industry and agriculture, because of want of power.

AN HON. MEMBER: Punjab?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Also in Punjab. But what I was saying was that—whether it is Punjab or Haryana or Uttar Pradesh to which Shri Malik referred—we have tried in the last few months, and all the States had tried to co-operate in trying to help each other. Therefore, we have been able to minimise the distress to the extent possible. This two-way traffic of power has, I think, definitely helped the situation. I admit that the situation is difficult. It is not difficult in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir to which my friend referred. There it is easy. In Rajasthan it is easy, at least much easier than in the other States. But it is difficult in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, in that order.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : (पटियाला) राज-
स्थान सरप्लस है ।

SHRI K. C. PANT: Rajasthan is marginally surplus. I have gone into the reasons for the breakdown. I do not want to repeat them. So far as the legitimate trade union activities are concerned, and strikes are concerned, the need for negotiation is there. There cannot be two opinions on it, and this is a matter between the State Governments and their employees in this case (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: During Dr. K. L. Rao's time, a meeting of representatives of employees all over India was called. I mentioned that those decisions should be implemented. You can do it.

SHRI K. C. PANT: You were not here when I went into the background of the agitation and explained exactly how the guidelines committee had recommended an interim relief and how some of the States have implemented it and some have not implemented it and the State Chief Ministers have given a reply. I have gone into it; he was not here at that time.

About the question of having a new Ministry at the Centre, it is far beyond this question. But if the suggestion is that there should be no Power Ministry in the States and only the Centre should deal with the question of power, that is a wide-ranging suggestion. But if that is the suggestion, I would like to take note of it at any rate. I do not know whether he has consulted Shri Vajpayee for making that suggestion.

It would be far-reaching in its implications. So far as stand by arrangements in the case of breakdowns are concerned, I would assure him that the best standby arrangement is to have stronger grids within the regions so that one power station or one State can help the other in the case of break-downs which to take place from time to time.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO (Mahendragarh): The Minister's state-

ment unfortunately has not touched the real problem. Strikes and breakdowns in power are becoming a daily feature. Punjab is the worst. The present trouble started from Punjab. Agriculture, industry and all essential services and the normal life of the people had been disrupted. This is the third day of the strike. Hon. Minister has not mentioned but even Himachal Pradesh has been affected just like Delhi, Haryana and Chandigarh.

But the strangest feature of the whole thing is that Punjab has benefited at the cost of Haryana because of the falling of this tower and the transmission lines and because of the strike. There seems to be a clever scheme even in the madness of the strikers to fell this tower with a view to benefit Punjab at the cost of other States. Would the Minister throw some light on this?

श्री सतपाल कपूर : ग्रानरेबल मेम्बर
ने इस पर कोई रोजनी नही डाली है ।

श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह राव : मिनिस्टर माह्व
इस पर रोजनी डाले कि पंजाब को
करो बेनिफिट हो रहा है । ।

Haryana was already short of power to the extent of 40 per cent of its needs. It was consuming 21 lakh units less daily and with the present breakdown for the last few days Haryana is drawing only 22 lakh units as against an allocation of 31 lakh units whereas Punjab has been drawing during these days 45 lakh units every day as against its share of 37 units.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : ग्रानरेबल मेम्बर
मानू नही ये फ़िगर्ज कहाँ से लाये हैं ।
शायद अपने घर रेवाडी से लाये हैं ।

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Are you the Minister? You do not even know that the Punjab Electricity Board is situated in Patiala. Punjab engineers are looking after the trans-

[Shri Birender Singh Rao]

mission lines which all pass through Punjab territory. They are also looking after the power houses and also holding important positions in the Bhakra management board. If that is the case, would it not be right to prevent this continuing loss to Haryana to have separate lines for Haryana to be looked after by Haryana staff inside Punjab territory so that Haryana does not suffer indefinitely. I think the real problem is the inefficiency of the electricity boards; and the worst of it all seems to be the Punjab State Electricity Board. Does the hon Minister know that the Chairman of the Punjab Electricity Board is an engineer who has the worst record of service? Before him, there was an engineer. He was shunt him. His house was raided and there were agitations amongst engineers on that account. Would the hon Minister tell us whether he ever cared to go into this thing or whether it was because Punjab Government wanted to bring in somebody who could be depended upon more to collect money for the politicians there, that this new Chairman was brought in? I know some of the Members also in the Punjab State Electricity Board. One of them is an ex-clerk of the Congress Committee of Punjab. He knows nothing about electricity. It is this political patronage which is responsible for the mess in Electricity Board. Is there any screening of the record of Chairman and Members before appointment? (Interruptions).
cord of service?

He knows about political power, but not electric power. All these things require a through probe. I think it was an unfortunate decision, when Government of India decided to set up these electricity boards. I was Irrigation and Power Minister in those days and resisted the formation of a Board in Punjab. But the Gov-

ernment of India forced us to fix up a retiring I.C.S. Officer as Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, put your question.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: All these are questions. I hope you will allow me. These power boards have become dens of corruption. That is why, they have no control over the staff. There are strikes every day. I would like to know, whether there is any scheme for having territorial army units, to take over from the electricity staff in times of emergency when they decide to go on an indefinite strike instigated by my friend sitting on the right side, holding the society to ransom? At this time of grave economic crisis, which the country is facing, it is really most criminal for essential services to be disrupted on account of strikes by organised labour. The hon. Minister wants our help in condemning acts of sabotage. But, what has the Minister and his Government in Punjab done about it? They have not been able to apprehend the people responsible for this sabotage. Was it a difficult task? It can only be the technical persons who could have done it and also the officials belonging to that area. What would he say about it? Has he found out anything for the Punjab Government? I would suggest that all these electricity board staff should be brought under Army Act by making them join the Territorial Army so that this trouble stops. Now, I would like to make one point in regard to stand-by arrangements.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already replied.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: My point is different, if you could kindly listen and hear with me. There were a large number of private electricity supply companies, in towns, when these electricity boards came into existence. They were all nationalised. Hydro-power was supplied in these northern States. May I know, what has hap-

pened to these thermal plants which these electricity supply companies had? Can't they be used in an emergency? Are they being maintained properly? I would also like to know, whether he ever cared to know, what was the total energy being produced in the towns, where these electricity companies were working? Can the same amount of electricity by now generated by these plants or can those companies be revived in the towns, for commercial and household purposes, would he consider giving licences again to the private companies, when there is so much shortage of power in the country?

One more point, Sir. There is a talk that we should not support acts of sabotage and strikes. If only the Minister would consider not giving undue protection to the electricity board staff, everything will be all right. They get the protection of law because they are treated as Government servants. Nobody can lay his hands on them, whereas, this is purely a commercial undertaking. They make money. They are all corrupt completely. A poor agriculturist is being asked to pay illegal gratification. If he does not pay his power is cut off. Nobody can stop it.

They should not be given this protection of law. People should be able to sue them and deal with them whenever they try to pull down towers. Then there will be less trouble.

SHRI K. C. PANT: On a point of factual information, H.P. has not been affected. It is a fact that Punjab has got a little extra power because of the line being disrupted at that point, but this is only incidental. Once the line is restored, this power will again be distributed in the normal fashion between Punjab and Haryana. It would be very unfair to accuse any responsible authority in any State of either complicity or indulgence or carelessness

in regard to this kind of act. It is not the case here at all. Punjab is very anxious to bring the guilty to book.

The hon. member asked if I had spoken to the Punjab Government. Actually I have spoken to the Punjab Chief Minister thrice yesterday. At my request, the Chairman of the Bhakra Management Board who was in Delhi yesterday went straight to the spot and work is going on round the clock to restore the line. I would like to congratulate the workers and engineers in Badarpur and Indraprastha on the excellent work they are doing and the speed with which they are bringing back these units into production. A magnificent job is being done and I think the House should give them a word of thanks.

The powerhouses as well as the 220 KV line in Punjab and Haryana are manned by the Bhakra Management Board who have engineers both from Punjab and Haryana. There again it would not be fair to accuse the Punjab Government in any manner whatsoever.

So far as the action taken by the Punjab Government to apprehend those who have been responsible for this act of sabotage is concerned, I have already said that the IG of Police has informed us that they have certain clues and leads which they are following up and they are hopeful of making some arrests. Beyond that, I cannot say anything now. I would like to remind him that this took place at 2 o'clock in the morning and therefore, it is possible in such cases for odd accidents to happen in certain places. I agree with him that vigilance has to be exercised by the people in general. I am sure people in general are very anxious today that they get the power. Whether he is a farmer or worker, everybody has come to realise the value of power. They know every KW counts for production and for their daily needs. I am sure the

[Shri K. C. Pant.]

cooperation of the people will be forthcoming in full measure. Ultimately it is this co-operation on which all of us depend to see that the right climate is created and there is vigilance on the ground to avoid this kind of thing happening again. I do not know the capacity of thermal plants of private licensees which have been taken over, but I shall find out. If it is likely to help the situation, I shall certainly try to get these plants started again, not perhaps by the licensees, because that is not our policy, but the Government can step in and start these projects. I shall find out the position with regard to this.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: I wanted to know whether the records of these engineers are screened by some authority at the Centre before they are appointed in high positions like Chairman.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने इस के लिये 377 में भी नाम दिया था और कालर्टेन्गन में भी नाम दिया था। मैं सिर्फ इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि मिनिस्टर साहब इस पर दाबारा पत्राव गवर्नमेंट के साथ बात करें।

14.31 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—1974-75 Contd.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demand for Grant under the control of the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals. Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma will continue his speech. He should be brief because he has already taken fifteen minutes.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA (Dausa): Sir, I will conclude within five minutes.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I rise on a point of order. You have stated that the debate on the Demand for Grant of the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals may be continued. Under rule 340, at any time after the motion has been made, a member can move that the debate on the motion be adjourned.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. There is no point of order.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You can rule it out after you hear me. While we are discussing the price hike on petrol, in the city there is a strike by the taxi-drivers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I say this is abuse of the rules.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would request the hon. Minister to make some statement on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This has nothing to do with debate.

14.33 hrs.

[SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI in the
Chair]

श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा (दौसा) : सभापति जी, मैं कल निवेदन कर रहा था कि राजस्थान में खाद का कारखाना लगाये जाने का जहाँ तक सम्बन्ध है, सरकार की यह नीति ग़ड़ी है कि जो बैकवर्ड इलाके हैं, बैकवर्ड प्राविन्सिज हैं, उन को प्रिकरेम दिया जाय और उस नीति के अनुरूप राजस्थान का सीकर जिला एक रेगिस्तानी इलाका है, उस जिले के सलादीपुरा क्षेत्र में पाइराइट ब्रॉन तादाद में उपलब्ध है। इस लिये मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि न्यायसंगत यह है कि सलादीपुरा में यह कारखाना लगाया जाय। मैं यह भी कहना चाहूँगा कि जब कि ई-री लगाने की बात चल रही थी उस वक़्त राजस्थान के जयपुर डिबीजन ने मवाई