

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० गोबिन्द मेनन) : (क) और (ख) जी हां। हरी पत्तियों से प्रोटीन निकालने की प्रक्रिया का विकास किया गया है और मानव उपभोग के लिये बहुतायत से पैदा होने वाली वनस्पतियों से प्रोटीन निकालने की एक अनुसन्धान परियोजना प्रयोजित की गयी है। आसाम कृषि कालेज, जोरहाट और कृषि कालेज तथा अनुसंधान संस्थान कोयम्बतूर में अनुसन्धान किया जा रहा है। यह परियोजना अभी प्रयोगात्मक अवस्था में है और इस प्रक्रिया को बड़े पैमाने पर लागू करने से पूर्व इस परियोजना पर और अधिक अनुसन्धान कार्य करने की आवश्यकता है।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A process for extracting protein from green leaves has been developed and a research project on extraction of protein from lush vegetation for human consumption, has been sponsored. The research is being carried on at Assam Agriculture College, Jorhat, and Agriculture College and Research Institute, Coimbatore. The project is still in an experimental stage and more research work on this project is required before the process could be considered for implementation on a large scale.]

12 NOON
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

I. CUT IN POWER SUPPLY IN KERALA
RESULTING IN CLOSING OF FACTORIES
AND UNEMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS (Kerala): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the severe cut in power supply in Kerala resulting in the closing down of several factories rendering thousands of workers unemployed.

†[] English translation.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): Sir, because of the failure of the usual monsoons and unprecedented drought, the reservoirs in Kerala did not get completely filled. As a result, the generating capability of the system since the dry weather season of 1966 has dropped to about 14 lakh units per day.

A power cut of 25 per cent on the consumption of electrical energy by all industrial consumers, cinemas and commercial establishments was imposed with effect from 15th November, 1965. From 11th December, 1965, this power cut was enhanced to 50 per cent in the case of industrial consumers and cinemas, 25 per cent cut was imposed on domestic consumers also. Restrictions were imposed on display lightings, street lighting and on connecting up of new loads. Certain categories of consumers like defence service establishments, agricultural loads, other essential services etc., were exempted from the restrictions.

At present there is no proposal for a further cut in Kerala. However, the power position will remain critical till the middle of April, 1966. All industries were allowed three month's quota, based on 50 per cent of their power consumption during October, 1965, to be used as required by them till March, 1966. Most of the industries have exhausted their quota within 2 months and these industries are being disconnected. Several big industries such as M/S. Travancore-Cochin Chemicals, Rare Earths Factory, Kerala Government Ceramics etc., as also various minor industries have been affected.

The exact number of workers affected by the closure of factories as a result of power cuts in Kerala has not been assessed as yet. However it is estimated that roughly about 12,000 workers have been affected.

In order to mitigate the power shortage, arrangements were made to provide Kerala with a part of the surplus power of Mysore over the Madras grid. Kerala is at present drawing an average of 3 lakh units per day from Mysore through Madras transmission system. Construction of a direct 110 KV transmission line from Mangalore in Mysore to Kasergode in Kerala has been taken up on a priority basis. With the commissioning of the first unit of Sholayar Power Station and two units of Sabirigiri by about the

[Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed] middle of April, 1966, it is expected that the position will improve. With the onset of monsoons from June, 1966 onwards, the power supply position in the State is expected to ease considerably.

As the power supply position in the State is entirely dependent on the timely onset and intensity of monsoons, the provision of thermal power station at Cochin to back the hydropower in the State is considered necessary. Steps are being taken to expedite the construction of Cochin Thermal Station.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS : May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that one of the very important factories in Kerala, i.e. FACT was closed from April 1964 to June last and this has become an yearly feature. Because of this there is the request for a thermal plant and this request has been there for so many years. And now it is stated that the thermal station going to be sanctioned is only for 30 MW and even that much is not sanctioned as mentioned in a news item in today's local papers with reference to a statement given by the Governor's Adviser. Is that the fact?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As I have already pointed out, due to shortage of power, cuts had to be imposed on industries. They were allowed a three months' quota, but some of them have used up this three months quota within two months, with the result that the power to them has been disconnected. If the industry mentioned by the hon. Member is one of such industrial units which have utilised the power during these two months, then surely it must have been disconnected. So far as the provision of a thermal plant is concerned, we consider it necessary to back up the hydel power available to this State and for that purpose, already action has been taken. The project has gone through the Technical Advisory Committee and further steps are being taken to expedite the establishing of the thermal plant in the State as early as possible.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS : But my point is that this power cut is a usual feature in that State every year. Why did the Government not anticipate this failure? Even

this grid from Mysore was not taken up early enough. Why was there such slackness in this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : It is a fact that the Kerala aluminium factory has been affected. A number of projects have been sanctioned in Pamba, Sholayar and Idikki. But we should have reservoirs with much more capacity so that there may not be this kind of failure which at present obtains from the existing small stations. In addition to that we envisage a thermal station because of the oil project which gives 40,000 tonnes per year. Therefore we would establish a project which will be backed up with oil, and when more oil is forthcoming and when other sources of energy are forthcoming, then the thermal generation of power will be increased.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: May I know what is the capacity of the thermal station that is being given to Kerala? And one more question I would like to ask. May I know whether the Government is aware that there are about 3,000 small industrial units and there are 60,000 labourers working in these small units? They are all now rendered jobless and they are in difficulties. What steps are the Government taking to see that these people do not starve because they do not get any wages?

DR. K. L. RAO : The thermal station will be of 30 MW. I quite realise that the power cut in Kerala and Rajasthan this year is the most severe. But we do hope that this will not be repeated next year.

SHRI G. MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh): May I know whether the Government is having any plans to have a central grid system to regulate electric power in such a way that in future our industries are not affected by this kind of monsoon failures? We have been planning industries and at the same time we do not make provisions against such break-downs due to want of monsoon or any other natural phenomenon. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in future their planning will be based after taking into consideration such possibilities and something basic will be done to avoid such pitfalls?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true that this kind of failures can be very greatly overcome through a good grid system. At the moment Kerala is not connected well. It is connected with the Madras system which can give only a maximum of 5 lakh units a day. We are trying to connect Mangalore and Kasergode which will give another 1 lakh units a day. This will not be sufficient and we realise that it must have a powerful grid system and it is our ambition to have such a powerful grid system established.

SHRI D. THENGARI (Uttar Pradesh): What is the total amount of compensation for these 12,000 unemployed workers? And secondly, will the Government assure us that the decision regarding the Cochin thermal station will be taken on the advice of experts and not on the advice of politicians.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The question of compensation does not arise. Information was given to the industries concerned beforehand about the shortage of power. And as I have already pointed out earlier, early action is being taken to establish this thermal power station.

SHRI PALAT KUNHI KOYA (Kerala): This matter has been brought here for the last four or five years and we have all along been told that by the end of 1968 almost all the projects in Kerala would be finalised and there would be no trouble. Even at that time we told him that in case of monsoon failure—as it has happened and is happening every time—we would be in difficulty. We wanted a thermal plant to be installed there. First of all, we were told that we would be getting a 100 MW plant. For sometime we did not hear anything and now we are told that we are going to get a 30 MW station. We would like to know as to how long this would take. People are suffering in Kerala which, after all, is a troublesome place. We are having shortage in everything and even power we do not get. People are losing confidence in us. I hope this matter will be taken up immediately so that, whether we have a 100 MW thermal plant or not, we must have one thermal plant there.

DR. K. L. RAO : Kerala is one of the States in the country which have got the best potential for hydro-electric power which is one of the cheap sources of power. Unfortu-

nately, Kerala is located very far from the coalfields. The establishment of a thermal plant depends on oil or coal. We have, therefore, to look to the availability of the material. The refinery would be able to supply us only forty thousand tons of oil and, therefore, this plant of 30 MW capacity has been planned. There is another point which I would like to submit for your consideration. The existing hydro-electric plants are depending upon very small storage. The total amount that we have in the reservoir is only seven thousand million cusec feet and after the plans are completed we will have ten times this capacity. There is greater scope for hydro-electric power and thermal backing will be rarely required if these projects are completed.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN (Kerala): Is it not a fact that the Mysore Government is charging more from Kerala for the power supplied to us than she is charging from Madras?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is not quite accurate. Mysore is collecting the same amount from Kerala as per the energy supplied but the only thing is Madras is adding a little more in order to cover the transmission costs.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL (Delhi) : Sir, the hon. Minister would have noticed that since the last five years things have been going from bad to worse in Kerala. The Energy Survey Committee has also pointed this out. The thing is under examination, I suppose. May I ask the hon. Minister if he is in a position to give an assurance to the House that at least next year the same situation will not be repeated?

DR. K. L. RAO : I have already said, Sir, that the Pamba scheme is being commissioned. We are actually expecting it to be commissioned in the next month. Unfortunately there was a setback in respect of the Sholayar scheme. The machines were being supplied by Yugoslavia. One of the machines supplied had broken a shaft and so the whole thing had to be returned back and that is why the Sholayar scheme did not come up to our target. This is how the trouble has arisen. The Sholayar and Pamba schemes would be completed next year.