

(c) and (e). It is the Government policy to fill in the reservation quota from amongst the suitable SC/ST candidates. Recruitment to the various posts of different categories is regulated in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.

### **Salal Hydro-Electric Project**

8083. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Salal Hydro-electric project which was originally estimated to cost Rs. 55 crores is now expected to cost atleast Rs. 350 crores;

(b) if so, the reasons for such abnormal cost escalation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the first unit should have been commissioned by June, 1975, but has not yet been commissioned;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) by when the project is likely to be completed and commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The estimate of Rs. 55 crores, prepared by the Government of J. & K. in 1968, was for an installed capacity of 270 MW (90×3). The present sanctioned estimate, prepared in 1976 is for an installed capacity of 345 MW (115×3). This estimate is under revision.

(b) In addition to the change in scope which has been responsible for the increase in cost, some of the main reasons are:—

(i) change in designs and quantities of work of Power-House and the penstocks, and construction of additional works as a result of increase in the installed capacity from 270 MW to 345 MW.

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(ii) increase in the cost of electrical works due to escalation in BHEL prices and other associated supplies.

(iii) increase in the cost of electrical works due to increase in scope of transmission and distribution as per detailed studies made in the Central Electricity Authority.

(iv) increase on account of items not provided for or due to inadequate provisions made in the original estimates.

(v) extra-cost of other items of civil works on account of escalation of cost of materials and labour.

(vi) increase in provisions for direction and administration due to increased wages etc.

(c) to (e) According to 1968 estimates, the first unit was to be commissioned by June, 1975. However, according to the revised estimates of 1976, the first unit is to be commissioned by March, 1982. However, in the course of construction serious geological problems were encountered in the foundations of the concrete dam, which has delayed the progress of work. However, all these problems have since been resolved and construction activity on a sustained basis is expected in the future. The project is now scheduled for completion by 1986-87.

### **News item captioned "Coal Shortage Hits Sizing Industry"**

8084. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noticed the report published in the *Times of India*, Bombay dated 27th February, 1981, under the caption "coal shortage hits sizing industry";

(b) has Government of Maharashtra Officially approached the Centre to improve the position of supply of coal to this industry in Ichalkaranji;