

President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Public Health'".

DEMAND NO. 50—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 80,31,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Miscellaneous departments and expenditure under the Ministry of Health'".

DEMAND NO. 121—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,97,76,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of 'Capital outlay of the Ministry of Health'".

***POWER PROJECTS IN BHAKRA NANGAL.**

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the Half-an-hour Discussion. The hon. Member who raises the discussion will have 10 minutes, the hon. Minister will have 10 to 15 minutes and the other hon. Members who have given notices will be allowed one or two questions.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not only the participating States of Punjab and Rajasthan but the entire country is really proud of this mighty and majestic project of Bhakra-Nangal. It is, as a matter of fact, symbolic of our aspirations and determined effort to rehabilitate our economy in a big

way. But, Sir, the House will be amazed to learn how this project is being implemented, particularly in respect of the power side. My question is related to the power project and I will confine my observations to that part only.

I had a simple question, whether on this project which has already cost us crores and crores of rupees there was any agreement between the two participating States. We would like to know what sort of arrangements have been made for the outlay, what sort of arrangement has been made for the management, what sort of arrangement has been made for the procedure to be adopted. We only know in a vague way that we have got a Bhakra Control Board. I do not know who appointed this Board. I do not know to whom this Bhakra Control Board is answerable, whether it is responsible to the legislatures of both the States or not.

You will find, Sir, that originally this scheme was envisaged in 1946 and Rs. 75 crores was the estimated cost. In 1949 it went up to Rs. 133 crores, in 1951-52 it was Rs. 156 crores and in 1955-56 it was Rs. 170 crores. We would like to know whether it is the oligarchy of a few who plan and spend as they like or they are responsible to the legislatures of the States who are to bear the burden of this big project. It is not clear whether the legislatures of these two States were taken into confidence, whether this ever-increasing estimate was placed before them, whether their consent was obtained and whether the Bhakra Control Board is answerable to the legislatures of these two States.

Talking about the power side of it, as far as generation of power is concerned it was agreed that it will be programmed and scheduled in a manner that will enable both the participating States to receive the benefit of it simultaneously. It was in 1953 that the programme was approved. But you will be surprised to know that just the

*Half-An-Hour Discussion.

[Shri Harish Chandra Mathur]

next day of the approval being conveyed, the Planning Commission sent a directive that so far as the Rajasthan part was concerned, it should be kept in abeyance, just to ascertain whether it was productive or not. I do not know whether it is envisaged under the agreement that even after a decision had been arrived at another decision could be taken unilaterally by the Central Government and a part of the implementation of the power project could be kept in abeyance. But it was done.

However, a committee was appointed, and that committee recommended that this project was productive and it should be taken up. You will be surprised to know that it is not only that the Rajasthan Government has gone absolutely uncared for and ignored but deliberate efforts have been made to sabotage the progress of work in the Rajasthan State. I know I am making a very serious charge. It is a very grave charge to say that a deliberate effort was made to retard the progress of the project in a particular State. But with all the sense of responsibility I make the charge, the allegation. It would be sheer madness to say that the Centre or even for that matter, the Government of Punjab was a party to it. But I do maintain that it has happened like this.

In 1955, after everything was settled; the transmission lines were to be constructed right up to the feeding point. That work was entrusted to the Government of Punjab. I do not know for what reason. I do not know what is the position of Rajasthan in this matter. It was entrusted to the Government of Punjab, I am told.

Mr. Speaker: Even inside Rajasthan?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Up to the feeding point from where the power was taken, and the Punjab Chief Engineer placed orders for the construction of certain towers in the

Amritsar workshop. It was in 1955, and they informed the Rajasthan Government and the Central Government. After a little haphazard work in the workshop, the work was stopped on these towers. And nobody knew anything about it. Neither the Centre nor the Rajasthan Government knew anything about it. The Rajasthan Government possibly went to sleep, and they were awakened in 1957, only to know that nothing had been done and the work which had been started had already been stopped.

It is almost fantastic. I do not know what sort of arrangement existed under which such criminal negligence on the part of one and criminal overt act on the part of the other to retard the progress could be possible. The Bhakra-Nangal Board which is supposed to manage the thing is absolutely unaware of the whole situation. Even after that, they wanted certain transformers. A member of the Central Water and Power Commission who had gone out to foreign countries for procuring the equipment for the Heavy Electrical Equipment Factory at Bhopal, was asked by the Rajasthan Government to procure the transformers. But the Chief Engineer of Punjab, who was with the Member, stated that these transformers need not be procured because the service station equipment for the project would be available any time and that the transformers were superfluous. And so, the transformers were not obtained. But the result today is that the service station equipment is not there. The transformers are not there. The entire area of Rajasthan which should have received the electric supply in April, 1956, has not received it to this day. I am doubtful whether it has any prospects of receiving it even by the end of this year.

This is the sort of thing which has been going on. I do not know what is the sort of agreement which has been entered into, what is the sort of managing agency which has been put

up, and how it is being conducted. I asked the hon. Minister who is so dynamic and who is so helpful and who is always trying to answer me, for a certain information on transmission lines in respect of the Bhakra-Nangal and Chambal, and inspite of trying for four months to collect the information, he has not been able to collect it. This clearly indicates that there is something very rotten which must be remedied.

Sir, apart from this, we would like to know what steps are being taken now to ensure that the leeway is made good in future. What steps are taken to punish the officers for corruption, where not only one or two individuals are concerned, but where welfare of a few thousands is concerned? What steps is the Bhakra-Nangal Control Board or the Central Ministry going to take against those officers, those high officers, who have just retarded the progress of the entire country? The result is that we have not got the electricity in the good year 1958; the result is that we are spending in Rajasthan lakhs of rupees more on absolutely out-dated power-houses, because they have to continue the generation. The cost of generation is more than ten times of what it would have been otherwise. It is not able to catch up with the industrialisation which would have been there.

We would like to know whether all these facts which I have stated, and which make out a very serious and grave charge, are correct or not, how the Minister would explain them and what steps are going to be taken in future to see that all the loss which we have sustained is made good, because interest is accumulating; you will be surprised that even now the interest runs to crores of rupees, though the Rajasthan Government have not received any benefit even to this day.

There is one other small point which I would like to refer to. Apart from these participating States, there

are other beneficiaries also. I have not the time to tell you how the other beneficiaries are being assisted to get a better supply and also get a preference even over the participating States. I shall not mention at the present moment the fertiliser factory and the heavy water factory which is being established at Bhakra-Nangal; there is a tussle going on about the rate at which the electricity should be supplied. Who is the deciding authority? I would like to know.

In spite of the fact that Rajasthan has to receive only about 15,000 k.w. Delhi has already got 20,000 k.w. and Delhi is insisting on another 4,000 k.w. Rajasthan which should get preference does insist that this 4,000 k.w. should not be made available to Delhi. Rajasthan has got a preferential claim, and it should be given to Rajasthan. But I understand that the Centre is insisting that this power should be made available to Delhi.

I would like the Minister to throw light on all these points.

Shri J. R. Mehta (Jodhpur): My hon. friend Shri Harish Chandra Mathur has almost covered the entire ground, and, therefore, I shall only try to formulate what he has said in the form of questions.

An Hon. Member: There is no quorum.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members should continue to sit in the House. If one after the other goes away, then they will take away the quorum.

Shri J. R. Mehta: I want to know:

- (i) whether it is correct that, according to the original programme, work on setting up transmission towers was to be started as early as 1955, but that, as a matter of fact, it was not started till the middle of 1957;

[Shri J. R. Mehta]

- (ii) whether it is correct that, according to the original programme, power from Bhakra-Nangal should have been made available by April, 1956, but that, as a matter of fact, it has not been made available so far;
- (iii) what factors were responsible for the inordinate delay in either case, and if the delay was due to callous or deliberate neglect or indifference on the part of some officers, as suggested by the hon. Member who initiated the discussion, what action Government propose to take against them; and
- (iv) what action the Central Government contemplate to take to expedite matters now, and to make amends for the delay so far as this may be possible.

Further, will Government be pleased to give an assurance that no power from Bhakra beyond what has already been agreed to by the participating States will be given to other States or localities without similar consent on the part of the participating States and that if any extra power is available, the needs of Rajasthan will be given preference?

Shri Rameshwar Tantia (Sikar): I want to ask two questions in regard to the Bhakra-Nangal project. The first question is this. What are the reasons for the delay in the supply of Bhakra-Nangal power to Rajasthan, and by what time will the full supply be made?

My second question is this. As Rajasthan is getting a good part of the Bhakra-Nangal power, for districts like Sekawati and Churu where the land is high and no canal is possible, will Government consider the question of supplying power at cheap rates so as to enable them to have their lands irrigated by tube-wells?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I agree with my hon. friend, Shri Harish Chandra Mathur, that there has been some delay, and I might even agree, delay which cannot be justified so far as the supply of power to Rajasthan is concerned. I am extremely sorry about it. I can assure him that ever since I have taken up this Ministry, right during the last ten months I do not know how many letters have been exchanged that that part of project should be implemented both by Rajasthan and Punjab as quickly as possible.

Now, in the few minutes at my disposal, I would tell him what exactly is the position. One thing which possibly I might deal in my reply to the cut motions day after tomorrow is—that so far as this arrangement of the Control Board is concerned, I am not very happy about it. The legal sanctions behind it etc. are matters which really call for some kind of explanation. But there it is. The House has done it, accepted it and it is going on. Therefore, I do not wish to take the time just now to say exactly how it could be done because it relates to two States and not one State.

Now, I could assure the hon. Member about one thing. He raised the point as to whether there was any agreement between the Rajasthan Government and the Punjab Government as to the allocation of this power etc. and at what stage it had come. I must say that no formal agreement has been executed so far between the Government of Punjab and the Government of Rajasthan. An agreement does exist in regard to the sharing of the expenditure and the benefits (*Interruption*). He will just have some patience. I will come presently to the question as to when exactly the legal agreement will be executed.

A decision was taken as far back as 1951 according to which each partner would be entitled to receive as a matter of right, subject to the use in its own area up to a maximum of the electricity available, calculated in proportion to its share of stored water supply. This decision was taken by the Bhakra Control Board on which Rajasthan is represented. It was formally confirmed by the Government of Rajasthan and formally concurred in by that Government in 1951. In accordance with this decision, the share of Punjab and Rajasthan in the electricity produced from Bhakra is 84.78 per cent. for Punjab and 15.22 per cent. for Rajasthan. I have intimated this in reply to a question that was asked.

But this proportion is, however, to be calculated after deducting the allocation made to a common pool which consists of power required for the Nangal Fertiliser Factory, Delhi, water and so on. Now, that also has been decided by the Control Board. Therefore, the common pool has to be removed first before we come to the proportion as to how power is to be allocated between Rajasthan and Punjab States. Whether it was good or bad is a different thing, but the Control Board, being in supreme command so far as that part of it is concerned, have done it, and Rajasthan is a party to it.

So far as the actual instrument is concerned, it has got to be entered into by both the States. No doubt, there has been some delay in the execution of a formal agreement. A draft agreement was prepared, but before it could be finalised, owing to the reorganisation of States and the consequent merger of PEPSU with Punjab, it had to be recast, because instead of three participants, the number of participants was reduced to two. Therefore, the whole agreement has to be recast. That explains the delay. It is expected that a formal agreement based on the decisions already taken in 1951 will be signed fairly soon.

That brings me to the question as to why these power transmission lines etc., to which my hon. friend made a reference, were not completed in time, and to what extent the Punjab State is responsible and to what extent his own State, the Rajasthan State, is also responsible for that. Unless Rajasthan was ready to take that power for its utilisation, it was no use giving that power to it.

I think the fault lies on both sides, because there is something that Punjab has not done and there is something which Rajasthan has not done. The supply of power to Rajasthan has to be transmitted through various transmission lines, some of which were to be constructed by Punjab, and others by Rajasthan. The transmission lines from Hansi to Rajgarh via Hissar, from Muktsar to Sri Ganganagar and associated sub-stations are to be constructed by the Punjab Government, as he rightly said. The lines from Rajgarh to Ratangarh and from Ratangarh to Bikaner together with all the associated sub-stations and the entire distribution system for supply of power from Sri Ganganagar, Rajgarh, Ratangarh, Bikaner etc. are the responsibility of the Government of Rajasthan. Both the State Governments, namely, the Punjab Government and the Rajasthan Government have failed, each in implementing that part of their responsibilities in this connection. It is extremely regretful that for various reasons, the construction of these lines, their associated sub-stations and the distribution scheme has been behind schedule both in the portion over which the Punjab Government is responsible as also in the area which is the responsibility of Rajasthan. The main reasons for the delay and how they have to be got round are:

(1) certain changes in the route of the Muktsar and Sri Ganganagar lines that came about as a result of the re-examination of the project.

[Shri S. K. Patil]

(2) the necessity of rectifying certain technical defects discovered in the prototype towers; and

(3) the non-availability of steel for fabricating the transmission towers.

Now, this is the difficulty that comes at every stage. If the steel is not available, with the best will in the world of this Ministry, and also the hon. Member, things cannot progress. The difficulty is being slowly obviated. As the House is aware, there is an overall shortage of steel in the country and special types of steel are required for the transmission towers. In spite of our best efforts in this regard and of the co-operation given to us by the Iron and Steel Controller, we are still short of about 488 tons of steel required for this purpose, out of a total of 1,800 tons. Though the primary responsibility for the extension of the transmission lines in the Punjab area rests with the Punjab Government, I am advised that even though these lines had been constructed and the power made available to Rajasthan, Rajasthan is unable to make use of any power because of lack of distribution and transmission system, in their own areas, except with a possible utilisation of 1500 k.w. only in the town of Sri Ganganagar; and perhaps they might have also utilised about 500 to 1000 k.w. in Pilani. But again the distribution line between Rajgarh and Pilani is not yet ready.

After allowing reasonable time for the supply of materials and the construction of transmission lines, it is estimated that the Rajasthan portion of the work may be completed by mid-1959, by which time also the Punjab portion will be completed. Therefore, the hon. Member will agree with me that out of the 15,000 or 18,000 k.w. which will be the power that Rajasthan State will receive, they could have used by any stretch of imagination only 1500 k.w. in one

place, another 500 k.w. in another place, that is, Pilani.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: This was the demand in 1949 and if they had received they would have taken up not 500 but 1000 k.w.

Shri S. K. Patil: The hon. Member is just bringing a pointed reference to it. The availability of steel is really the stumbling block; without it these things could not be done. (Interruption).

He can ask questions and I will answer him. But, now, I may be cut in the process of argument.

What about the non-participating States and places like Delhi and the common pool, where they come in preference to others. The hon. Member will agree with me that this was at the suggestion of the Control Board. It may mean that a few years ago the engineers had not thought that the power that will be generated in Nangal would be consumed very soon. On the contrary, they were thinking that possibly it may not be consumed and they requested the Delhi Administration and the Central Government not to produce power in Delhi by diesel engines or steam or whatever method it may be because the Bhakra-Nangal power would be available and they wanted a market for that. Therefore, the plans which the Delhi Administration and the Central Government had in regard to this city of Delhi were set aside in order that we could get this power from them. It is at the request of the Control Board, in which both the participant States are there, that this has been done. And, surely, Delhi is also entitled to some amount of power although it may not be a participating State; also Himachal and other places. But, that is not at the cost of Rajasthan, though, ultimately, it may mean that it may make a difference of 2,000 to 3,000 k.w. in the proportion in which the power is given. Therefore, this has been done. It is not that something that was due

to Rajasthan was taken to Delhi. It was not so. Delhi is entitled to 60,000 kws. out of this total pool. We are drawing only 20,000 kws. today. Delhi is anxious that it should have 40,000 kws. almost immediately if it could get it. If I can really guess as to what the power load of Delhi would be in the near future, I would think it is somewhere of the order of 100,000 kws. not only 40,000 kws. How garrulous and noisy the cities are, and particularly, the capital city. The hon. Member would not be sitting here for one moment if Delhi is kept in the dark and Delhi's requirements are not met. That is the reason as to why this is done.

I do not want to take the time of the House any more. If anything is left out, I can tell him that I would deal with that when I reply to the cut motions, the day after tomorrow.

But he has made a point that Rajasthan is giving crores of rupees and getting nothing. Nothing like that. If he knows the figures, he will be convinced. After all, no State will be asked to pay unless it has got the benefit. Anything might be decided but the liability will be in proportion to the advantages that they have got or will be getting in the future.

The Bhakra power house cost a total of Rs. 19.33 crores, Punjab's share is Rs. 16.39 crores and Rajasthan's share is Rs. 2.94 crores. The Nangal Power House costs Rs. 15 crores. Punjab's share is Rs. 12.80 crores and Rajasthan's Rs. 2.29 crores. The total cost of the transmission system is Rs. 21.47 crores. Punjab's share is Rs. 16.98 crores and Rajasthan's Rs. 4.49 crores. So far as the power section is concerned, the total comes to about Rs. 55.90 or Rs. 56 crores out of which Rs. 46.17 crores is the share of Punjab and only Rs. 9.73 crores is the share of Rajasthan. Up to the end of December 1957—I am not talking of 1954 or 1956, it is only two or three months back—a sum of Rs. 38.37 crores were spent on electricity portion, out of which the share of

Rajasthan is only Rs. 1.41 crores. The hon. Member would then agree with me that although in totality, their liability would be somewhere of the order of Rs. 10 crores, they have paid about a crore of rupees.

I will wind up by saying this. I agree that they have spent in buying this outmoded equipment some money and if it stops at any time it may not be sustaining relief or satisfaction to Rajasthan. But we are trying to remedy the situation as quickly as possible and if we cannot do it in time it is for the reasons given here. If anything is left out, as I said, and if the hon. Members raise these points, I shall be glad to reply to them when I talk on the cut motions.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): The point which the hon. Member made so far as Punjab is concerned, is totally unjustified.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I want to know whether the construction of the towers was stopped without information to Rajasthan or the Bhakra Board. What is the accountability of the Bhakra Control Board to these legislatures?

Shri S. K. Patil: It is rather very unfortunate where these control boards are concerned because our States have not yet learnt the art of doing work together. In a big country like this, it is the first essential thing; they have to learn this. When I say this, I am not criticising the State Governments. When we do something in co-operation, all the States that are participants must learn the first lesson that it is out of co-operation the results will accrue. If they have not done so—and sometimes they appear not to have done so—surely the fault is not that of the Government of India. We are not in the position of a sort of a ring master here wanting every State to do things in a particular fashion. We can advise them, but it is their will ultimately that will prevail.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members know the rules of procedure very well. They must have intimated me earlier. Today, I have no objection. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava may first put his question, and then Shri Karni Singhji.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Hisar): Sir, I do not want to depart from the rule. We will put the ques-

tions tomorrow. The Minister is already said that he will make a reply then.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The questions may be put tomorrow.

17.51 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned
Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday,
25th March, 1958.