

LOK SABHA

Friday, November 9, 1962/Kartika 18,
1884 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(Re. Q. No. 35)

Mr. Speaker: Shri Surendra Pal Singh.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Sir, in view of the recent developments, I wish to drop the question.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the rates of foreign telegrams—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member, Shri Surendra Pal Singh, has not put the question. Does Shri P. C. Borooah want to put it?

Shri P. C. Borooah: I am put down second in the list. I want to know whether the rates were increased—

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: The others may put the question if they want to. I have expressed my opinion.

Mr. Speaker: I could not follow. Does any other hon. Member want to agree with Shri Surendra Pal Singh?

Shri P. C. Borooah: Since he is the first to put the question and as he has not put it, I think I should follow him.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: I want to put the question.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

1984 (Ai) LSD—1.

Enhanced Rate of Telegrams to Tibet

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*35. { **Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:**
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Solanki:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tibetan Administration has recently increased the rates of foreign telegrams by as much as twenty times, and that this has been done with the express purpose of placing a curb on the communications of the Indian Consulate-General with India;

(b) whether Government of India made any protest to the Chinese Government in the matter; and

(c) if so, what has been China's reaction to the same?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Yes, by about 12 times from 1-9-1962. A statement showing the rates as obtaining prior to 1-9-1962 and from 1-9-1962 is placed on the Table of the House. It is probable that the intention of the Chinese authorities in increasing the rates of telegrams from Tibet to India was to place a further curb on the communications of the Indian Consulate General at Lhasa with India. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 6].

(b) and (c). No protest in this matter has been lodged with the Chinese Government as reciprocal measures have been taken by us. The telegraph rates to Tibet have been increased from 1st November, 1962 and brought on par with the prevailing rates for China.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: What is the nature and extent of the increase effected by the Indian side for telegrams to Tibet or China? The Deputy Minister said that we have also increased the rate.

Mr. Speaker: He said they have been brought on par. Next question.

Iduky Hydro-Electric Project

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 Shri Vasudevan Nair:
 Shri A. K. Gopalan:
 Shri P. Kunhan:
 Shri M. K. Kumaran:
 Shri Warrior:
 Shri Manyanganadan:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the survey of the Iduky Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Project report has been finalised; and

(c) when the work on the Project is likely to begin?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Work will commence after the scheme is cleared by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Power Projects, and approved by the Planning Commission.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know the amount of foreign exchange needed for the implementation of this project and whether the Government have taken up this problem with any other foreign Government so that we can have this project speedily taken up?

Shri Alagesan: A sum of Rs. 300 lakhs has been provided for the purpose of this scheme in the third Plan. I do not have the foreign exchange figure.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether there is any outstanding dispute about the diversion of water

from this river and, if so, when a final decision on this question will be taken?

Shri Alagesan: The Madras Government wanted a certain amount of water to be diverted for irrigation purposes in one of the districts of Madras. This was examined in the CWPC and it was found that it was not a very economical proposition. After that, they have made another proposal without any detriment to the quantum of water that will be available for Kerala. All that has been taken into account for this project in Kerala.

Shri Priya Gupta: May I know if the total electric load required by the railways falling within the jurisdiction of this project in Kerala has been put forward before the Government to be supplied by the Irrigation and Power Ministry?

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to say whether the railways propose to electrify any of their lines in this area. But at the end of the third Plan, we shall have enough power in Kerala and even if any new demand is made, it would be possible to meet it.

Shri Priya Gupta: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: He says he is not able to answer it.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether thought has been given to the question of rehabilitating those peasant settlers who are in the catchment area?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir. I do not think there are many that will have to be removed from this area, because it is mostly in the mountainous region; it is not a very thickly populated region. But such of those as would be affected would be certainly rehabilitated.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether it is not a fact that the experts who have prepared this project report have categorically stated that