

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 3, 1985/ Agrayana 12,
1907 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ananta Prasad
Sethi (Absent)

Shri Jagannath Choudhary.

Setting up of Thermal Power Unit at Dohri
Ghat, U. P.

*203. SHRI JAGANNATH
CHOUHARY : Will the Minister of
ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for
setting up of a Thermal Power unit at Dohri
Ghat in Azamgarh District with a view to
ensure full power supply to Azamgarh,
Ghazipur, Deoria, Gorakhpur and Ballia, the
eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) whether a study team of the Uttar
Pradesh State Electricity Board, had visited
the site to study and survey the feasibility of
setting up of this unit ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI
ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c)
A project report for setting up.....
(*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY :
Please speak in Hindi.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN :
I shall speak in Hindi, please let me read
this much. You will not have this
complaint from me.

MR. SPEAKER : He reads in English
and speaks in Hindi.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : In which
language do you think Arif Bhai ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN :
In Hindi.

[*English*]

A project report for setting up of a
Thermal Power Station (2×210MW) at
Dohri Ghat was submitted in 1978 by the
Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board to the
Central Electricity Authority for techno-
economic clearance. The scheme envisaged
utilisation of coal from the Singrauli
Coalfields.

The proposal could not be processed further as the Singrauli Coalfields are over-booked upto 1989-90 and rail transport facilities for movement of coal from Singrauli are also not adequate. The UPSEB were, therefore, advised by the CEA to take up the scheme at a latter date. The UPSEB have not pursued this scheme further and the project is not included in U. P's Seventh Plan.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : They might not have understood, please tell in brief in Hindi.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Should I tell them in Hindi ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : They might not have been able to understand.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : A project report for setting up of a two Unit Thermal Power Station comprising two units of 210 MW each at Dohri Ghat was submitted in 1978 by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board to the Central Electricity Authority and this scheme envisaged utilisation of coal from the Singrauli coal fields. The proposal could not be processed further as the Singrauli coal fields are over-booked upto 1989-90 and also, rail transport facilities for movement of coal from Singrauli are also not adequate.

MR. SPEAKER : So, Choudhary Sahib has managed to set you on the right path.

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY : I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that Dohri Ghat project of Azamgarh and Turtipaar Canal project of Ballia district are not running at their full capacity due to shortage of power in eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh and also due to short supply of power from the National Grid. No big factory can be set up in eastern part of Uttar Pradesh due to shortage of power. With a view to facilitate the development of eastern part of the State and development of agriculture in that area and also to ensure supply of water to Dohri Ghat Project and Turtipaar Cannal Project at peak level, I

would appeal to the hon. Minister to set up a Thermal power station at Turtipaar, where a broad gauge railway line is there and adequate water supply from Ghaghra can also be ensured. This would lead to development of the eastern part of the State and welfare of the people of that area. With the setting up of power station, industries would also come up there which are shy for the present. I am sure, the hon. Minister would certainly give assurance to this effect.

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing in this regard ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, the scheme for generation and transmission of power is not formulated keeping in view one particular part of a State. Instead, going a step further from the State level, the schemes are now being formulated at regional level. This is our endeavour to see that power is supplied to all the States falling under a region. If there is a power station there or one is set up there, the power generated from that station will not be made available for that area only. For that there is a transmission system. First of all the power generated in a station, wherever it is located, is checked in the grid and from there it is supplied to different parts. For setting up a factory in eastern part, or to meet the power requirements of other cities in the eastern part of the State, it is not necessary that power stations should be there in the entire area. As things stand now, the power generated in Singrauli Power Station is supplied not only to Uttar Pradesh, but also to Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir. Similarly, the power generated in Bairasul is also being used in Delhi and other States. Therefore, we envisage to form a national grid after the regional grids are completed, so that power could be supplied to deficit region from the surplus region. I want to assure the hon. Member that so far as the requirements of that particular part of the State is concerned, the State has to formulate a scheme for that and meet that requirement. Setting up power station in that area alone will not meet the requirement. Accordingly, we are chalking out a comprehensive scheme and setting up power stations so that power requirements of the entire country could be met.

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY : In the reply, it has been stated that Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board was told by the Central Electricity Authority to submit that scheme in the next plan ; but I am sorry to say that it has not been included in the Seventh Plan although it should have been included in it. It is but natural that in the event of having a power station in the eastern part of the State itself, it will certainly get priority in the matter of supply of electricity. After all, why eastern U. P. is backward, why industries are not being set up there ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You put your question. Just ask them a direct question as to wherefrom they would supply electricity to eastern U. P.

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY : From where do you propose to provide electricity to the eastern part of U. P. ? I want it to be included in the Seventh Plan. If that is not possible, the Central Government should set up a thermal power station there of its own.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Treat it as a question from the Chair.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : All questions come through the Chair and so do the answers.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member's plea that eastern region is very backward is correct. No industry has been set up there. So far as distribution of electricity is concerned, as at present 5,164 M.W. electricity is generated in Uttar Pradesh, but that too is not adequate. We intend to raise the generation capacity by 1794 M.W. during the Seventh Five Year Plan. As has been said by one of our colleagues, generation of electricity can be more if power stations in Uttar Pradesh or any other State for that matter are set up at pitheads and from there the electricity is supplied through transmission lines to other places. Therefore, we intend to generate more and more electricity in Uttar Pradesh itself and it is because of this

that we are setting up in all seven projects in Uttar Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan. We hope that with that we shall be able to meet the full requirements of the eastern region so as to encourage setting up of industries there.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Dohrighat is a segment of my Parliamentary constituency. I am fortunate that when I am asking this supplementary, our Hon. Prime Minister is present in the House and so is our hon. Minister of Industry, Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari who has also been the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. This Dohrighat Thermal Power Station covers a population of about 3 crore people of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Western Bihar. With this end in view, in 1978 when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was campaigning for Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai in Dohrighat, the then Janata Government through the U. P. State Electricity Board... *(Interruptions)* Sir, will you please give me a minute's time, it is a very pertinent question. I would not mind being allowed to ask only one question in five years, but it should be agreed to. The Hon. Prime Minister is here in the House, I want that my only question should be given due hearing and must be agreed to. I was saying that this question is linked with a population of 4 crores spread over the districts of saran and Champaran in Bihar stretching upto Azamgarh, Ballia, Ghazipur, Deoria and Gorakhpur in eastern U.P. With this end in view, the Janata Government had submitted a proposal to the U.P. State Electricity Board that there should be a thermal power station at Dohrighat. In this connection I kept on insisting in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly right from 1978 to 1984 that both Unchahar and Dohrighat projects were conceived at the same time, but since Unchahar was in Rae Bareilly, this project was started, but Dohrighat was left out. The people of that region are all men of honour as is evident from the Madhuban incident where Pandit Nehru had gone by narrow gauge line to salute that place after he was released from Jail in 1945; Mohammadabad Ghazipur incident also stands testimony to this, where people had to face bullets ; a number of incidents had taken place there during the freedom struggle and these include Beria incident as also Chauri Chaura incident which had forced Gandhiji to change his decision ; this region

has a population of three to four crores. In this very House, Shri Gahmari had delivered a speech about the recommendations of Patel Commission and that speech had overwhelmed the hon. Members and even Nehruji was also moved. Indiraji had gone there and said on the spot.....

MR. SPEAKER : You put your supplementary.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I am saying that I had written two letters to the Hon. Prime Minister and I have got with me the replies to both of them. I also wrote to Shri Arun Nehru and Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari, the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. I had also talked to Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh.....

MR. SPEAKER : There is a limit to my silence also.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : They have referred to three difficulties. The first is that the Singrauli coal mine is over-booked till 1990 and, therefore, it would not be able to supply coal to it. The second is that there is no broad gauge line in Dohrighat. I told them that a small station of Mau has been removed, broad gauge line is already there or broad gauge railway line is there at Belthra Road...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You put your question.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I am saying that as the hon. Minister has replied that the State Electricity Board did not approve it and was it not included in the Five Year Plan, will the Central Government in view of the poverty and disparity in that region ask the State Government as to why it was not included in the current Five Year Plan in spite of the fact that the Planning Minister was told about it and will the State Government the Hon. Prime Minister is setting here in view of the special circumstances.....

MR. SPEAKER : Will it be possible to carry on the business of the House like that Mr. Rai ?

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, there is only one demand.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing ? Your entire advocacy will become meaningless. You are to ask the question, not like that.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, a 13 Kms. long railway line is to be constructed at Dohrighat ; can this project of Dohrighat not be accepted.....

MR. SPEAKER : See, I have given you a special consideration.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Should I reply now ?

I can assure this much that I shall again take up this matter with the Uttar Pradesh Government and it will be our endeavour to implement it and to include it in the Seventh Five Year Plan if it is possible by any means.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : The real question is whether the eastern region will get electricity or not. We have to think whether they are to be given a power house or electricity.

MR. SPEAKER : You should be concerned with the substance rather than the source.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : If you accept the proposal for this power house, we shall get electricity automatically. This is my only request to you with folded hands. I am prepared to sit silently in the House for the next five years even if you do not accept any of my other demands.*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Prime Minister is asking the question and the Member replies ;

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I thought it was only appropriate because the Speaker made a suggestion and the Member asked the last one.

I would like to clarify to the hon. Member that in the Seventh Plan the largest allocation we have made is for power and the instruction that we gave to the Planning Commission was that there should be no restriction on the demand for more power.

On the basis of that they produced a figure. When we sat down to discuss the figure with them, we talked with them and I myself raised that figure by approximately 10 per cent to cover the fresh demands. Our hope is that with this very substantial outlay for power within the next four years there will be no power shortage in the country. I hope that this will cover Purvanchal also. It will be better that they get power than they struggle with building a power station which might not give them power.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I want a specific answer about the thermal power station.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You should be concerned with the substance rather than the source.

Upgradation of Branch Post Offices.

* 204 SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received memoranda from the people of various States demanding upgradation of branch post offices in their respective areas ;

(b) if so, the number of districts of Rajasthan from which such memoranda have been received and the details in this regard ;

(c) whether Government have laid down any policy regarding upgradation of post offices ;

(d) if so, the details in this regard ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests for upgradation of branch post offices have been received from ten districts of Rajasthan. The details are as follows :—

1. Nagaur	:	17
2. Pali	:	3
3. Jodhpur	:	2
4. Sikar	:	3
5. Jhunjhunu	:	2
6. Sirohi	:	3
7. Ajmer	:	4
8. Kota	:	1
9. Chittorgarh	:	1
10. Alwar	:	2

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement indicating the departmental norms for upgradation of branch post offices is given below.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

(1) Norms for Upgradation of Extra Departmental Branch Post Office into Departmental Sub Post Office.

(i) An extra departmental branch post office may be upgraded as a departmental sub post office if the parent account office has more than 20 branch post offices in account and, if, the proposed sub office will have a minimum work of 5 hours per day on upgradation. The loss on upgradation should not exceed Rs. 1000/- per annum in rural areas and Rs. 500/- per annum in urban areas.

(ii) An extra departmental branch post office may also be upgraded if the proposed office has a workload of more than 5 hours per day on its own, provided the loss on upgradation does not exceed the limits mentioned above.