

(b) what recommendations have been made by this Commission to Government so far?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) (a) The Commission is a Body which sits continuously.

(b) The Commission has so far submitted reports on cotton, castor seed and shellac. The recommendation of the Commission with regard to Indian cotton has been accepted and Indian cotton has been brought within the purview of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 with effect from the 30th July 1954. The other recommendations are still under consideration of the Government of India.

PROF. G. RANGA: Has the Commission been provided with adequate secretarial assistance and the necessary staff?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: How much expenditure has been incurred on the Commission so far?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice.

PROF. G. RANGA: Has the Commission been provided with the full strength of membership?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should think so, but I should like to have notice. They made their requirements known about the staff and we have done our best.

*401 [The questioner (Shri Govinda Reddy) was absent. For answer, vide col 2663 infra.]

STATE ELECTRICITY BOARDS

*402. SHRI V. P. RAO: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the reasons why State Electricity Boards have

not been constituted in all the States, and what steps have been taken to constitute such Boards?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI). State Governments have urged different reasons. Some of them are so underdeveloped that they feel that the setting up of an independent Electricity Board is not called for. Difficulties—financial and administrative—have been raised by some others. Yet others consider them unnecessary. The necessity for setting up State Electricity Boards has been impressed upon the State Governments whenever an extension of time was given for the purpose and last extension will expire in March 1955.

SHRI V. P. RAO: Is it not incumbent on the Government to constitute Electricity Boards under the Electricity Act of 1948?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Under that Act such Boards were to be formed within a period of two years but a provision has been made that in suitable cases extension could be given.

SHRI V. P. RAO: May I know whether any representations have been made to constitute such Boards in different States?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, Sir, and three States have already formed such Boards.

SHRI V. P. RAO: Is it a fact that under the rules made under the Electricity Act of 1948 the workers are to be paid one-third of the net profits as bonus where such Electricity Boards are constituted?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I think such a provision is there, but I will have to make sure about it.

SHRI V. P. RAO: May I know whether any such bonus has been paid to

the workers in those places where such Boards have been constituted?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: That is purely a question which rests with the States. I would require notice for collecting information on that.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know which State considered formation of Electricity Boards uncalled for or undesirable?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Madras and Mysore.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know whether it is a fact that the State electricity concerns are running at a loss?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I have no information about that.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is the Government not aware that Madras and Mysore are the most developed States so far as electricity generation is concerned and as such, is it not mysterious that those States do not want to constitute Electricity Boards?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: And therefore, they feel that it is not necessary to constitute Electricity Boards but we have impressed upon them the necessity of forming such Boards.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that they have not preferred to constitute such Electricity Boards because under the rules framed under the Electricity Act of 1948, they have to pay one-third of the profits as bonus to the workers and in order to escape that provision, they are not forming Electricity Boards?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I do not think that is the main consideration.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What is the main consideration for not forming Electricity Boards?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The concerns are running efficiently under their

control, and till power is developed further they think that they might wait.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Are the workers being paid one-third of the profits as bonus enjoined by the rules made under the Electricity Act of 1948?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I have no information. That is purely the concern of the States.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What will be the function of that Board?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: That is all there in the Act.

STANDARDISATION OF THE RATES OF ELECTRICITY

*403. SHRI V. P. RAO: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state whether Government propose to standardise the rates of electricity charged to consumers in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): No, Sir. Uniformity of rates all over the country is impracticable due to inherent variations in cost of generation, transmission and distribution, etc.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the Government proposes to standardise at least the rates of electricity generated through hydro-electric sources?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: That too is not possible; it also depends on the cost of generation, distribution and other things.

SHRI V. P. RAO: Is it a fact that in Madras State the same category of consumers are charged different rates while they are supplied power from the same source?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I do not think they are supplied at different rates but charges may depend upon the various industries