

scheme is awaiting some technical details from the Kerala State Electricity Board.

(b) Pending finalisation of the scheme, on the advice of the Central Water and Power Commission the Kerala State Electricity Board have started preliminary work and also invited tenders for the generating plant and equipment.

(c) The scheme with an installed capacity of 75,000 kW is expected to be completed in 1966-67.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether the actual construction of this project has been started?

Shri Alagesan: As I said, we have asked the State Electricity Board to go ahead with the preliminary works. So, to that extent, it has started.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know what the hon. Minister means by starting of preliminary works? Does he mean only draughting and designing etc. or does he mean actual construction?

Shri Alagesan: In a hydro-electric project, we have to construct roads and quarters and make other arrangements. These are called preliminary works. We have asked the State Electricity Board to start these works and go ahead with them.

Shri Basumatari: In view of the present emergency, may I know what additional step has been taken by Government to expedite the work?

Shri Alagesan: In fact, we are very much conscious of the need for more power during the emergency, and we are trying our best with the various authorities that are in charge of the power projects to advance these projects as much as possible. Even if it be a matter of a few months, it will be advantageous, and we are taking those steps.

Shri A. V. Raghavan: May I know the foreign exchange involved, and whether any steps have been taken to avoid delay in the release of foreign exchange for this project?

Shri Alagesan: The foreign exchange involved is about Rs. 1.15 crores, and we shall get the foreign exchange necessary for this project.

Srisaillam Hydro-Electric Project

*331. { **Shri Y. D. Singh:**
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Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 554 on the 24th August, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the project report of Srisaillam Hydro-Electric Project has been prepared; and

(b) if so, what percentage of the power requirement of Andhra Pradesh will be met by this project when completed?

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

(b) About 25 per cent of the anticipated demand in 1971.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether the final sanction has been given by this Government for starting this scheme immediately?

Shri Alagesan: No, not yet.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: Since this scheme has been pending for a long time, and since Government are in possession of the comprehensive report now, may I know the reason why Government are delaying the final sanction of this scheme?

Shri Alagesan: The latest report as asked for by the CWIC was received only in October, 1962. It cannot be said that it has been pending. Though the scheme has been under consideration, the project report as such cannot be said to be pending for a long time. This is also included in the various projects which we want to decide as a whole in the Godavari and Krishna rivers. So, we are consulting the State Governments. The report concerned is under examination, and we

propose to take steps quickly in this matter.

Shri Ranga: May I take it that it is the intention of the Government of India to co-operate with the Government of Andhra Pradesh in taking early steps to develop this project?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, we would like to do it as quickly as possible.

Shri Heda: Are Government aware that if a decision on the project is not taken early, the waters would come over the site where the foundation is to be laid? If so, in what way would the decision be expedited?

Shri Alagesan: We are very much aware of that contingency, keeping that in view, we would like to take a decision quickly in the matter.

Dr. K. L. Rai: Is it not a fact that this project does not consume any water and, therefore, there need be no water controversy regarding this? What steps are being taken to expedite this project specially because it has been pending for the last three years? A modified project report might have been received now, but the project as such has been pending for the last three years.

Shri Alagesan: I have already assured the House that we would like to take a quick decision in the matter and I think there is no room for further questions.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy: The hon. Minister was pleased to say that he was awaiting some report from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. May I know what exactly is the information he is still awaiting, because our information is that whatever material has to be provided was supplied long ago by our Government?

Shri Alagesan: I did not say we were waiting for further information.

Surplus Power in the States

*332. **Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of power shortages in some of the States while in some others there is surplus power which is left unutilised;

(b) whether this fact was also brought to light in the recent Conference of the federated chambers of commerce and industry, held in Delhi in September last; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remove such anomalies and also not to allow power going waste?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) While there are power shortage conditions prevailing in some of the States, there is no significant surplus of unutilised power in any area.

(b) The Conference had referred to power shortage condition in some of the regions.

(c) It is proposed to expedite construction schedules of the various power projects, and inter-connect the various State grids to ensure maximum utilisation of the available generating capacity. A few schemes have also been sanctioned to meet the regional power shortage conditions.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether at this Conference said to have been held by the federated chambers of commerce and industry, in which one of the hon. Ministers participated, they had specifically pointed out that in certain areas or States power was going waste which could be utilised? If so, what steps have Government taken thereon?

Shri Alagesan: I have said that there is no significant surplus of power in any area. It so happens that in Rihand and Hirakud there is some power available. We are now diverting that power in agreement with the U.P. and Orissa Governments to the DVC-Bihar-Calcutta area.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know what are the super-grids which have been agreed upon and