

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: As the question has to be viewed in a broad perspective, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that since 15th August, 1947 the primary schools run by the minority communities in the different States have been gradually eliminated and pressures have been created to eliminate them. Funds are being denied by the State Governments. In view of this, may I know whether the Central Government will institute a small committee to make a factual assessment about this progressive elimination of the minority schools run by the minority communities, particularly in the primary section?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: It is true that complaints do come from several areas that the children of the linguistic minorities are not taught in their own mother tongue. Generally the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities tours the different States and the complaints are brought to our notice, or he brings them to the notice of the State Governments and tries to see that such things are rectified.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: My question has not been answered. I asked a specific question whether the Central Government would set up an inquiry committee to go into the problems of the linguistic minorities...

AN HON. MEMBER: A Parliamentary Committee.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Not Parliamentary Committee; any expert committee to go into the problems of the linguistic minorities in regard to their education in their mother tongue at the primary level.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: I do not think any expert committee is necessary, but the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities who is already looking into the matter generally will bestow more thought on this matter. Recently also, at several Zonal Council meetings, it has been brought to the specific notice of the Ministers concerned that, in their respective States, the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities should be received by the Education Secretary or the Minister and whatever he tries to bring to the notice of the State Governments must be looked into, and if any defects are noticed, they must be rectified.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB: The Minister has already agreed that, though it is an accepted policy of the Government that the children belonging to the linguistic minority communities are to be taught in their mother tongue at least upto the primary stage, many of the State Governments are not implementing this; whatever may be the difficulties they are not implementing it *in toto*. For many years even this accepted policy is not being executed by the State Governments. This problem does not rest only with the State Governments. Of course, it is the duty of the State Governments to see that all the linguistic minority groups are taught in their mother tongue. But if that is not implemented, what steps are this Government taking to see that it is executed?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: It would not be correct to say that the State Governments are not providing facilities for the children of the linguistic minorities to study in their own mother tongue. There may be some lapses or defects, whatever you may call them. It is the duty of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities to bring them to their notice. At several Zonal Council meetings this fact is pointedly being brought to their notice and request is being made to them to see that they do not give any scope for complaint.

Setting up of a Thermal Station in Karnataka

*653. **SHRI K. CHIKKALINGAIAH:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1879 on the 7th August, 1974 regarding setting up of Thermal Plants in Karnataka and state:

(a) whether the power system at present in Karnataka being purely hydro-based is ideally suited for meeting the peakloads;

(b) whether the generating stations in Karnataka are inherently designed for providing capacity and the availability of such large peaking capacity in the system makes the location of a thermal station an admirable adjunct in view of the existence of a large number of a high load power intensive industries; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Hydro power stations are suitable for meeting both energy as well as peaking requirements. Hydro stations are, however, better suited for meeting peak loads than thermal stations. In Karnataka the hydro power stations were designed to meet both the energy requirements as well as the peak loads. A thermal power station is not necessarily required for meeting high load factor demands, as these could be equally met by hydro stations. A decision to locate a thermal station as compared to a hydel station would depend on the evaluation of the techno-economic advantages of these two sources of power. The Karnataka Electricity Board is having a feasibility study prepared for a 400 MW coal field station at Mangalore. There is, however, no provision for the thermal station in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Advantage of the existing hydro capacity of Karnataka, for meeting peaking loads, is being taken through the integrated operation of the power systems of the Southern States.

SHRI K. CHIKKALINGAIAH: It may be recalled that, during the last Session of Parliament, on 7th August, 1954, the Minister for Energy, Shri K. C. Pant, had assured in reply to a question raised in regard to the need for a coal-based thermal station in Karnataka, that the C.W.P.C. had been entrusted with the task of preparation of the feasibility report. I would like to know whether it is a fact that a site required near the Mangalore Port is under the active consideration of the Government and this most suitable site, selected by the engineer of the C.W.P.C. and the Karnataka Electricity Board, will be allotted for this purpose. Further, I would like to know whether the feasibility report is prepared and submitted to the Planning Commission through the C.W.P.C.

SHRI K. C. PANT: The reply given to the earlier Unstarred Question referred to by the hon. Member states that the Karnataka State Electricity Board have proposed a thermal power station at Mangalore and they have requested the Central Water and Power Commission to prepare a project report.

Now, the Central Electricity Authority is looking into this matter and the particular aspects which are being considered in connection with this proposal are—to give only some of the important ones, (1) There is no coal in Karnataka, so the suggestion is that coal should come from the Bengal-Bihar coal fields. This is one of the main aspects which is being examined. (2) The availability of potable water as well as water for cooling purposes which is also being examined and (3) It is also being examined whether pit-head stations in a neighbouring State like Andhra may not serve the purpose better than to have a thermal station in Karnataka. All these are being examined and we have not yet come to a decision.

SHRI K. CHIKKALINGAIAH: As Karnataka is also forming a Shipping Corporation similar to the one in Tamil Nadu, transportation of coal will not pose any difficulty. That way every day about 5000 tonnes of coal should be unloaded in Mangalore port.

Another aspect which has been stated in the statement of the Minister is:

“A decision to locate a thermal station as compared to a hydel station would depend on the evaluation of the techno-economic advantages of these two sources of power.”

We have already submitted that transportation of coal by ships to Mangalore will not pose any problem.

Another point that is mentioned in the statement is the integrated operation of the power system. Shall I take it to mean that the Government is actively thinking of forming a National Power Grid in the Southern States on the pattern of the national water grid linking the Ganga with the Kaveri?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I have taken note of the suggestion with regard to transport of coal through coastal shipping.

So far as the other question is concerned, the Southern Regional Grid is already in existence. It is being strengthened and it is functioning well and already there is an integrated working of the hydel system of Karnataka with the neighbouring systems

some of which have a lot of thermal capacity.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: The hydel projects pending in Karnataka are costly and they will take time for completion. In this context, the Karnataka Government and the MPs from the Karnataka have requested the Central Government to locate a thermal project in Mangalore. In this context, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not possible to go in for a thermal project at Mangalore?

SHRI K. C. PANT: It is quite possible to locate a thermal station in Karnataka, but all the aspects have to be studied before reaching a decision and I have indicated some of the factors which have to be studied in depth before arriving at a decision.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: I am sure the hon. Minister is aware that the power generated in Karnataka is entirely hydel power. The Minister might also be aware that Tamil Nadu is having a thermal plant at Tuticorin and coal is going all the way from the Bengal-Bihar belt. Taking cue from that project, he can always transport coal from Bengal-Bihar belt and take it to Mangalore to create thermal power. I want to know what steps he is taking in that direction.

SHRI K. C. PANT: If a thermal power station comes up in Mangalore, naturally coal will have to go there.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: First of all, the hon. Member, Shri Mallanna, said that MPs from Karnataka have made a request for a thermal station at Mangalore. I am also one of the MPs from Karnataka who have not requested for a thermal station. According to a note circulated by our colleague Mr. Shrikantiah the Minister for Power in Karnataka here the outlay will be Rs. 42 crores. May I know from the Minister for Energy whether he has calculated the comparative costs per unit of production of electricity of hydel power and also what is proposed, namely, thermal electrical generation and whether it would not be in the fitness of things to finance the economically feasible project namely, the Kaimidhi project, which at present is suffering for want of funds, as we have been told again and again, so that this is financed

adequately before any other programme is taken into consideration, on the basis of comparative orientation?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Comparison of cost depends upon size of the plant and location and other factors. You cannot compare hydel with thermal station except to say that generally hydel power is cheaper than thermal power. I agree that good-going project should not suffer for want of funds. They should be completed as quickly as possible. At the same time there have to be power-projects in the pipeline which could come up from time to time so that the power requirements of the States are taken care of.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: I want to know from the Minister why the Minister should not make efforts to have artificial rains in the catchment areas and why the Minister should not arrange for cutting down the heights of Western Ghats to attract the rain-bearing clouds to plains and have more rains?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not Minister's department, it is in God's portfolio!

SHRI K. C. PANT: I would like to tell the hon. Member that one attempt was made to create artificial rain in Rihand catchment area some years back but that was not so very successful. I just wanted to tell him about this.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Arising out of the supplementary I want to put a question. Rihand is situated in U.P. which is facing a severe power crisis.

MR. SPEAKER: Mention does not mean that you should put a question.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Is any step taken by the Central Government to overcome the power shortage in U.P.? He has mentioned about Rihand power station which is situated in U.P. I would like to put this question.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question about Karnataka only. Mention of the word Rihand just does not change the scope of the question.