

Judgement of Supreme Court on the Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act.

321. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have challenged the majority decision of the Five-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court striking down the Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act; and

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A Civil Miscellaneous Petition has been filed by the Union of India against the decision of the Supreme Court in Minerva Mills case praying for reconsideration of the matter by a larger Bench of not less than 7 Judges of the Supreme Court

(b) No, Sir. The petition is still pending.

Management in the States Electricity Boards

322. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:

SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mismanagement in the States Electricity Boards has made them Bankrupt; and

(b) if so, the reasons attributable for such crisis and what steps Central Government have taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a): According to the information available with the Ministry of Energy (Department of

Power), the State Electricity Boards (excluding Assam, J&K and Meghalaya, in respect of which final accounts are not available) sustained an aggregate loss of the order of Rs. 271 crores for the five year period ending 31st March, 1979 after providing for interest on Government loans and taking into account Government subvention for rural electrification etc.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

Publicity of Achievements of Government

323. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether the positive achievements of the present Government do not get proper publicity; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI KUMUD BEN JOSHI): (a) and (b). The positive achievements of the Government do get proper publicity through its Media Units viz. Radio, Television, Films Division, Publications Division, Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Directorate of Field Publicity and Song and Drama Division. In so far as coverage in the Press is concerned, it may be stated that Government does not exercise any control over the Press. However, the Government releases through the Press Information Bureau relevant materials on Government's achievements which are made use of by the Press.

Super Thermal Power Station near Raichur

325. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether super thermal power plant is being set up near Raichur;

(b) whether the requisite equipment for the completion of the first phase of the project has been acquired; and

(c) if so, the total amount so far allocated and the progress of work as on 30th October, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) A Thermal Power station is being installed at Raichur with two units of 210 MW each.

(b) Though orders for Boiler and TG have already been placed and some auxiliary equipments have also been ordered, the orders for major critical equipments like coal-handling plant, H.T. switchgear, control and Instrumentation equipment, Water treatment plant, C.W. pump, Ash handling plant etc. have yet to be placed.

(c) Upto March 1980 an expenditure of Rs. 2000 lakhs had been incurred. For 1980-81 an expenditure of Rs. 2000 lakhs is anticipated to be incurred. The site levelling, grading and construction of colony buildings, office buildings, stores and shades is in progress. The main Civil works for Boiler and TG and fabrication of structural steel are yet to commence.

Lift Irrigation Projects in U.P.

326. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:—

(a) the number of lift irrigation projects in Uttar Pradesh financed by the Government of India;

(b) the names of the projects;

(c) funds allotted to these projects; and

(d) the details of progress of work and achievement of targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (d). No. irrigation project is financed by Government of India. Irrigation is a State subject and irrigation projects are planned, investigated, formulated, constructed and financed by the State Governments themselves. A statement based on information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, on Irrigation Lift Pump Canals under Major and Medium Irrigation sector in the State is, laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1335/80].

Silent Valley Project in Kerala

327. SHRI V. S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken on the Silent Valley Project in Kerala;

(b) whether the Kerala Government has suggested any alternative project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) In pursuance of the discussions the Chief Minister of Kerala had with the Prime Minister, it was decided to set up a Joint Committee comprising of representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Kerala to review all the scientific information and make suitable recommendations. The Committee has not completed its task.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Purchase of Crude and Petroleum Products during Iran-Iraq War Crisis

328. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that India has succeeded in her efforts to orga-