

the general economic situation in the country. Since the general economic situation is improving, I am sure that within a short time normalcy will come back as far as the industrial and labour fields there are concerned.

There have been certain complaints and some misgivings in the minds of the people regarding the forthcoming elections. An allegation has been made that efforts are being made to postpone the elections. We have made it clear, more than once, in the House that the Government of India is not at all interested this way or that. The dates of the elections are determined by the Chief Election Commissioner, by the Election Commission, in consultation with the major political parties. The Chief Election Commissioner visited Calcutta, consulted major political parties and, with their consultation, fixed a tentative date in November. Now, as far as the situation goes today, that date has not been changed. If at all it is changed, it will be changed by the Chief Election Commissioner with the consultation of the major political parties.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Do you really apprehend that the date would be changed ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : No; I am not apprehending that. I am only making the statement that in case the Chief Election Commissioner thinks it necessary that because of flood situation or any other reason, the change in the date is required, I presume, he will again consult the major political parties in West Bengal and, with their consultation, he will take a decision. As far as the Government of India is concerned, we are not at all interested this way or that. We are only interested in fair and impartial elections so that the people in every part of West Bengal get a chance to vote in the elections. If there are some parts of West Bengal where the people cannot travel to polling booths, cannot exercise their franchise, and the Election

Commission thinks that it would not be possible to hold elections there, it is their look-out and the political parties will have to advise them whether the information is correct or not. So far as the Government of India is concerned, we are not at all interested either to postpone the elections or to say that the elections will be held at a certain date. It is absolutely for the Election Commission to fix the date. I would request the hon. Members not to entertain any doubts as far as this matter is concerned.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Since you came to know that you are divided within the party.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The Government of India is completely united as far as this question is concerned.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : You are divided in the Congress Party.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Probably, your party has greater divisions than our party. We are not considering that matter at present.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I suppose, you will take some more time.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then you may continue tomorrow.

18.28 HRS.

DISCUSSION RE: RENEWAL OF LEASE OF CALCUTTA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are a number of Members who want to participate in the discussion. So, there must be some time-limit fixed.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : This is a very important subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may take 10 minutes; others will have 5 minutes.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): Let him take 15 minutes.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: May be 20 minutes, with your permission, Sir. This is a very important subject.

Sir, this is about the renewal of lease of Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation which we call it as C.S.C.—the people in the north may not be acquainted with this name. This is a British monopoly concern having monopoly rights over distribution and little production also of power in the whole of Calcutta, its industrial belt, in 24-Parganas, Hubli and Howrah, the ammunition and rifle factories, all defence installations, airports, railway marshalling yards, ports, petroleum installations and all that for about half a century. They have created an empire by, gradually, acquiring 13 electric supply undertakings in and around Calcutta. They do not generate much power. The D.V.C., the public sector enterprise, which is running at a loss sells about 100 MW of power per year to C.S.C. at 5 p. per unit and they re-sell upto a price of 17 p. per unit, that is, over 3½ times. On the one hand, the public sector loses while the British private sector, operating in the old colony in India, makes hay while the sun shines.

The hon. Minister, Dr. K. L. Rao, once told me, generation is the job and distribution is nothing very much. The C.S.C. generates only a part of the need which was 4,62,675 KW in 1966. The C.S.C. managed a lease extension in the year 1951 and the then Chief Minister, late Dr. B. C. Roy, said that this will be the last. Is this going to be the last?

Because I have an apprehension in my mind that the CSC have very powerful public relations; they have a man, who was a former Finance Minister, Mr. Sachin Choudhury, the

master of devaluation in this country, in their Board of Directors. He is not sitting idle; I have no doubt about it.

I come to rise in business. In 1958, they sold 1,501 million units and in 1967 it was 2,520 million units, a rise of about 60 per cent. The number of consumers in 1958 was 3,11,274, and in 1967 it was about 5,41,841. The CSC is more of a trading concern now, trades with the bulk of Indian capital and the public sector power and has generated loss to the exchequer. According to the balance sheet, which according to me and many others conceals more than it reveals, in the last ten years, by way of dividends they have paid about 86 per cent of the ordinary share capital and built a reserve of a fantastic sum of Rs. 132.3 millions. And their profit also, as compared with the previous years, rose by 20 per cent. You are going towards socialism very soon! By investing and using Indian money, they got fabulous returns during the last decade. How did they get this Indian money and how much is it? They drew a loan from the State Bank of India which amounts to Rs. 4.7 crores. This was said in reply to a question here: consumers deposit—those who pay at the rate of 17 paise per unit which you sell at 5 paise. Their money is to the tune of Rs. 2½ crores and they are being invested in the business fetching fabulous profits. The rupee debenture is more than Rs. 1.37 crores.

Another most interesting thing which the watch-dogs in the Government have to watch is this. Their profits are in excess of the reasonable return as laid down in the Electricity Act. Till 1952 it was a crore of rupees and now—I have not got the actual figure; I must confess that—it is not less than Rs. 2 crores. That is also utilised. You, stooges of the British imperialism in this country, have allowed them to misappropriate this money for reaping more profit for them. Out of a total capital of Rs. 12 crores—I say this to Dr. Rao, a Minister in the dominion of the British Government as they call it, a

dominion Minister even today after 20 years of Independence; it ought to be a shameful thing for every Indian in this country—the Indian holding is Rs. 4,02,49,584 and in London book it is Rs. 7,07,78,000, out of which a big bulk of shares are held by Indians and that money will not have to be paid outside this country. Dr. Rao has not confirmed this; he very cleverly, very tactfully, very diplomatically, shirks it. I asked this question; have you extended the lease, have you signed the contract? Very politely he shirks it. Although Dr. Rao has not confirmed, we can see the conspiracy of the British contact-men—plenty of them in Delhi and Calcutta and very powerful—and the bureaucrats all over; the election subscription collectors are busy in getting an extension for Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation in spite of the fact that the State Electricity Board had informed the West Bengal Government of their willingness and ability to run it and take it over. I would warn the Government of this. If the extension is granted, it would mean that you would be allowing them another term for plunder—you have been a party to it for the last 20 years; you are very fond of British Government and white men are patting you at your back—ignoring the question of security. You have got to bear that fact in mind. You cannot allow a foreign company to have any hand in a matter which controls marshai yards, airports, ports and ammunition factories.

18.33 Hrs.

[SHRI R. D. BHANDARE *in the Chair*]

They cannot allow them to come anywhere near them. One man who is bad enough can sabotage the whole thing, if they want. This is a very important consideration. Government talk about many other things. But they dare not touch this.

I am reminding Government about the holy industrial policy resolution which the Congress Government had drafted in 1956. What did they say there?

“In the first category will be industries the future development of which will be the exclusive responsibility of the State”.

In the first category — please look at schedule A — they will find listed the generation and distribution of electricity. In order to please their British masters, surrendering to the contact-men, they are violating the Resolution which they themselves had drafted and adopted with great pomp and grandeur.

I will not take more time. I would strongly advise Government to take it over. This is not a political issue; it is pure and simple a question of national prestige, whether we, Indians, can run ourselves an institution as good as they can. Let them take it over on the first day of 1970, form a good, autonomous body and hand it over to that body. I would suggest they do not disturb the internal arrangements. They will remain efficient. Let them appoint an expert body of good, honest people, if they can find them — they are a rare commodity now-a-days,—to assess the quantum of compensation that should be given, although in my party we do not believe in it, because they have taken enough money back and we do not believe in paying compensation. But their Constitution is there, the Bible that is there with all the facilities for them to plunder.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam): He does not believe in compensation being given to anybody?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: I will deal with that on a later occasion.

As regards money, they can find as much rupee as they want. The LIC has invested no less than Rs. 70 crores in the private sector, in ten big business houses alone. If they cannot wangle money from LIC, which has gone into this kind of unholy affair with private big business, they can float debentures or loans and I can assure them that they will be subscribed on the very first day. So there is no dearth of Indian rupee.

As regards the foreign exchange part of it, we have gone into the matter very dispassionately and we find that it will not exceed Rs. 12 crores.

Therefore, I would appeal to Dr. K. L. Rao not to be guided by other considerations but go straightforward and take it over and manage it as I have suggested.

SHRI N. DANDEKER (Jamnagar): I would like to confine myself to the terms in which this discussion has been notified on the order paper, namely, "a discussion on the renewal of lease, by the West Bengal Government, of the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation, a British monopoly concern, in contravention of the Industrial Policy Resolution."

Stated in these terms, I am sorry I am quite unable to support the proposition put forward by Shri Basu. In the first place, the question is whether there is here any contravention of the Industrial Policy Resolution. Shri Basu read only one sentence out of it, which was to the effect that "In the first category", that is, category A, will be industries, the future development of which will be the exclusive responsibility of the State." The industries listed in the first category include the generation and distribution of electricity. But the Resolution also says that "all new units in these industries, save where their establishment in the private sector has already been approved, will be set up only by the State". The reference here is to *all new units*. "This does not preclude the expansion of existing privately-owned units, or the possibility of the State securing the co-operation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units when the national interests so require."

On the subject of the continuance of the existing units in Schedule A which includes the generation and distribution of electricity, where these are foreign concerns, the Industrial Policy Resolution goes on to say in para 19: "the Prime Minister, in his statement in Parliament of April 6,

1949 has enunciated the policy of the State in regard to foreign capital." I shall, therefore, now read from the Prime Minister's statement of 6 April 1949. After the introduction, he says:

"In the first place, I should like to state that the Government would expect all undertakings, Indian or foreign, to conform to the general requirements of their industrial policy. As regards existing foreign interests, Government do not intend to place any restrictions or impose any conditions which are not applicable to similar Indian enterprise. Government would also so frame their policy as to enable further foreign capital to be invested in India on terms and conditions that are mutually advantageous.

Secondly, foreign interests would be permitted to earn profits, subject only to regulations common to all. We do not foresee any difficulty in continuing the existing facilities for remittance of profits..... If..... any foreign concern come to be compulsorily acquired Government would provide reasonable facilities for the remittance of proceeds.

Thirdly, if and when foreign enterprises are compulsorily acquired, compensation will be paid on a fair and equitable basis as already announced in Government's statement of policy."

There is also here a statement that on compulsory acquisition the proceeds would be remittable. Therefore, in so far as this discussion is concerned with objecting to the extension of the licence in the context of the Industrial Policy Resolution, as well as in the context of the Prime Minister's statement in 1949 in relation to foreign interests, I regret that the argument cannot be sustained on the basis on which Mr. Basu has put it.

Secondly, Sir, I should like to turn to the merits of the matter. I have no information whether the licence has been extended or not. The information that I have is this. Whereas

the option to purchase the enterprise could have been exercised only in 1990, the period has now been reduced to 1980. In other words, the period within which this enterprise could be acquired by the Government,—if on merits it were the proper thing to do in the interest of the country,—has been advanced by ten years.

On the merits of the matter, I know that the State Electricity Board in West Bengal,—I am perfectly certain upto a point—could manage this enterprise. I do not like to doubt their competence. But I should like to add that the West Bengal State Electricity Board has its hands full with the work that it has already got. Secondly, its resources are under considerable strain. Thirdly, the acquisition of this enterprise would in the aggregate cost us something of the order of Rs. 46 to 47 crores in accordance with the terms of acquisition that are embodied in the Electricity Act. I have not got the detailed figures before me; but I think Mr. Basu is probably right in saying that out of this, about one-third, may be Rs. 13 or 15 crores would be the amount that would be payable in terms of foreign exchange and the balance would be the amount payable in rupees. The plain question is: are spare resources of that magnitude available with either the West Bengal Government or the Central Government, in terms of rupees as well as foreign exchange, to enable them to acquire this enterprise if on merits the enterprise ought to be acquired, which is a different question altogether? Fourthly, if resources of that magnitude are available, are there not better uses to which they could be put than merely acquiring this particular enterprise that is being run very competently. I am not here concerned with any difference of opinion as between public sector and private sector enterprise or nationalisation of public utility enterprise or anything of the sort. I am merely enquiring: whether resources of that magnitude are available?—and if available, could they not be better deployed in

other directions than merely for acquiring a perfectly competently run concern. If not then looking into the matter on merits, I should like to say this: I do not think the discussion can be sustained either on merits, or on the grounds on which Mr. Basu has urged it, namely, that the action of the West Bengal Government contravenes the Industrial Policy Resolution *per se* because it is a British monopoly. All public utilities have to be monopolies; you cannot have more than one concern operating to generate or distribute electricity in a given area. They have to be monopolies. The question whether it is British monopoly and therefore it should have been acquired should be irrelevant, in terms of the Prime Minister's statement.

Therefore, Sir, the observations that I have made are to this effect: whether on public grounds and on merits of the matter, it is desirable to acquire the enterprise is one question; whether it should be acquired before 1980 is also another question; but whether in the terms in which this discussion has been brought forward, it is sustainable in those terms, my submission is that it is clearly not so.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI (Mand-saur): We are of the definite opinion that the country's infra-structure must not be allowed to be dominated in any field by foreigners, particularly in a crucial field like electricity in a sensitive region like Calcutta and its outskirts. As my friend Shri Basu has pointed out, the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation is obtaining power at a cheap rate from the DVC which has built up that complex with public money and is supplying power to the consumers at an exorbitant cost, about 17 paise per unit. The important point is that profits are remitted abroad and the foreign exchange is being lost. As Mr. Dandekar pointed out, a certain amount of foreign exchange would be necessary to nationalise it or to take it over; it is true. But then it would save the existing recurring loss of

foreign exchange. That is very relevant.

Besides, I feel that profits which are being earned in excess of a reasonable return on capital employed belong to the public and the State and not to the company. These profits should be utilised for providing reduced rates to the consumers in the years to come, that is, in the years 1969-70 and 1970-71 so long as the concern remains in the hands of the British monopolists. Besides, in my opinion, once a decision is taken that the CESC has to be taken over, the resources can be found. There cannot be two opinions about it. It is the will that is lacking. If the determination is there, the funds can be found, and the Central Government can come to the aid of the State Government with regard to the garnering of resources for taking over the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.

Another point that I would like to make is that every effort would have to be made for the maintenance of the efficiency of the concern after it is taken over. I believe that there is only one foreigner, the man at the apex, who is there, but after him the whole hierarchy is constituted of Indian technicians, Indian engineers, who in my opinion are no less competent than any of their foreign counterparts in any country in the world. Therefore, our engineers can successfully run the concern, and in any case you can hire the foreigners from any part of the world, if at all they are needed. So, I feel, as far as the personnel is concerned, there is going to be no difficulty, to maintain the efficiency.

As regards finance, if the Central Government decides to assist the West Bengal Government, the money could be found and the CESC can be taken over. Calcutta, as I have already said, is a very sensitive region. In that way, its borders are quite close to East Pakistan border; and so, in a crucial field like electricity, the policy decisions cannot be left in the hands of foreigners, who may take policy decisions to suit their own needs. And decisions are taken pro-

bably somewhere in London head office and not in Calcutta by the Board. They are dictated given from London and they are just obeyed here. Therefore, I firmly emphasise and request the Minister, the West Bengal Governor and the Government of West Bengal that they must take over the concern by 1971 and the contract should not be allowed to be renewed under any circumstances.

श्री शशि भूषण (खारगोन) : यह एक ऐसा प्रश्न है, चाहे बिजली का हो या पेट्रोल का हो, आपको याद होगा कि जिस समय कच्छ पर पाकिस्तान ने हमला किया था तो हिन्दुस्तान में जो जो विदेशी कम्पनियां पेट्रोल को कंट्रोल करती हैं उन्होंने नार्दनं इन्डिया में पेट्रोल की आर्टिफिशल स्केयरमिटी क्रिएट कर दी थी। पाकिस्तान हमारे करीब में है और अगर कल कोई खतरा होता है तो हम ब्रिटिश पर भरोसा नहीं कर सकते हैं। आज तक ब्रिटन में जो पुराने लोग मौजूद हैं वे यह महसूस करते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में उनका इतना बड़ा साम्राज्यवाद खत्म हो गया। सारे पड़ोसी राष्ट्र आजाद होने चले गये। उन के दिल में फ्रीनिंग है और यही कारण है कि उन्होंने पाकिस्तान को हथियार दिये। हर एक षडयन्त्र में वह शामिल रहते हैं। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि क्या हमारे पास इतना पैसा नहीं होगा कि हम इस कम्पनी को ले सकें? आज उस के हाथ में पेट्रोल भी दे रक्खा है, चाय व रबड़ भी दे रक्खा है। इस के साथ ही शिपिंग दे रक्खी है और बिजली तो दे ही रक्खी है। इस कलकत्ता इलेक्ट्रिसिटी सप्लाय कारपोरेशन, जो एक ब्रिटिश एकाधिकारी समवाय है, उसे नेशनलाइज कर देना चाहिए। उस को किसी से हमदर्दी नहीं है। यह राष्ट्र की सुरक्षा का सवाल है और जरूरी हो तो उस के लिए पैसा इकट्ठा किया जा सकता है और अगर

इस काम के लिए जनता से सरकार पैसा मांगे तो वह देने को तैयार हो जायेगी ।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to one or two aspects of this question which have not been referred to by others. It is not a coincidence to my mind that the only Indian Director on the Board of Directors of this company is the former Finance Minister of the Congress Government, Mr. Sachindra Chowdhury. It should be remembered that he was the only Indian Director prior to 1966. Because he became Finance Minister, he had to resign from that. Immediately after his Finance Ministership came to an end, he has been re-appointed. He is not only a Director. He is a very eminent lawyer. He has been dealing in company law for a long time in Calcutta, from where we come. We know that for many years, he has been one of the most trusted lawyers working on behalf of the British concerns like the Calcutta Tramways Company and so on. I want to raise this question: What advice is this gentleman giving to this concern and is it in the interests of the country or of the British shareholders?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the point under discussion.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The point is, whether the takeover of the company should be in the nation's interests or not. I am not interested whether it is going to be done in 1970, 1980 or 1990; we do not know the position. But my contention is, every day that passes is being utilised by this company, acting on somebody's advice, to see to it that when that day, which it considers to be an evil day, comes, it will be possible to have the take-over done on terms most favourable to itself. We have the example of the Calcutta Tramways Company, whose management and control only were taken over by the United Front Government. But that company had known for a long time

that its licence was going to expire and it would not be renewed. So, it allowed all its assets, rolling stock, tram cars, maintenance of track, etc. to go to rack and ruin. Anybody who travels by those tram cars knows the condition. No repairs were carried out, so that when the time came for the take-over, the whole thing would be reduced to junk. The Calcutta Electric Supply Company is following the same tactics. Huge amounts are appropriated every year in the name of renewals and replacements but the money is not spent for those purposes.

I hope the Minister knows that for the last six months, what was supposed to be a very new and modern turbo-generator at the New Cossipore plant suffered a mysterious breakdown. It is still lying in that condition and no repairs have been carried out. We are told that it will take several months. At the Mulajore power station, an incinerator which is used for removing soot and dust is out of order for many months. All the inhabitants in that area have to suffer from soot and dust. No repairs are being carried out. I submit that a high-powered enquiry should be carried out to see whether the plant and equipment of this company are being properly maintained and repaired or not. If that enquiry is carried out, you will find that there is a deliberate policy behind it.

If you study the Chairman's speech at the annual general meeting of this company, you will find this: After the devaluation of the rupee, we have naturally written down our sterling assets. In the normal course, we would be entitled to write down only the post-devaluation assets. But we have been advised that in the peculiar circumstances obtaining here in the case of this company, even the pre-devaluation assets should be written down: It is there in his speech black and white. I have not brought that speech unfortunately today.

I would like to know whether this matter has been inquired into. This is a very peculiar practice, a very un-

precedented practice I would say. This is being carried out on the advice of people like Shri Sachin Choudhuri with an eye to future takeover so that the fixed assets are reduced to junk through neglect of repairs and renewals and other assets are being devalued—even assets prior to 1965—so that when the time comes for take-over they hope it will be on most favourable terms to them. Therefore, I would say that this is a very serious matter. We should not be caught napping as in the case of the tramways. In the interest of the nation the date should not be delayed and the take-over should be done as soon as possible.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : सभापति महोदय, नियम 193 के अन्तर्गत यह कलकत्ता इलेक्ट्रिसिटी सप्लाय कारपोरेशन, जो एक ब्रिटिश एकाधिकारी समवाय है, के राष्ट्रीयकरण करने के सिलसिले में चर्चा चलाने की अनुमति प्रदान की उस के लिए हम आप का आभार मानते हैं।

सभापति महोदय, मैं श्री शशि भूषण का धन्यवाद करता हूँ कि उन्होंने सदन के सामने इस सवाल को एक अच्छे ढंग से रखवा। खास कर मैं आप के सामने यह चीज लाना चाहता हूँ कि कलकत्ता इस तरह का एक स्थान है जोकि हिन्दुस्तान में विदेशी पूंजी का गढ़ है। जो आदमी कलकत्ता जायेगा उस के सामने विदेशी गवर्नरों और वायसरायों की प्रतिभाएं देखने में आयेंगी और उन प्रतिभाओं को देख कर मन में ऐसा लगेगा कि शायद अभी तक हम लोग आज़ाद ही नहीं हैं। हम ने आज़ाद होने के बाद, ब्रिटिश सरकार से मुक्ति पाने के बाद ऐसा सोचा था कि अंग्रेजी पूंजी जो हमारे देश में है उस का राष्ट्रीयकरण कर दिया जायगा लेकिन वैसा नहीं किया गया। खास करके विदेशी पूंजीपतियों के चलते और उन के कारखानों के चलते जैसे कि यह

कलकत्ता इलेक्ट्रिसिटी सप्लाय कारपोरेशन वहां चल रही है उस में बड़ी मनमानी, भ्रष्टाचार और अंधेरगदी चल रही है। वहां पर यह गड़बड़ चलती है कि कम्पनी इंजीनियर्स के रेक्यूटमेंट के लिए ऐडवर्टाइज नहीं करती है लेकिन बड़े बिजनेसमैन, अफसरान और स्टेट मिनिस्टर्स के लड़कों और रिश्तेदारों में से नियुक्त कर लेती है ताकि वह सब उन के हाथ में खेलते रहें। उन को अच्छी अच्छी तनख्वाहें देकर रख रही है ताकि भ्रष्टाचार का बोलबाला चलता रह सके।

मैं आप का ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह कलकत्ता इलेक्ट्रिक सप्लाय कारपोरेशन भ्रष्टाचार का केन्द्र है। मैं डा० के० एल० राव से बिनती करूंगा कि वह इस के बारे में जांच करें।

मैं ऐसे कुछ इंजीनियर्स के नाम गिनाना चाहता हूँ जिनके लिए कोई ऐडवर्टाइजमेंट नहीं हुआ और जिन्हें कि बगैर किसी टैस्ट या इंटरव्यू के बतौर इंजीनियर्स के कम्पनी में रख लिया गया। ऐसा इसलिए किया गया कि वह लोग बड़े बड़े नेताओं, स्टेट मिनिस्टर्स और अफसरान के लड़के या भाई भतीजे थे और कम्पनी ने उन्हें बगैर किसी ऐडवर्टाइजमेंट के इंजीनियर्स नियुक्त कर लिया। मैं उन में से कुछ के नाम गिनाना चाहता हूँ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are not here to defend themselves or to give an explanation.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Shri Kantilal Desai was not here to defend himself.

श्री रवि राय : जैसे कि दिलीप कुमार पोल, आर० सी० दत्त, ए० एन० फ़डम्वी, एन० एस० ठाकर, यह वह ठाकर साहब के भतीजे हैं जिनके कि बारे में यहां

चर्चा हुई थी। श्री वी० के० सिंह, श्री के० ऐ० गांगुली और मि० एस० मुकर्जी आदि बगैर ऐडवरटाइजमेंट के डाइरेक्टली कम्पनी द्वारा नियुक्त कर लिये गये। इस तरह से इस कम्पनी में भ्रष्टाचार और अंधेरगदी चल रही है।

एक चीज मैं और बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि यहाँ और कैसी चोरी होती है? एक मिस्टर वैन, जोकि कम्पनी के एजेंट के फ्रैंड है, वह ट्रान्सपोर्ट सैक्शन के इनचार्ज नियुक्त किये गये थे। उन महाशय ने बहुत सी नयी कारें मंगाई और उन्होंने यह किया उन की इंटरनल मशीनरी निकाल कर बेच दी और पुरानी मशीनरी उन की जगह पर रिप्लेस कर दी।

इसी तरह से एक मि० जयदेव गुप्त जोकि सेंट्रल स्टोर्स के सुपरिन्टेंडेंट थे वह भी वहाँ पर भ्रष्टाचार को बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं। वह तीन ड्रम्स 33 केवी गैस फिल्टड केबल्स दुर्गापुर को बेचते हुए पकड़े गये। इस तरह का वहाँ पर भ्रष्टाचार चल रहा है....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can write to the Minister and he will make enquiries.

श्री रवि राय वह सुपरिन्टेंडेंट, सेंट्रल स्टोर्स थे। उन्होंने 33 के वी गैस से भरे हुए केबल्स के तीन ड्रम दुर्गापुर भेज दिये। मैं एक और मज्जदार बात आप को बतलाना चाहता हूँ। आप ने मुना होगा कि सी इ एस सी के मेन्स डिपार्टमेंट में हर मजदूर 10 या 12 घंटे का ओवरटाइम करता है, जिस के कारण लोगों को 800 से 1200 रु० तक महीने में मिलते हैं। इस तरह का जो ढंग चलता है, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि उस के कारण भ्रष्टाचार का बोलबाला है।

19 HRS.

मैं आप को एक और चीज बतलाना चाहता हूँ। यह कम्पनी जो मीटर रेंट लेती है और जो सिक्कोरिटी मनी कंज्यूमर्स

से लिया जाता है उस के तीन चार करोड़ रुपये का हिसाब कम्पनी के पास नहीं है। इस तरह से बिना हिसाब किताब के कम्पनी चलती है। इस तरह के काम में मदद करने वाले कोई सी० आर० पाल हैं, जिन को इस के लिये 1,000 रु० का इन्क्रीमेंट दिया गया है।

यह चीजें मैं आप के सामने इस लिये रख रहा हूँ कि कलकत्ता एलेक्ट्रिक सप्लाय कारपोरेशन में इस तरह से भ्रष्टाचार का बोलबाला है और कहना चाहता हूँ कि फौरन सरकार को इस का राष्ट्रीयकरण करना चाहिये।

एक चीज मैं और भी कहना चाहता हूँ। यह अंग्रेजों की कम्पनी रही है। आप को यह भी मालूम है कि हमारे देश में जो बड़े बड़े नौकरशाह अब भी हैं, संविधान के अन्तर्गत उन की नौकरी की रक्षा की गई है। जो हमारे यहाँ बड़े बड़े पूंजीपति हैं, खासकर पूर्वोत्तर भारत में, असम और बंगाल के चाय बागानों में और आयल कम्पनी में, एलेक्ट्रिसिटी कारपोरेशन में यह लोग उन के यहाँ रह कर विदेशों के लिये जासूसी कर रहे हैं, जिस के कारण हमारी सिक्कोरिटी पर खतरा पैदा हो रहा है। इस सिक्कोरिटी पर खतरे को देखते हुए मैं डा० राव से विनती करूंगा कि वह इस को सब से पहले सरकार के हाथ में ले लें ताकि उन लोगों का जो एकाधिपत्य इस कारोबार पर है वह खत्म हो जाये।

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I should thank the various hon. Members who have participated in this debate. The mover, Shri Jyotirmoy Basu has made out a very moderate and reasoned case and I am thankful to him for the suggestion that he has

made. Now, one or two points I would like to mention here. The first question was whether not taking over the undertaking is not contradictory to the Industrial Policy Resolution. The hon. Member, Shri Dandekar has already shown that it is not so, and I would not go into that.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : His Majesty's loyal opposition!

DR. K. L. RAO : I would like to cover only the main points. As I submitted already, the hon. Member, Shri Basu has made out a very good case. There is a lot of good points in his speech, but I will come to the practical aspect of his suggestion. When this country attained independence we had 316 private electricity undertakings which generated and distributed power. Now the number has come down to 164 from 316. Out of these 164 undertakings there are three which generate 90 per cent of the power in the private sector, and they are the Calcutta Electricity Supply Undertaking, Tatas at Bombay and the Ahmedabad Electricity Undertaking. We should recognise that 14 per cent of the total power generated in this country is generated by the private sector.

Therefore, the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation is contributing something to the power system of the country. But I am not so much worried about that, because we have developed the technique of generation, technique of distribution and we have got very good, able engineers in this country who are fully capable of taking up an installation of this type. But the practical difficulty is this. If we want to acquire these private undertakings, we have got to pay them money according to the particular rules.

These three installations alone come to about Rs. 120 crores of which this may be something like Rs. 40 crores to Rs. 50 crores.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : This is the only British one.

DR. K. L. RAO : The question is of finding out these Rs. 40 crores of

which Rs. 14 crores has got to be in foreign exchange. If we have the money—money is very constrained and limited for us—I would rather use it for acquiring the 161 private undertakings which come in the way of our rural electrification. They are merely small units spread all over practically except four States, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and one more. Every other State has got these private undertakings which are not generating. They are not big ones, only small ones which, naturally—I do not say anything against them—cannot exist when we are doing electrical generation and transmission in the country on a very vast scale.

SHRI RABI RAY : The result will be nothing. It is the question of security.

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat) : In this particular case you can take over the management to begin with without any compensation. What is the difficulty?

श्री शशि भूषण : बर्मा और तिब्बत ने उस पूंजी को नेशनलाइज कर दिया अपने देश में तब आप क्यों नहीं करते ?

श्री रवि राय : सितम्बर के महीने में वह चार्ज बढ़ाने जा रहे हैं। उस के बारे में आप क्या कर रहे हैं। उन्हें करोड़ों रुपयों का प्रॉफिट हो रहा है। उस का कोई अकाउंट नहीं है। दूसरी तरफ वह सितम्बर से चार्ज बढ़ाने जा रहे हैं।

DR. K. L. RAO : It is a question of realities. If we have Rs. 40 crores or Rs. 50 crores we can take over the small inefficient undertakings all over the country.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : No; you must take it over. Do not try to dilute it.

DR. K. L. RAO : It is a question involving finances, as I have submitted. There is no other consideration in this case. The Bengal

Government has been able to bring it down to 1980 instead of 20 years hence, that is, 1990. I would appeal to the West Bengal Electricity Board and the West Bengal Government that in these ten years they try to save the money and set it by with a view to purchasing it at least in 1980.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: It will be now or never.

DR. K. L. RAO: As to getting a loan from the LIC and so on.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: You have given Rs. 70 crores to the private sector, to ten big business houses. Why can you not get money for electricity? Why can you not float debentures and loans?

DR. K. L. RAO: If you can show me some source of money, I can use it for rural electrification.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: I will.

DR. K. L. RAO: I know, Shri Jyotirmoy Basu knows very thoroughly where the money is available and I shall be very happy if he gives me some money for the more important works.

It also involves, as I said, Rs. 14 crores of foreign exchange. At the moment, our financial condition being what it is, it is not possible to take it over. The only point that we should be careful about and see is that the company is not taking too much profit or is not going beyond a reasonable return. On that, of course, we are having a very careful watch.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI: The consumer should be charged reasonably. The company must get only a reasonable return on capital employed as in the case of other electricity companies and any excess that they obtain should be given back to the consumer in the form of rebate.

DR. K. L. RAO: We have got a control over that. The rate that they fix is entirely under continual review of the Central Water and Power Commission and the Ministry. If

we find at any time that they are going beyond what is stipulated in the Sixth Schedule of the Electricity Act, we will take action. There is no difficulty about that. We can assure about that.

Hon. Member, Shri Gupta, pointed out that the maintenance is not so good or some units have gone off. I will make inquiries. I have not gone into that aspect. I would also look into the devaluation aspect. They have made some good points; I do not deny that. The debate has been useful that way.

The rates of the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation are also lower than for example in Delhi. For domestic heat and power they charge 9 paise per kilowatt hour.

श्री रवि राय : कलकत्ता में कास्ट ब्राफ लिफ्टिंग ब्रलग है ।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: At what price do you sell it? I am asking about the D.V.C. Why don't you tell that?

DR. K. L. RAO: But the reason for the Project is that they started in the beginning of the century and at that time the things were very cheap ... (Interruption).

श्री शशि भूषण : कितना कैपिटल लगा था और कितना प्राफिट आज तक वे ले जा चुके हैं ?

DR. K. L. RAO: Naturally, I submit, they started in 1897 and at that stage, the things were very cheap in those days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't enter into arguments.

DR. K. L. RAO: What is happening is this.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: May I point out that they have taken 86 per cent of the paid-up capital, the ordinary share capital, in the last 10 years?

DR. K. L. RAO: What is happening now is that, gradually, they are

taking more and more power from us. They are actually buying from the D.V.C. and from the West Bengal State Electricity Board. They are buying as much as 1000 Kw hours a year.

It is because Calcutta is consuming more and more. They are not able to cope up with that. They are not expanding their units. They are making use of the undertakings in the neighbourhood. I would submit that on account of the financial restraint that we have, on account of the fact that we have got to stretch our finances in the best advantage possible, while it is desirable that we should have the electricity supply undertakings, not only this but in general.....

श्री रवि राय : नेशनल सिक्योरिटी का सवाल भी उठाया गया है। असम में जो अग्नेज पूंजीपति हैं वे नेशनल सिक्योरिटी के लिए खतरा हैं। इसके बारे में आपको क्या कहना है? साथ

ही कुरप्शन चार्ज के बारे में आप क्या कर रहे हैं?

DR. K. L. RAO : I would say that taking the finances into account, I regret, it will not be possible to acquire this undertaking in the next one year. But, as I said earlier, it is very necessary to plan out even now and see that we try to acquire it in the next 10 years.

With regard to the other question about security, I can assure the hon. Members that we have sufficient amount to mechanism to see that there is no difficulty on account of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 A.M.

19.13 Hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August, 28, 1968/Bhadra 6, 1890 (Saka).