

vi) Need to clean the proposals to set up thermal power station at Sagardighi and Budge Budge as also Purulia pumps storage and Balagarh thermal power projects (West Bengal) in 8th Plan itself

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joyngar): Sir, West Bengal, particularly Calcutta, at one time hub of the industrial activity, is at present passing through the throes of acute power shortage. Summer is also on in its full swing. It is high time that something is done to ease the electricity supply situation in this power-famished State. The West Bengal Government had submitted to the Central Electricity Authority proposals for two thermal power stations planned to be set up at Sagardighi and Budge Budge. The State Government has been trying hard to ensure clearance for both the projects.

The 2000 MW Sagardighi project has been waiting clearance since 1985. The clearance of the CEA for the 500 MW Budge Budge project was sought about four months ago. The CEA has, on the other hand, argued that the 2500 MW of thermal capacity proposed to be created in the State will be hopelessly under-utilized. The State Government is, however, worried about how to meet the increased demand at the turn of the century by when the demand-supply gap will widen to 2870 MW. In fact, the gap could be even wider as the old units will produce less and less as they age further. I would, therefore, very strongly support the State Government's demand that the CEA must clear not only the Sagardighi and Budge Budge projects, but also Purulia pumps storage and Balagarh thermal power projects in the 8th Plan itself.

(vii) Need to Clear the Proposals for expanding telephone exchanges in Idukki district, Kerala

SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW (Idukki): Sir, proposals for the expansion of about three dozen telephone exchanges in Idukki district, Kerala are pending with the Government.

Idukki is perhaps the most undeveloped district of Kerala in the matter of transportation and communication. The need for communication facilities in this hilly district, with a dominant feature of deep terrains and valleys cannot be over-emphasised. This district produces a major chunk of the cash crops which earn foreign exchange.

I request the Government that in the interest of the undeveloped district of Idukki it should expedite the clearance of expansion proposals on a top priority basis.

15.15 hrs.

FINANCE BILL 1990—CONTD

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up further discussion on the motion for consideration of the Finance Bill, 1990, moved by Prof. Madhu Dandavate on the 16th May, 1990.

Yes, Mr Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Can I catch your eyes, Sir?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in view of the fact that the Finance Bill after being adopted here has to go to the other House, if the process has to be completed expeditiously I would suggest that we may sit for a longer time. I can reply even in the late evening but the debate on the Finance Bill should be completed today only. That is my request to the entire House through you, Sir.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West): Yes, it is a small problem and I appreciate it. But I would like to say that the time should be adjusted in such a manner that the reply should be completed before 8.00 O' Clock as some hundred Members want to go at 8.00 o' Clock.