

made to utilise the electricity in the areas for which it was meant, and how soon it will be withdrawn from the other areas such as the DVC?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): As far as that area is concerned, that does not require just at this moment as much power as there is. It has to be given to other places.

Shri A. P. Jain: My question has not been answered. It is: What positive efforts, if any, are being made to utilise the surplus in the area for which it is meant?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: Let me put it this way. Already, there are three power houses in that area of the Rihand system and the power is being consumed there. A part of the power which is being produced at the Rihand dam is also going there, and part of it is going elsewhere. Because of it, it cannot be consumed there at present.

Shri A. P. Jain: My question still remains unanswered what positive efforts, if any, are being made to utilise this electricity in the area for which it was meant, so that it may be withdrawn from the other areas where it is being temporarily given?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: That sort of effort is made by the Industries Department, and I believe they are making efforts.

श्री एन बिहारी मेहरा: उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी जिलों में जो टूबवेल हैं उन को रिहन्द डैम से बिजली दी जाने वाली थी। क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि वह दी जा चुकी है ?

Shri Alagesan: I may inform the hon. Member that 4000 kw of power is being utilised now for the tube-wells.

River Boards

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*625. { Shri P. R. Chakraverti;
Shri R. S. Tewari;
Shri Bibhuti Mishra;
Shri Rameshwar Tantia;
Shri P. Venkatasubbalah;
Shri Yashpal Singh;
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the States have agreed to the immediate formation of River Boards for their inter-State rivers for the settlement of disputes over river waters;

(b) if so, when these Boards will be constituted and start functioning; and

(c) the exact nature of the working of these Boards and the sanction that their decision will carry?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Governments concerned with the Mahi, the Mahanadi, the Narmada, the Tapi the Sutlej, the Beas, the Ravi and the Chenab have communicated their concurrence in the proposal of establishing River Boards for these river basins.

(b) Necessary action is being taken and some of these Boards are expected to come into being within a couple of months.

(c) The River Boards will function under the provisions of the River Boards Act, 1956, and the Rules framed thereunder.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti, What will be the exact composition of these boards?

Shri Alagesan: We have appointed an officer on special duty, who is just now going into that question.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know how far the Central Government will associate itself with these river boards that are being set up?

Shri Alagesan: All this has been laid down in the River Boards Act. More than that, the special officer is working out the lines on which the River Boards, when set up, will work.

Shri Basappa: The reason for river water disputes is that more irrigation facilities are given to certain parts at the cost of others by giving clearance to some projects and not to others. Will these mistakes be corrected as a result of the functioning of these boards when they are set up?

Shri Alagesan: The hon. member is just now very much thinking of the Krishna-Godavari dispute.

Shri Basappa: I am referring to all river disputes including Krishna-Godavari.

Shri Alagesan: These River Boards will prepare a plan for the river valley as a whole. In that plan the cooperation of the State Governments will be availed of. It will obviate any dispute that would otherwise arise.

Shri S. S. More: May I know whether the inter-State river disputes will stand referred to these boards for adjudication?

Shri Alagesan: No inter-State river disputes would be referred to these boards. But they will make an attempt in the boards to resolve such disputes when they arise.

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah: By constituting these river boards may I know whether such of those authorities that have been already constituted like the Tungabhadra Project Control Authority, now existing, will be replaced by another river board?

Shri Alagesan: There is no such idea.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Besides settling inter-State disputes, may I know whether these river boards, when they are constituted, will look into other important matters like

training of the river and flood control problems like construction of bunds, etc.?

Shri Alagesan: The function of the river boards is not to give awards in the matter of inter-State river disputes. They are charged with other duties like preparing a river valley plan, working out multi-purpose projects, soil conservation, etc.

श्री यशवान्त सिंह : क्या सरकार ने यह क्या किया है कि इस प्रकार के बोर्ड बनाने से प्राविशलिज्म की भावना उभरती है, जैसा कि परमों पालियामेंट में हुआ ? क्या इन के लिये सरकार किसी आरबिट्रेशन का प्रन्ध नहीं कर सकती जिस से कि यह फैले हो जायें ?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

शिवाई श्रीर विद्युम्ब्री (राफिज मुहम्मद इ. इ. इ.) : ऐसा कोई खतरा नहीं है ।

Shri Jashvant Mehta: When the Government is considering the problem regarding the Narmada river, may I know what has happened to the committee which was appointed by the three States and the Central Government under the chairmanship of Shri H. M. Patel regarding the problem of the Narmada project?

Shri Alagesan: There was no committee appointed. Mr. Patel was asked to look into the question of a suitable authority we might set up for the development of the Narmada valley. He has submitted his report, which is under consideration.

Shri Mansinh P. Patel: What will be the approach of the Government in appointing such river boards, to appoint members from other States not concerned with such inter-State river disputes?

Shri Alagesan: All that is laid down in the River Boards Act and it is also being studied at present by the officer on special duty, about which I mentioned sometime back.