

person ~~who could~~ decide it. I sent the delegation here. Those people came here and met almost all the party leaders to persuade them. Almost all political parties, if I am correct, have agreed in their manifestos to provide reservation for women. (Interruptions)... I am telling the truth. In the last elections, almost all the political parties in their manifestos agreed to give reservation for women. What I want to mention is this. I must compliment all of you. At least now you all have come together. After 50 years you have realised it. My sisters, Shrimati Margaret Alva and Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan are fighting with me. I am very happy. The Government is equally anxious. I myself initiated it as Chief Minister of Karnataka. So I am not going to go back on the promise which I made. The Bill is going to be introduced. If everybody agrees, it will be passed in this session.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I thank the hon. Prime Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank the hon. Prime Minister on your behalf.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Request by Kerala for more Power from Central Pool

*561. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested for more share in the power from the Central Pool;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the increase made so far; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for new power plants in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Gov-

ernment of Kerala had requested the Government of India to increase its share from Central Government's unallocated share of power from 15% to 50% on temporary basis. The share has been increased from 15% to 22% w.e.f. 14.6.1996 till 31.8.1996.

(c) 9 projects are under implementation by KSEB in Kerala. Work on Lower Periyar H.E.P. (3×60 MW) is likely to be completed during 1996-97. KSEB has also signed MOUs with 9 private parties for purchase of power. Kayamkulam TPS (400 MW) in Kerala is being taken up by NTPC.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, Kerala was all along depending on hydro-electric power and we could not go in for thermal power or anything else. Kerala is in a very advanced stage of electrifying almost all the villages. Sir, because of occasional failure of monsoon, we are having acute power shortage in Kerala. the share of power from the Central Pool was only 15 per cent. After the demand it has been increased to 22 per cent for only two months. Kerala has requested for power from the Central Pool. Sir, the nine projects have already been delayed and the MOUs signed with the nine private parties have also been delayed. The naphtha content has not been sanctioned because the naphtha power stations are not good. Considering the non-availability of power from any sector apart from hydro projects, will the Government increase the share of power as demanded by the Kerala Government from 15 per cent to, at least, 30 per cent to avoid the power crisis? Unfortunately, the Minister could not visit Kerala in the last two or three months. There is a regular power-cut in Kerala everyday and every night. That is the real problem which we are facing. It is not because of political reasons. It is because power is not available. Will the Government increase the share of power? Will the Government clear all the agreements which have been signed between the KSEB and the nine private parties, without any further de-

lay? Will the Minister do it? I would like to know whether they would increase the share of power from the National Power Grid and from other power projects.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: The allocation from the Centre depends upon two things. One is consumption for five years and the second is based upon the Gadgil formula. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I agree. But we are not getting anything. We had surplus once upon a time. Now we are facing shrotaga.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: I agree with the hon. Member. In the last few years, Kerala has faced severe shortage. Last year the actual entitlement for Kerala was 1094 MW. Now they have drawn more than 1094 MW. That is, they have drawn 1142 MW from April to July. There is severe shortage in Kerala. Recently, the CEA cleared a project. The nine projects which are under construction by the Kerala State Electricity Board are: Kakkad, Lower Periyar, Poringalkuthu, Madupatty, Chimony Dam, Kut-taidi Tail Race, Malankara, Brahmapuram and Malampuzha. Out of the nine projects, in the case of eight projects, the PPAs have been signed. Only one project is under the Kerala State Electricity Board. The Brahmapuram project will be commissioned with 40 MW very soon. Before March, 1997, 220 MW will be commissioned. There is no project pending with the Central Government. Recently we cleared the Ambalamugal project with 160 MW. After receiving the proposal on naphtha from the Petroleum Ministry, we invited proposals from the State Electricity Boards. Because of this, many projects are pending with the Central Government. On 5000 MW of naphtha project, we had to spend Rs. 2000 crores. Naphtha has to be imported because the domestic production has reduced. I am pursuing this with the Ministry of Petroleum. There was to be a meeting of the Committee of Secretaries yesterday. But it was postponed. I think this would be

finalised within a week or ten days. No other project is pending ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: What about the share from the Central Pool?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Generally, allocation is made depending upon previous five years' consumption and the Gadgil formula. The State Governments request the Central Government on the basis of some conditions. The situation is the same in the case of other Southern States also. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are also facing a similar kind of situation. We reduced the Tamil Nadu share after receiving a representation from the hon. Members from Kerala. The shortage in Andhra Pradesh is 25.9. In Karnataka, it is 26.5. In Kerala, it is 27.5. In Tamil Nadu, it is 15.2. The total shrotaga is 22.7 in the case of the Southern States. We reduced Tamil Nadu's quota and gave it to Kerala. We are drawing power from Ramagundam, Kalpakkam and Neyveli Lignite power stations. Kerala is dependent upon the hydro-based projects. We are clearing these projects from time to time. Recently we cleared the Kayamkulam project.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The only project that is pending is the Poringalkuthu project which is hydro-based project. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would take the initiative so as to help the State of Kerala. The Poringalkuthu project should be cleared at the earliest. the Environment Minstry has also given its clearnce.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: The Poringalkuthu is a 220 MW project. It was rejected two times by the Environment Ministry. It was rejected in the month of June, 1996. In spite of that, the Ministry approached me and the hon. Members of parliament of the State also approached me. I convened a meeting with the concerned Minister. A Committee has been set up and this Committee is again reviewing the project in consultation with the Minister of Environment and Forests.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that he has given clearance for Kayamkulam project for which I am thankful to him. May I know what is the fuel linkage of the Kayamkulam project? Is it coal or oil? And what is the time limit for the completion of the project? Sir, the request for sanctioning a power project proposed by the Cochin Oil Refinery also is still pending for clearance. The Petroleum Minister is laughing. He knows the subject. This project is supposed to produce 500 MW of power. Sir, fuel linkage is a problem in the State of Kerala since the State has no fuel. But in Cochin Oil Refinery, we are having residue oil. It is the cheapest source of oil available in the State of Kerala. Therefore, I request the Minister to see to it that the clearance of the Cochin Refinery proposal is immediately considered by the Government of India. There is also one more thing. I met the Forest Minister with regard to clearance of Pooyankutty project. He has assured me that a review committee will be appointed. Earlier the decision was taken without consulting the concerned Government. Therefore, I made a request to the Minister. He has not consulted it. In our State, only 60 per cent of the hydro resources have been utilised and 40 per cent are yet to be utilised. In the present Indian scenario, we are lagging behind in the utilisation of hydro resources as a result of which the cost of power is going up. Therefore, the national power policy has been to see that hydro power is developed. In that context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether (a) a review committee will be appointed immediately; and (b) the refinery project will be cleared. I would also like the Minister to say about the fuel linkage in the case of the Kayamkulam project.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Regarding Cochin Refinery project, the hon. Minister of Petroleum is very much here. I would request him to look into it. As far as Cochin region is concerned, the KSEB has signed an MOU for a 500 MW

project. But, so far, the PPA has not been cleared. I request the hon. Member to pursue with the Government as regards finalisation of the PPA. Almost all the projects in Kerala are based on the hydro sector. Recently, the Government constituted a committee for framing a policy. The present Government is also encouraging hydro sector as compared to thermal sector. Regarding fuel linkage, it is naphtha for the Kayamkulam project. It is expected to be completed by 2,000 A.D.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, an unprecedented situation has arisen in Kerala. Even during rainy season there is no electricity available there. The basic reason for that is that till now all projects were hydro-based, but ever since permission has been denied for the Silent Valley project, project a problem has been created. In the context of the situation where no more hydro-electric projects are possible in a big way in Kerala, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to go in a big way for either gas-based or nuclear-based or non-conventional energy-based projects. Regarding these sources, are there any specific projects? This is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question specifically relates to quota from the Central Pool. The State Government had demanded that it should be increased from 15 per cent to 50 per cent. The Centre has increased it to 22 per cent. And this is only up to 31.8.1996. Now, 30.8.96 is over. What is the position now? Would you continue it for some more time? This situation is continuing in Kerala. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is prepared to give an assurance that this additional power that you have sanctioned, i.e., from 15 per cent to 22 per cent — the Minister was saying that it is 27 per cent, but it is written here as 22 per cent only, which is a real thing — will be continued at least for some more time.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has rightly said that this year the on-set of monsoon in Kerala was very late, and as a result of that, the level of three reservoirs, namely, Idukki, Sabarigiri and Idamalayar went down. As on 31.8.96, the level of Idukki reservoir was 716.52 against the full reservoir level of 732.43. Similarly, the level of other two reservoirs also decreased. As you know, Kerala is greatly dependent on hydro-power. Due to decrease in the level of these reservoirs, power generation was affected in the State.

As far as his second supplementary is concerned, the quota is only 22 per cent. Previously, it was extended from 22nd June to July. Sir, we have extended it ten times because already 460 megawatt...

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: 31.8.96 is over. What is the latest position?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Previously, we had given the clearance up to 31.7.96 and it was extended up to 31.8.96. After receiving the representation from Kerala, we will consider further extension, Sir.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Sir, on 22nd November, 1995 the then Government of Kerala convened a meeting of the Members of Parliament and there they circulated a Note in which they stated that the clearance of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for Kayamkulam Project has been received on 31.7.95. Recently, it has been reported in newspapers that that clearance for Kayamkulam project has been given again. We were told that the Cabinet clearance was given in 1995, but again it has been reported in newspapers that the clearance has been given. If at all any clearance was given, when was it given; This is what I want to know from the hon. Minister.

The second part of my question is this. Months back, the State Government of West Bengal promised to give some power to Kerala, as the Kerala Government

had requested for the same. As you know, in both the States, the same party is in power. So, they may not bother about some flow of power from Bengal to Kerala. Anyway, we could not get it. The power has not reached Kerala so far. It may be due to lack of transmission system, as the Centrally operated and owned transmission system has not been completed as yet. I would like to know from the Minister as to when it will be completed. Has the Government any intention to complete it early? If so, by when will it be completed?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, the Kayamkulam project was previously cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for Indian institutional funding. Later, the World Bank also agreed to fund it. After the World Bank's acceptance we again sent a proposal to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 23.8.96. The Committee approved it on 4.9.1996. As far as supply of power from West Bengal is concerned, we will examine it.

Refund of Money Paid to D.D.A. for conversion of lease hold property into free-hold

*562. **SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA has recently issued a notification giving 25% rebate upto 31st August, 1996, to the lease holders who opt for conversion of their properties into free-hold;

(b) if so, whether the lease holders who have got converted their properties into free-hold and got the property deeds duly executed would also be given 25% refund of the money they have paid to DDA; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATES-