

Anakkayam is another small project of 8 MW. These are the small projects.

' Today, in the power sector, the cheapest power available is hydel. If you talk at the national plane, the Government has decided that the main emphasis would be given to the hydel projects because they are the cheapest and without any pollution. Therefore, the CEA has decided to give preference to the hydel projects. How-ever, nothing is being done in our State. Madam. I request the Government of India, through you to see that Kerala is also taken as a part of India. I know that there is deficiency of power in India. Ten per cent is our deficiency. It was talked that in the Seventh Plan and Eighth Plan, big steps will be taken for power development. But the CEA recommendations are not being heeded by the Government of India. The C.E.A. has suggested 48,066 MW for the Eighth Plan. But the Government of India is planning to produce only 38,000 MW. Therefore, deficiency is inbuilt in the case of India. If you cannot cope up with the present demand for power how can India progress? You are talking of going forward, etc. etc. But in the 21st century you will be providing candles to the houses and that the modernisation you will be visualising if the power sector is not taken seriously. I am requesting the Government of India to see that sanction is given immediately to the State of Kerala for starting the oil-based power project. Half a percent of oil which is produced in India can be given to the State of Kerala for starting this small project. Also, sanction should be given for the pending projects immediately. Sanction should also be given for the construction of NTPC line from Bangalore to Mysore on priority basis. The State has been experiencing difficulties in availing of its full quota which is being given by the Centre. Therefore, Madam, I request the Government of India to see that this problem of transmission of Central quota power from the Central projects to the State is taken up. Secondly, projects like the Pooyam-

kutty as well as the oil-based thermal project should also be given immediate clearance. This is the demand I make. I hope, Madam, you will also put your weight to see that this is sanctioned by the Government of India.

Need to Release a Commemorative Postage Stamp of Shri Muzaffar Ahmed on his Birth Centenary

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, through you, I request the Union Government to release a commemorative postage stamp on Shri Muzaffar Ahmed on the occasion of his birth centenary year ending on the 5th August, 1989.

Madam, this year is the first birth centenary year of Shri Muzaffar Ahmed which will end on 5th August, 1989. Madam. Shri Muzaffar Ahmed was born on 5th August, 1889, in the erstwhile East Bengal, now Bangladesh. He was one of the most famous outstanding personalities of this century. He was a great patriot, freedom fighter, pioneer of Communist movement in India, one of the founders of the Communist Party in India, afterwards one of the topmost leaders of the Communist Party (Marxist), and adored and revered by millions and millions of oppressed people, freedom-loving people of India. He dedicated this life for the cause of country's freedom and emancipation of the oppressed people, a hero of the historic 'Kanpur Conspiracy Case', and suffered many years of imprisonment and underground life. The heritage he left for the posterity will be cherished by the country. So, it is most fitting that a commemorative stamp be issued on the occasion of his birth centenary.

Madam, I would like to quote the Obituary Reference passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 18th December 1973, with Mr. Dy. Speaker in the Chair-

"MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have to announce with

[Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee]

great sorrow the sad demise of Shri Muzaffar Ahmed at Calcutta this morning. He died at the age of 85.

As you know, he belonged to the old guard, was a great freedom fighter a man who had dedicated his life to the cause of the downtrodden and uplift of the poor. He was the Secretary of the Communist Party of India and was highly respected by all the parties.

He was, as I said, a great freedom fighter and we can never forget his contribution to the cause of independence. Besides that, he was a great literary figure. He was the editor of NAVYUG and author of many books. He was the inspiration to many of our leaders and public men. In his death, we have lost one of the top leaders and a top public figure in this country.

On behalf of all of us, I extend our deep sympathies and sense of sorrow to the bereaved family. The House will join me in conveying our sense of sorrow, as I have mentioned, to his family.

We will rise as a mark of respect to his memory." Madam, the Members then stood in silence for a short while.

Madam, this is how the Lok Sabha expressed their respect to Shri Muzaffar Ahmed.

Madam, 'WHO IS WHO OF DELHI' has this entry on Shri Muzaffar Ahmed;

"AHMED, MUZAFFAR; Politician (b.1889)U Top Communist leader and member, National Council CPI. Was educated at Noakhali Zilla School and Bangabasi College, Calcutta. Joined Communist Party at its inception in 1921. Was editor of Bangali daily, NAVYUG (1920): arrested and jailed in Cawnpore Communist conspiracy case (1924); Editor Bengali weekly, LANGAL (1926), GANAVAN! (1920-28). Elected Vice-

President of AITUC (1928-29). Arrested and convicted in Meerut Communist conspiracy case (1929—33); elected President All India Kisan Sabha (1945—47); member State Secretariat, West Bengal Communist Party, National Council, Communist Party of India. CPI delegate to 40th anniversary, of October Revolution, Moscow."

Madam, with this I would also like to mention that this year falls the birth centenary of Khudiram Basu the great martyr of freedom struggle in India, along with the birth centenary of Pandit Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Muzaffar Ahmed and some other great personalities. It is welcome that the Union Government is celebrating Pandit Nehru's birth centenary. We all hope that the birth centenary of Khudiram Basu and others will also be celebrated by the Union Government and a reasonable amount will be allocated for these things.

I understand that the Students Federation of India West Bengal State have already sent one memorandum in this connection to the Indian Government. Madam, we hope the Government of India will release a commemorative postage stamp on Shri Muzaffar Ahmad on the occasion of his birth centenary.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I associate myself with the special mention made by Smt. Kanak Mukherjee and request the Government of India to issue a commemorative stamp in his memory.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We all support. We hope the Treasury Benches will also support.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): Yes, yes everybody supports the freedom fighters.

Need for immediate decision on the Recommendations of wage boards for Journalists and Non-Journalists

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh) : Madam Deputy Chairman, with your permission, I wish to raise an issue of urgent public importance, which is causing great anxiety to the country's journalists.

Madam, a few weeks ago journalists and other newspaper employees had approached the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, for an early notification on the Bachhawat wage board after certain modifications. The Prime Minister was kind enough to assure them that a notification would be issued after due consideration, of the demand for modification by the Monsoon session of Parliament. I am glad that the work of processing the recommendations of the Bachhawat Wage Board has been started in right earnest in pursuance of the Prime Minister's orders. But now with only less than two weeks left for the monsoon session to conclude, these journalists and newspaper employees are getting anxious about the fate of the promised notification. This anxiety could grow into a situation of grave concern and jeopardise the industrial peace in newspaper establishments particularly in the context of the statements made by the employers' organisations that they are strongly opposed to the Bachhawat Wage Board recommendations. The Government should not, therefore, allow this anxiety to escalate and come out with a statement immediately on what it is going to do in this matter. If this session is missed, the newspaper employees might have to wait for long to get the recommendations implemented. Already they have waited for nearly five years after the wage board has been constituted. The last wage revision was in 1929. While wages have been revised in several

other industries in the interval at least thrice if not more, it has not been done in our case. Both justice and fairplay demand that the Government take immediate action and make the notification and remove the anxiety. Let the Government make the announcement in this House before the Monsoon Session ends.

Madam, the Working Group for Pension for Journalist and Non-Journalist employees has also submitted its report. Let the Government announce its decision quickly in the matter of pension also and bring forward the necessary legislation before the current monsoon session ends.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) :
मैडम, मैं इसको एसोसिएट करता हूँ और यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि इसको जल्दी अनाउंस किया जाए और इसमें कुछ इम्प्रूवमेंट किया जाए और अनाउंसमेंट के बाद यह देखा जाए कि उसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन ठीक तरह से हो क्योंकि देर करने की वजह से पत्रकारों में बहुत ज्यादा असंतोष है और मैं आपका भी प्रोटेक्शन चाहूंगी कि आप भी इसके बारे में कुछ अपनी तरफ से भी आर्डर करें ताकि इस पर जल्दी ही कोई कार्यवाही हो।... (व्यवधान)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In the last session we had asked for the Bachhawat Committee's report and it has come and it was laid on the last day.

Need to grant Royalty on Oil and Natural Gas extracted from Bombay High to Maharashtra

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : हम लोग तो एसोसिएट करते ही हैं, आप से भी उम्मीद रखते हैं कि आप भी एसोसिएट करें।

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL (Maharashtra): Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to raise a very important issue through you which is about the grant of royalty on oil and natural gas extracted from