

**Effect of power shortage on Industry and Agriculture**

89. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN  
SAIT:SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP  
SINGH:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing serious power shortage which has badly affected production in industry as well as in agriculture;

(b) if so, what are the main causes for this shortage; and

(c) what measures have been taken to overcome the present crisis in power production?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b). A number of States are presently facing shortage of power which does affect industrial and to some extent agriculture production also. The shortages have arisen due to failure of monsoons resulting in lower availability of power from hydel power stations in some states, increase in load demand particularly in the rural areas due to drought; inadequacy of installed capacity to meet the increasing load demand, prolonged time being taken for stabilization of newly commissioned generating capacity, poor performance of thermal power stations and shortage of coal at some of the thermal power stations.

(c) A number of measures have been taken to improve the availability of power in the country. These measures include:

- (1) maximising generation from the existing thermal installed capacity in the central sector. State Governments have also been advised to

similarly maximise generation from their thermal installed capacity;

- (2) addition of about 17122 MW of new generating capacity during the period 1978-83, of which about 3000 MW has already been commissioned during 1978-79;

- (3) transfer of power from surplus to deficit States;

- (4) Monitoring of coal stocks and ensuring availability of adequate coal to thermal power stations.

**Silent Valley Project**

70. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has not yet taken any decision regarding the Silent Valley project submitted by the Kerala Government;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in taking a decision;

(c) whether any communication has been sent to the State Government from the Centre in this connection; and

(d) if so, the main points thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) to (d). In view of reservations expressed by environmentalists and ecologists all over the world regarding destruction of the Silent Valley forest, which is one of the only remaining tropical rain forests in the world, the Government of Kerala has been requested to stop further work till the matter is discussed with the Central Government.