

**Statement**

(1) Attempts are being made to improve power generation in DVC which supplies the bulk of the power to collieries in Eastern India where production has been affected due to power shortage.

(2) Import of explosives has been arranged to cover the gap between demand and indigenous availability.

(3) Instructions have been issued for the allotment of diesel on a priority basis to the coal industry.

(4) Steps are being formulated to curb absenteeism among workers which is usually heavy in the first three months of the year.

(5) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the law and order machinery in areas where production has been affected by frequent disruptions in the law and order. A close watch is being kept on the situation.

(6) Assistance of the State Government has been sought in expediting land acquisition for commencing new projects.

**Proposal to permit Private Sector for Power Generation**

\*17. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to permit private sector to enter into the field of power generation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b). The role of private sector as

utility in the field of power generation is at present governed by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 under which generation and distribution of electricity is included in schedule 'A' of the Resolution, which lists industries in which all new units, save where their establishment in the private sector has already been approved, will be set up only by the State. The Resolution does not preclude the expansion of the 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. There is no general proposal under consideration to permit the private sector to enter into the field of power generation. The proposals of private utilities for setting up power generation plants are considered on their merits keeping in view the spirit of the Industrial Policy Resolution.

**Loss suffered by State Electricity Boards**

\*18. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that Electricity Boards of different States have suffered a huge loss during 1977-78 and 1978-79 and these Boards are now eating into their capitals;

(b) is it a fact that these Boards have also diverted the funds earmarked for Rural Electrification Corporation and allowed the R.E.C. Schemes to suffer; and

(c) if so, do Government propose to indicate the loss suffered by these Boards and measures to bring these Boards on sound financial footings?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) Based on audited accounts received from State Electricity Boards a state-

ment is enclosed for each of financial years 1977-78 and 1978-79 indicating the surpluses/deficits of the various State Electricity Boards before providing for interest (Annexures I and II) laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-393-A/80]. The net surplus/deficit after taking into account Government subventions if any and interest are also indicated. It will be seen that most of the States could not fully meet obligations on account of interest to Government. At the same time, it is necessary to point out that Electricity Boards have no equity capital, and operate only on loans.

Under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, net revenue accounts are prepared in accordance with the priorities enumerated in Section 67 of the Act, upto the extent that could be met out of the surplus earned. As on 31st March 1979, cumulative amounts that could not be provided for in the accounts of the various State Electricity Boards are indicated in a separate statement (Annexure III), laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-393-A/80. These relate to interest not provided to Government and depreciation on fixed assets. As against this, the accumulated reserves are also indicated in this statement.

(b) A statement showing State-wise position regarding utilisation of loan amount disbursed by the Rural Electrification Corporation to the SEBs upto 31st March 1979 is enclosed (Annexure IV), laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library... See No. LT-392-A/80]. It will be seen that the total amount disbursed against sanctioned schemes in the country as a whole was Rs. 647.23 crores. This included disbursement of Rs. 153.79 crores during the year 1978-79 of which as much as Rs. 71 crores were disbursed during the month of March, 1979. The utilisation upto 31st March, 1979, was of the order of Rs. 513.53 crores accounting for 80 per cent. It may be seen from the table that as on 31st

March, 1979, the State Electricity Boards of Bihar, M.P., U.P. and West Bengal had an unspent balance of more than Rs. 20 crores each. The States like A.P., Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Orissa had with them an un-utilised loan of more than Rs. 5 crores each.

According to these SEBs, some part of the un-utilised amount actually represents expenditure on purchase of construction materials which are either lying in 'Stock' or at 'Site'. The cost of these materials is expected to be booked to the REC account as and when actually issued. While the explanation offered by the SEBs is quite reasonable in many cases, there is no denying the fact that Bihar and U.P. in particular have in the past diverted part of REC funds to other works and consequently, implementation of REC projects in these States has been tardy. A statement indicating the REC funds disbursed and utilised by these States in the preceding 3 years is enclosed (Annexure V), laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-393A/80]. These facts have from time to time been brought to the notice of SEBs at various levels, the State Governments of U.P. and Bihar have also been kept informed.

(c) The necessity for improved financial performance of the State Electricity Boards, has been discussed in various forums between the different SEBs and the Government of India from time to time. As explained already, the SEBs and the State Governments are autonomous agencies directly concerned with the efficient financial management of their daily operations. Matters such as tariff policies are entirely within the competence of the State Electricity Boards and State Governments. However, Government of India has in June, 1978 amended the Electricity (Supply) Act which now requires that each State Government should specify the surplus to be earned by the State Electricity

Boards, after meeting all liabilities. It is for the State Governments and the State Electricity Boards to take action to ensure better financial and overall performance.

### समाचारपत्रों का राष्ट्रीयकरण

\*19. श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पांडे : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार समाचारपत्र उद्योग में पूंजीवादी पद्धति समाप्त करने के लिए समाचारपत्रों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने का है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि बड़े समाचारपत्रों पर प्रबन्धकों का पूरा नियंत्रण है और वे उन्हें अपनी इच्छानुसार समाचार देने को बाध्य करते हैं ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उन कर्मचारियों को, जो प्रबन्धकों की इच्छानुसार कार्य नहीं करते, मनमाने ढंग से नौकरी से हटा दिया जाता है; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार इस मामले में क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण तथा प्रतियोगिता और पुनर्वासि मंत्री (श्री बसन्त साठे) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) आम तौर पर यह समझा जाता है कि बड़े समाचारपत्रों के प्रबन्धक अपने समाचारपत्रों पर पूरा नियंत्रण रखते हैं।

(ग) और (घ) समाचारपत्रों में नौकरी की सेवा शर्तें श्रमजीवी पत्रकार और अन्य समाचारपत्र कर्मचारी (सेवा की शर्तें) और प्रकीर्ण उपबन्ध अधिनियम, 1965 के अन्तर्गत विनियमित होती हैं। इस प्रकार के मामलों में सम्बन्धित राज्य सरकारें उपयुक्त प्राधिकारी हैं।

### Suggestions called for on Press Commission

\*20. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought suggestions from various organisations connected with the newspaper industry for 'enlarged' terms of reference of the Press Commission which are being made more precise; and

(b) if so, the names of the organisations to whom the letters were addressed and the views expressed by them if any?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) A statement showing the names of the organisations of the Press who have been requested to furnish suggestions in this regard is laid on the Table of the House. Replies are still coming in.

### Statement

(1) Indian Federation of Working Journalists, Madras.

(2) National Union of Journalists, New Delhi.

(3) Press Association, New Delhi.

(4) All India Newspapers' Editors Conference, New Delhi.

(5) Editors' Guild of India, New Delhi.

(6) Indian & Eastern Newspapers Society, New Delhi.

(7) Indian Language Newspapers Association, Bombay.

(8) All India Small and Medium Newspapers Association, Delhi.

(9) All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation, Kanpur.

(10) Small and Medium Newspapers Guild of India, New Delhi.

### Television Programmes on Solar Eclipse

1. SHRI MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that in two television programmes given on different days in the month of February, 1980, contradictory advice was given to the television viewers regarding the harm involved in looking at the Solar eclipse;