

other power plants that we have constructed in Punjab and also in Jammu and Kashmir?

**Shri Alagesan:** The idea is to have a grid connecting Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan etc.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** What about Jammu and Kashmir?

**Shri Alagesan:** That is also in view.

**Mr. Speaker:** No Member from Punjab and Delhi was interested in this question. It is Members from other States who have put questions.

### Beas Project

\*199. **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.A. and the World Bank have agreed to advance a substantial loan to India for the Beas Project; and

(b) if so, what is the amount of the loan, and what are the terms and conditions under which this amount is being advanced to us?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. A. Mehdi):** (a) and (b). The Government of U.S.A. and the World Bank have indicated their willingness to participate in loans of \$33 million and \$23 million, respectively, to meet the foreign exchange requirements of the Beas Project. The negotiations for the terms and conditions for the loans are in progress.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will this loan cover the total foreign exchange requirement for the project?

**Shri S. A. Mehdi:** The total requirement in the Third Plan for this project is about Rs. 28 crores, and these loans would be expected to be something like Rs. 27 crores. For the balance, negotiations are going on.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** When this project is complete, may I know how much area it will irrigate and

also what will be its power generating capacity?

**Shri S. A. Mehdi:** That does not arise out of the question.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** It is for you to decide whether it arises out of the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has no information.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** He can say that.

**Shri D. D. Puri:** May I know if the Beas project is likely to be delayed on account of the present emergency?

**Shri S. A. Mehdi:** No, I do not think so.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will this project be finalised during the Third Plan or will it be carried over to the Fourth Plan? If it is the latter, what part of it will be finalised during the Third Plan period?

**Shri S. A. Mehdi:** This project will be continued in the Fourth Five Year Plan. The Beas link and the canal will both be partly constructed in the Third Plan, and the rest will be done in the Fourth Plan period.

### Thermal Power Stations near Coal Fields

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 { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
 { **Shri S. O. Samanta:**  
 \*200. { **Shri N. R. Laskar:**  
 { **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
 { **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:**  
 { **Shri R. S. Pandey:**

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to set up thermal power stations near the Coal fields;

(b) if so, whether this plan will be implemented during the Third Plan period; and

(c) the number of such power projects to be located and the places where they are to be located?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). The Third Five Year Plan specifically lays down that in order to minimise costs of carriage and to avoid strain on the transport system, it is desirable to locate steam power stations in the vicinity of collieries, washeries and refineries. This policy is being adhered to, as far as possible.

(c) A power station each at Kothagudam in Andhra Pradesh, Chandrapura and Pathratu in Bihar, Kalakote in Jammu & Kashmir, Satpura and Korba in Madhya Pradesh, Neyveli in Madras, Talcher in Orissa and Obra in Uttar Pradesh.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** What is the total estimated cost for all these projects? Will they be set up with indigenous materials or will the machines required for the power houses be imported from abroad?

**Shri Alagesan:** Many of the units in these projects will be commissioned during the Third Five Year Plan. These projects involve a lot of foreign exchange also. That has been made available for all these projects.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** What is the grade of coal that will be used for all these power houses?

**Shri Alagesan:** I have already said in the answer that the idea of locating these stations near the collieries and washeries is to use low grade coal and middlings that will be available from the washeries, because it will be uneconomical to transport this low grade coal and middlings.

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** May I know whether there is any scheme to set up a thermal power station in the Raniganj-Asansol coalfield area?

**Shri Alagesan:** I have mentioned all the power stations we are going to have. I am not able to say about the area mentioned by the hon. Member.

**Mr. Speaker:** Probably his constituency has not been mentioned.

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** It is not my constituency. It is Shri Atulya Ghosh's constituency.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Is it a fact that a new schedule was drawn up for the supply of power plants from Soviet Russia when a Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Union visited this country? If so, do Government propose to distribute some of these power plants and establish them near the coalfields?

**Mr. Speaker:** That would be a different thing.

**Shri Venkatasubbaiah:** What would be the generating capacity of the Ramagundam thermal station, and how long will it take to complete the project?

**Shri Alagesan:** I can give the information to the hon. Member, but I do not have it.

**Mr. Speaker:** If he does not have it, how can he give?

**Shri Alagesan:** I will pass on the information.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a different thing.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** May I know whether the capacity of the thermal stations in the coal fields will be further augmented so as to make up the deficiencies in the other neighbouring States?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes, Sir, after the first phase is complete, the idea is to augment the capacity.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** In view of this emergency.

**Shri Alagesan:** In view of the emergency, we have to construct the first phase; we shall certainly think about it.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** May I know whether the Government have obtained the experts' advice regarding the desirability of having such stations right at the pitheads as the Ministry proposed to have in some cases?

**Shri Alagesan:** That is the main answer. All the stations will be located at the pitheads.

**Shri Warrior:** May I know whether the necessary arrangements with foreign countries have been made to get all the supplies of machinery in time?

**Shri Alagesan:** I have answered that question?

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** One of the proposed stations mentioned I think is in the Kashmir region. May I know, in view of the fact that large-scale mining of coal, I think, has not yet even commenced in Kashmir, if this plan is based on any real estimates?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes. There are coal finds, and it is proposed to mine that coal for the purpose of the power station.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** May I know what progress, if any, has been made with regard to the setting up of this power station at Kalakote where a lot of coal is being worked out nowadays?

**Shri Alagesan:** I am not able to say off-hand.

#### Nationalisation of General Insurance

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\*201. { **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**  
**Shri Warrior:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Sarjoo Pandey:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the nationalisation of the General Insurance business; and

(b) if so, the present state of the proposals?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha):** (a) and (b). Different aspects of the question of nationalisation of

general insurance are being examined by the government and it would take some time before this examination is completed.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** By when is this examination likely to be completed?

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** I cannot give a time-limit. As I said, it is under examination, and only after the examination is complete, the results will be known.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** What is the proportion of non-Indian insurers in the general insurance business as compared to the Indian component?

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** The proportion of non-Indians in the general insurance business is not with me. If a separate question is put, I would be able to answer.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** The hon. Deputy Minister said that certain aspects are being considered. I want to know whether Government have agreed in principle that general insurance should be nationalised?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai):** There is no question of agreeing with the principle before the question is examined.

**Mr. Speaker:** Why should they pursue it? How can the Government come out?

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Then, what are they examining, if they have not decided upon the policy?

**Mr. Speaker:** Whether at all it should be nationalised or not.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I make a submission?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not see any purpose in pursuing it and asking the Government to commit itself in advance whether it would nationalise it or not, because it would have various effects on the economy, and people would take advantage of it.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I am only saying that this question arose because the Prime Minister is reported in the