

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : May I know the number of members of this Council and the subjects for consideration by it, and may I also know whether the powers given to the Council are mandatory or recommendatory ?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is only advisory and the subjects that are dealt with are matters connected with the generation, supply and distribution of electricity.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : May I know, Sir, whether the Council will also go into the question of the rates that are prevailing which are different in different States and propose a uniform tariff for all the States?

DR. K. L. RAO : Quite so. This is one of the subjects that can be discussed in the Council.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOP AT INDORE

*ii. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:
SHRI V. M. CHORDIA :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the establishment of an industrial workshop for the blind at Indore under the scheme of "Assistance to Voluntary Associations for the Physically Handicapped"

(b) if so, when the proposal was received; and

(c) whether the decision of the Government of India in the matter has been communicated to the State Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) March, 1967.

(c) Yes, Sir.

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nand Kishore Bhatt.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया :
क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने कितनी मांग की थी और केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उसमें से क्या-क्या स्वीकार किया ?

DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA :
Sir, the Government of Madhya Pradesh recommended the following assistance: working capital for three months Rs. 55,000, construction of buildings Rs. 65,000 and machinery and equipment Rs. 52,000.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया :
केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इसमें क्या किया ?

DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA :
The Government of India has sent a sanction for Rs. 64,750 for the construction of buildings and out of that a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been released. In principle it has been accepted that the request of the associations for the purchase of machinery worth about Rs. 52,500 will be considered when the building is constructed.

LINKING OF ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS TO OVERCOME EMERGENCY STOPPAGES IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

*i2. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the Koyana earthquake and the consequent losses in productivity in the region, the Government of India have any proposal under consideration to link electrical systems in different States to overcome emergency stoppages in industrial production in that region; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The manifold advantages of inter-connection and integrated operation of adjoining power systems on a regional basis in various parts of the country with the ultimate objective of forming an All-India Grid have been recognised and inter-State links taken up for construction from the Third Plan period. In the Western Region which comprises Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, important transmission lines are being constructed to interlink the Grid Systems of neighbouring States. A 220 KV inter-State link from Tarapore Nuclear Power Station to Navasari in Gujarat has been completed. A 220 KV link inter-connecting Tarapore Power Station with the load centres around Bombay is under construction and is expected to be completed by June, 1968. With the completion of these links, Gujarat and Maharashtra States could be operated on an inter-connected basis in the first instance. A 32 KV link inter-connecting Chandni in Madhya Pradesh and Bhusaval in Maharashtra is also under construction and is expected to be completed by December, 1968.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Is it not fact that a large generating capacity, from 23 lakh kw to about 125 lakh kw, has been developed in this country during the last seventeen years and is it not also a fact that proper planning of the distribution lines has not been made? Due to that certain States are experiencing a famine for electricity while certain other States are experiencing an excess of electricity. In view of this may I know whether Government desires to promote the regional grids and join them with a Central grid in the near future? That is one. Secondly is it also a fact, as stated by the Minister of Irrigation himself recently in a conference, that he proposes to put power grids with 6000 to 7000 kilometres on 440 K. V. Lines and 3000 to 4000 kilometres on 220 K.V. lines in the near future? If so, what arrangements for the manufac-

turing of the electrical equipment are being envisaged?

DR. K. L. RAO : Regarding the first question, it is quite true that in our transmission system we have not paid attention to that as much as it should have been done. For example, the cost of transmission should have been equal to that of generation. But unfortunately most often we have not been able to spare more money and the transmission expenditure was even less than 50 per cent in most cases. The hon. Member is quite correct when he said that we have some power in some places but we do not have the transmission lines to make use of them, and therefore it is our endeavour to see that these various power stations are connected as early as possible. Even we have got complete plans for the L and we only hope that in the next few years when we have more finances to spare, we will be able to push on with the programme. For example, in the Maharashtra region there was a heavy dearth of power due to the Koyna earthquake. If only we had connected that and Sharavati, we would not have had shortage of power in Maharashtra. Therefore, we are now thinking of having a transmission line between Kolhapur and Belgaum so that Sharavati and Koyna may be connected.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know from the Government if production worth Rs. 50 lakhs is wasted everyday because of the shutting off of the Koyna power station? Is it possible to connect as envisaged Maharashtra with Mysore? Is it also possible to connect Maharashtra with Gujarat on the high tension lines?

DR. K. L. RAO : Yes, Sir, actually the transmission line now under construction between Bombay and Navsari through Tarapur will give that connection.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know what are the Government's plans regarding setting up a national power grid? By what time they think it will be possible to have a national electricity grid for the whole country?

DR. K. L. RAO : I have stated also that it is our earnest endeavour to see that the whole of India is connected with power grid. We will then be able to make efficient use of the power generated and achieve greater economy. I hope in the course of the next ten years it will be possible to have a very good, united grid all over India.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : In view of the proposed national grid which they are to set up, various transmission lines will have to be laid and it will mean a very big cost to the State Governments. Will the Central Government go to help the State Governments to establish these transmission lines ?

DR. K. L. RAO : That is what the Planning Commission has decided as a sort of policy that the cost of 'inter-State power lines will be given as one hundred per cent loan assistance.

RESOURCES POSITION OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

♦13. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that at the recent meeting of the National Development Council he stated that revenue collection of the Government are running behind the expectations while expenditure continues unabated ; and

(b) If so, what steps are being taken by Government to remove these imbalances and what cooperation the State Chief Ministers have extended to the Centre in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was stated at the last meeting of the National Development Council that the resources position of both the Central and State Governments was likely to show substantial deterioration during the current year, largely on account of sluggishness in receipts and on account of increases in

such expenditure as payment of additional dearness allowance to the Government employees. There was a broad consensus that in order to close the gap in the budgetary resources, efforts should have to be made by both the Central and State Governments to maximise their tax collections and at the same time ensure that the total outlays, both Plan and non-Plan, were kept within the availability of resources.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : In view of this fact that revenue collection is lagging behind and the expenditure is increasing and certain State Chief Ministers are demanding more money, and while it is true that the Centre is not in a position to meet their requirements, under these circumstances may I know what steps are being taken by the Centre to ensure that the taxes are collected, and what other resources are being thought of for raising additional revenue ?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : For that the hon. Member should wait for the Budget.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINA I : May I know from the hon. Finance Minister what steps have been taken to reduce the expenditure and with what result. May I know what the percentage of increase is during the last three years, and compared with the revenue how does it stand ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Periodic scrutiny is undertaken of the expenditure incurred by all Departments of the Government. This is a continuous process of trying to cut down expenditure. This has been going on for the last few years, and the increase purely in administrative expenditure in the last year, which was already given in the Budget papers, is less than in the previous year.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Is it a fact that during the last three years the income-tax arrears are mounting up and the collections are falling ? If this is so, may I know whether this is the way that the Finance Minister has decided to speed up