

(ii) ALLOCATION OF STEEL AND PIGIRON  
TO TAMIL NADU

SHRI S. A. DORAI SEBASTIAN (Karur): Sir, with your permission, under Rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance:—

In Tamil Nadu, thousands of small units all over the State, just emerging from crippling power-cuts, are facing a fresh crisis because steel and pig iron shortages have surfaced again with full fury. The small units in the State have been allotted only ten to twelve per cent of requirements of pig iron and steel. The normal annual consumption of steel and pig iron is about 10,000 tonnes each, according to the statistics published by the Steel Authority of India. In all India allotment of steel, Tamil Nadu in 1973-74 was the third, next to West Bengal and Gujarat. But in 1978-79 it has tumbled down to occupy the sixth position. During this period, while the share of pig iron and steel for Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa has gone up by more than 600 per cent, Tamil Nadu's share has gone down by 50 per cent. It is worth mentioning that most modern engineering and foundry units with great export potential are located in Tamil Nadu. I demand a statement from the hon. Minister of steel, allocating the required steel and pig iron to Tamil Nadu.

(iii) NEED FOR IMMEDIATE SANCTION  
OF THE SILENT VALLEY HYDRO-  
ELECTRIC PROJECT.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, with your permission, under Rule 377, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Energy to the very strong feelings of protest and apprehensions in the minds of the people of Kerala regarding the reports in some of the press that the Silent Valley Reserve Forest in Kerala is going to be converted into a National Park. As early as in 1973, the Planning Commission had given approval for the Silent Valley Hydro Electric Project, which can generate 522 million units of energy in an year, worth Rs 10 crores. The Government of Kerala had spent about Rs. 2 crores as initial ex-

penditure and in 1976 the work was stopped on a directive from the National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination.

The Silent Valley Project which belongs to the family of multi-purpose river valley projects, described by the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as modern temples of India, can irrigate 25,000 acres of land, promote industrialisation of the backward area of Kerala State and also generate an additional domestic gross product of about Rs. 100 crores. It can also meet the power needs of the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu where the power shortage is very acute. It will be suicidal to overlook the exploring of such a vast source of energy potential which nature has conferred upon us, at a time when the country is going through a severe power shortage.

Sir, the total area required for the Silent Valley Project is only 840 hectares from a total area of 8,952 hectares of Silent Valley Reserve. This clearly means that the Silent Valley Project will hardly affect the proper maintenance of the Reserve Forest and that the proposed National Park can be created along with the implementation of the hydro-electric project. The National Park, therefore, should not be an excuse for denying green signal to the hydro-electric project.

The Kerala Assembly have unanimously requested the Government of India to sanction the project and have also passed the Silent Valley Protected Area Act, in accordance with the safeguards prescribed by the Task Force on Environmental Planning of eastern Ghats.

Under the circumstances, I request the Minister of Energy to immediately give sanction to the Silent Valley Hydro-Electric Project and remove the fears and suspicions in the minds of people in Kerala, and enable to the generation of additional power of 520 million units per year.

(iv) NEED FOR SETTING UP A CASHEW  
BOARD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
CASHEW INDUSTRY.