

SHRIP.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs for standing in for the Home Minister any replying to the points made here.

14.43 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) **Need to give clearance to the Shivasamudram Seasonal Power Scheme of Karnataka**

SHRIG.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur): The Shivasamudram Seasonal Power Scheme proposes construction of a small diversion weir on the right limb of Cauvery and an underground power house on the right bank. The scheme is contemplated as an improved replacement scheme to the existing Shivasamudram Power House on the left bank. The Scheme is designed as a 'run of the river scheme' without any storage. The installed capacity of the Scheme is 270 MW and average annual energy generation is 1590 MW.

The clearance of the project has been held up by the Government of India only because of objection by Tamil Nadu Government. However, the flows into Mettur reservoir in Tamil Nadu will not be affected in any way since waters for power generation is non-consumptive in nature.

Sir, Tamil Nadu Government have sought clearance from CEA for Bhavani-Kattalai Scheme, with an installed capacity of 90 KW, also as a 'run of the river scheme' (with a nominal storage). The Government of Karnataka will have no objection to the clearance of their scheme if along with it, the Karnataka project is also cleared.

The proposed scheme is very attractive

as the cost of generation is very low, i.e. 22 paise only—and no submergence of forest land is involved nor any rehabilitation required.

Hence, I urge the hon. Minister to look into the matter and give clearance to the scheme.

(ii) **Need to reconsider the present Environment Policy for enabling the Speedy development of tribal areas**

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) I.T.D.P. was introduced for the development of the Tribal areas. The present environment policy of the Government makes it difficult to take up construction of roads, carry electric and telephone lines to these areas. Even construction of irrigation projects and canals have become difficult due to environment policy of the Government. The Government are requested to reconsider the policy enabling the speedy development of the Tribal areas.

(iii) **Need for an electronic telephone exchange in Kottayam**

SHRIRAMESH CHENNITHALAL (Kottayam): The people of Kottayam are demanding an electronic telephone exchange (E-10-B) for quite a number of years. This will cost Rs. 10 crores. Five thousand new connections can be provided in the new electronic exchange. The building construction was over several months ago. The total cost of construction is more than Rs. 1 crore. The decision was to start the new electronic exchange on March 31, 1990. Now the decision is changed, without any tangible reason, and the priorities altered. Equipments for the exchange are not yet available. One-thousand-two hundred existing lines in Kottayam exchange are very old, and efficiency is very poor. The total lines in the existing two exchanges in Kottayam are 5,700. The waiting list number is very high. I request the Government to take urgent steps to start the electronic exchange in Kottayam.