

orders would be reviewed. May I know whether these orders have been reviewed or any change has been brought about in this position?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes, certain changes have been brought about and the statement that I have placed on the Table of the Sabha incorporates the latest changes effected.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Am I to understand that the Ministers have not delegated to them any special powers? I believe the entire executive power is vested in the President and the President invests certain powers in the Ministers.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not discuss Cabinet procedure, Government, President and all the rest of it.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: It is not a question of procedure. The hon. Minister says that the Ministry passes the orders and the Cabinet takes the responsibility. But the constitutional position is that all executive authority vests in the President and the President delegates the powers to the Ministers. The Minister delegates the power to the Departmental Heads. Is that not the position?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: An interesting discussion on the Constitution.

THIRD SEMINAR OF ENGINEERS

*410. **SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY:** Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third Seminar of Engineers has made any recommendations with regard to—

- (i) construction of projects;
- (ii) master plan of rural electrification; and
- (iii) research in power problems;

(b) if so, what are these recommendations; and

(c) what decisions have been taken by Government in regard to the implementation of those recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the report of the Co-ordination Committee of Engineers on these three items together with the sub-Committees' reports which contain the recommendations of the Seminar, are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, Annexure No. 82.]

(c) (i) In regard to the appointment of National Construction, a Departmental Committee has been appointed to examine the proposal from all aspects and to work out the details.

(ii) The State Governments have been asked to furnish the particulars necessary for the preparation of the Master Plan for rural electrification and for standardisation of designs for transmission lines, sub-stations, etc.

(iii) A Committee has been appointed to formulate a programme concerning power engineering development for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether the States have submitted the data for rural electrification?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The States have submitted as a part of their Second Five Year Plan certain proposals for rural electrification.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether the Government have accepted the principle of subsidising rural electrification?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The matter is still under consideration but the view of the Planning Commission is that in the first instance the States should try to meet the expenditure

on rural electrification from the Department itself, viz., if there are any profits, they should be ploughed back for this purpose. If they are not in a position to have sufficient funds, then a case may be made out for subsidy.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY Am I to understand from this answer, Sir, that the principle of subsidising rural electrification has been accepted by Government?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, under these conditions.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have taken a decision in the Board of Co-ordination of Ministers, with regard to the standardisation of construction practices and designs?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Not yet.

*411 and *412. [The questioner (Shri Krishnakant Vyas) was absent. For answers vide cols. 2630-2631, infra.]

PROJECT REPORTS ON HEAVY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FACTORY

*413 DR RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken on the project reports received from the two firms for the establishment of the proposed State Heavy Electrical Equipment factory?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): The matter is under consideration and a decision on the selection of consultants is expected to be taken shortly.

DR RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, whether these firms have submitted only ordinary project reports or detailed project reports?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA. Detailed project reports have been submitted by a few firms and negotiations are being carried on at present with two.

CONSTRUCTION OF A CONFERENCE HALL IN NEW DELHI

*414 DR. RAGHUBIR SINH Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to build a Conference Hall in New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the plans for the same have been finalised; and

(c) when its construction work will commence?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) It has already commenced.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, whether the building in which this Hall is to be there will contain anything other than this Hall?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It will contain many other things besides the mere Hall. For instance, the Hall itself will contain a lot of furniture. And there will be different rooms attached to the Hall and there will also be some office rooms.

DR RAGHUBIR SINH: What is the estimated cost of this Hall?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We have gone out for tenders and I think the cost will be anywhere between Rs 30 and 40 lakhs.

DR RAGHUBIR SINH: Is not the cost finalised before the project is sanctioned?