

Silent Valley Power Project

7. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have asked the Government of Kerala not to proceed with work on the Silent Valley Power Project; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b) In view of reservations expressed by environmentalists and ecologists all over the world regarding destruction of the Silent Valley forest, which is one of the only remaining tropical rain forests in the world, the Government of Kerala has been requested to stop further work till the matter is discussed with the State Government

Booth capturing incidents

8. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of booth capturing that have been reported throughout the country, State-wise, during the recent Lok Sabha poll; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take for putting an end to this evil practice in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) According to the information furnished by the Election Commission, a total of 58 incidents in the nature of booth capturing was reported in connection with the recently concluded General Election to the Lok Sabha. The State-

wise break up of these incidents is given below:—

Andhra Pradesh	6
Bihar	38
U.P.	14
TOTAL:	58

(b) The Election Commission is convening a meeting of all the Chief Electoral Officers at New Delhi on the 1st of February, 1980, to consider the steps to be taken for the removal of difficulties and bottlenecks in the holding of free and fair elections which were noticed during the recently held General Election to the Lok Sabha, including steps to be taken to put an end to the evil of booth capturing.

Expenditure incurred for holding on elections to the 7th Lok Sabha

9. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the total expenditure incurred for holding on elections to the 7th Lok Sabha and the amount of money spent by each candidate in the election campaign in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The expenditure of the Government on the recently held General Election to the Lok Sabha is estimated at Rs. 52.20 crores. As regards money spent by candidates, under section 78 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the contesting candidates are allowed a period of 30 days from the date of declaration of results for filing the returns of their election expenses.

This period will expire only by the 10th February, 1980 in all cases and hence it will not be possible to collect this information before that date.

(b) The details of the estimated expenditure of the Government on the elections are broadly as given below:—

Revision of Electoral Rolls:—

Rs. 11.71 crores

Conduct of Elections:—

Rs. 40.49 crores.

12 Noon

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Correcting the reply to Unstarred Question 1413 answered on the 12th March, 1979 regarding reinstatement of the Journalists arrested during Emergency.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE): In reply to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 1413 answered on 12-3-1979, it was mentioned that in all 170 persons were arrested and detained under MISA and Defence of India Rules during the Emergency. Detailed information had been given in a statement in respect of 157 persons and information in respect of the remaining 13 persons was to be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha. This assurance has also been fulfilled on 13-12-1979.

The information required had to be collected from the State Governments and one of the State Governments intimated the names of six more persons who had been so detained. The names of these persons

as well as the newspapers/press they represented are given below:—

Name of journalist detained	Name of New paper/Press
Shri Acharya Pranab Brahmachari	Nutan Prithibi
Shri Sankarasan Paul	Nutan Prithibi
Shri Benoy Kumar Sarkar	Agnikshara
Shri Dhirender Nath Mondal:	Pragati Pradip
Shri Debabrata Brahmachari	Joy Jatra
Shri Nagendra Kumar Roy	Joy Jatra

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Madhya Pradesh): Why were they detained by the way?

SHRI V. P. SATHE: Whatever information we have got, I am placing before you. I am holding his brief, Sir.

Similarly on the basis of the information since received from the State Governments, further modification in the statement referred to in paragraph 1 above, may be made as under:—

Sl. No. of the Statement Modification to be made

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| 22 | Shri Saukharya Chandra Shah's name should be deleted since he was not connected with any newspaper nor was he a journalist. |
| 88 and 92 | The names given respectively Shri Kishan Singh Purohit and Shri Kishan Singh Azad refer to one and the same person. |
| 143 | This serial number has to be deleted since no correspondent of Young India mentioned against this item was detained during the Emergency. |