

and elsewhere who are not well informed as to what the Catholic view is on the subject.

KERALA HYDRO PROJECT

*607. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON:†

SHRI K. DAMODARAN:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power generated in Kerala hydro-projects is not being fully utilised due to lack of transmission facilities; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Kerala State Electricity Board had sought the assistance of the Central Government to obtain transformers of required capacity to enable the Board to supply power to the districts of Kozhikode, Cannanore and Palghat?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Kerala State Electricity Board had originally submitted proposals for import of transformers. However as transformers of the required specifications were being manufactured in the country, the Board was advised to procure them from indigenous sources. Orders for the transformers have been placed accordingly on the indigenous manufacturers. For some items of equipment like instrument transformers which are not yet manufactured in the country, the required foreign exchange was released.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: Since transformers can be got from India itself, these transformers should have been given to Kerala earlier because Kerala now pays so much. It

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Balachandra Menon.

has to pay at the rate of ten paise per unit to Mysore and eight paise per unit to Madras. Why were not steps taken earlier to see that these transformers were given to the Kerala Electricity Board?

DR. K. L. RAO: I entirely agree with the hon. Member that the arrangements must have been made earlier for supplying power to the districts mentioned in the question specifically but I would like to submit to the House that apart from this question of transformers there have been difficulties in Kerala State. Firstly, the generation itself was not sufficient till this year and secondly even now there are not sufficient transmission lines to convey power. These transformers are not the only difficulty; there are other difficulties standing in the way of utilisation of the power that is available in Kerala today.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN: What he wanted to know was what steps the Central Government will take to remove these difficulties of transmission lines, etc.

DR. K. L. RAO: It is true that we should take the earliest opportunity to make these arrangements because Kerala has now got some power and there will be more power available further. It is very necessary to utilise this power and we have got to push on with these transmission lines and other works and we will see that it receives very careful attention.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: Will the Government give priority for these transmission lines, transformers, etc., so that the Kerala Electricity Board is not unnecessarily made to pay a higher amount to other States for the power which they can take from their own source?

DR. K. L. RAO: Quite so. It is no longer necessary to borrow power from Madras. There is sufficient amount of power in Kerala State it-

self and I think in a few years it will be possible to sell power from Kerala to Madras.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: My question is why steps should not be taken to see that the Kerala electricity is taken to the Kerala districts because if you take immediate steps we will not be losing about Rs. 80 lakhs. That is what is required for taking electricity from the Travancore-Cochin area to the Malabar area. Now we have to pay Rs. 80 to Rs. 90 lakhs to Mysore and to Madras. Why should not the Government of India take immediate steps and give priority to this?

DR. K. L. RAO: The hon. Member's suggestion is already engaging our attention and every effort will be made to expedite the completion of transmission lines which are at present under construction.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: There is going to be production of more power in Kerala from Idikki also and I think the first unit will be finished by the end of 1970. Now we find whatever is the amount of power produced, there is so much delay in giving connections to the new factories that are coming up for want of transmission lines. May I know whether the hon. Minister will assure us that he will take early steps to see that we are not faced with such a contingency in the future?

DR. K. L. RAO: Long before the Idikki project comes up, by the time it gives power in the middle of 1970-71, I expect that there will be a full network of transmission lines in Kerala, so that the power generated there will be fully utilised.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: In view of the many difficulties which have arisen may I know whether the Government has laid down any policy regarding such electricity projects which are subsidised cent per cent by the Government of India.

DR. K. L. RAO: In Kerala the actual difficulty is not so much about generation. In Kerala fortunately from this year onwards we have got sufficient power. The main difficulty is about the network of transmission lines, which are insufficient. Of course, as hon. Members are aware, due to the difficult financial position, it is not possible to meet them all at once, but in the case of Kerala it is realised that transmission lines have to be accelerated.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: The difficulties have arisen for want of transformers. It is said that in the Heavy Electricals at Bhopal these transformers are being produced. If it is a fact, why not use the transformers being produced in Bhopal?

DR. K. L. RAO: It is not only because of the transformers the difficulty is there. As I have already said, these transformers are now being manufactured in the country. There are orders for sixteen numbers in this particular case and we expect that these transformers will be commissioned some time about the middle of next year.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: What does the hon. Minister exactly mean by paucity of transmission lines, etc. Does he mean paucity of cables or paucity of poles also? If there is paucity of poles, then Kerala can utilise its vast timber resources. It is no use having the fine type of poles. Even in Soviet Russia I found wooden poles being used.

DR. K. L. RAO: I quite agree with the hon. Member that in the present stage of our development we should utilise other economic resources for the transmission line. For example, the hon. Member was quite right when he said that in Russia they use these wooden poles as a temporary measure, so that they could, in course of time, replace them by concrete or steel poles. That is not the difficulty. Here the difficulty is about aluminium which we have got to import from

outside the country for the wires. At the moment in India the main difficulty is, being a vast country there is always a simultaneous demand. There is great difficulty in finding the funds to meet the demands of the States for these transmission lines everywhere. The same difficulty is there in U.P. In U.P. we have cut down power this year because we do not have sufficient transmission lines. In the case of Rajasthan we could have easily eliminated the difficulties to which they are subjected. If only we had the connection, Delhi could transmit any amount of power to Rajasthan, but we do not have connection between Delhi and Alwar. The result is that though we have the power here, there is starvation of power in Rajasthan. Therefore, it is really a question of a network of transmission lines which we have to build. We are far behind in that. Every effort is being made so far as Kerala is concerned—it is a small State—to have this link. I expect that in the next two years the transmission lines will come up.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: Kerala is paying ten paise to the neighbouring State, but at what rate is Kerala supplying power in the State? May I know whether it is not a fact that it is supplying at five paise per unit?

DR. K. L. RAO: The tariff between Madras and Kerala for the power supply by Madras is not yet settled. It is under negotiation and next month I will be dealing with this question. It is not ten paise as my hon. friend said. It is something more which Madras wants to charge. With regard to the tariff for power which is to be supplied to the people, it depends on the type of load. If it is industry, it is something different, if it is agriculture, it is something different and if it is for domestic consumption it is something else. Therefore, the tariff varies according to the type of load.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: What arrangements are the Government making to meet this demand?

DR. K. L. RAO: I am sure the hon. Member refers to the Kerala question. Here the question pertains to the supply of transformers. As I have already submitted, these transformers are being manufactured locally and they will be supplied soon.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Minister has correctly pointed out that the biggest bottle-neck is the transmission line. May I know what steps the Government has taken to step up the production of poles, cables and other equipment required for erecting transmission lines? I should like to know whether some people in U.P. want licences from the Government of India to produce poles needed for transmission lines, but they are refused licences and their applications are not accepted. Similar may be the position in Kerala. May I know if his Ministry has recommended to the Ministry of Industrial Development that licences for manufacturing the equipment needed for transmission lines should be freely given, so that all the generating capacity in the country can be utilised and electrification of rural areas stepped up?

DR. K. L. RAO: Our main trouble is finance. Generally, according to strict planning, we should provide the same amount of money for transmission as for generation. If we are spending a thousand crore of rupees on generation, we require an additional thousand crore for transmission, but we have not been able to do so because of our tight financial position. It is really not a question of licences, but it is due to our financial difficulty.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: This also is a difficulty.

DR. K. L. RAO: That does not stand in the way. The main difficulty, especially with regard to U.P., is want of funds which they can make available for the transmission lines. That is the tight-rope walking we have to do, somehow get along and see that things get going.