

industries to give employment to 10,000 labourers and in the interest of the country. Therefore, it is requested that the Hon. Minister for Commerce would be pleased to maintain status-quo or to take necessary immediate steps to buy the material at present Floor prices and allow the producer-exporters to fulfil their pre-canalisation commitments. I hope the hon. Minister will take prompt action in this matter as in the case of other Export Trade where his performance is praiseworthy.

(xv) SILENT VALLY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT IN PHALGHAT, KERALA.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur): I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

Kerala Silent Valley Hydro-Electric Project

The Silent Vally hydro-electric project in Palghat Malapuram district of Kerala is running into rough weather again.

When the preliminary works on the project were commenced there was practically no opposition. However, scientists and naturalists soon began expressing their concern over the possibilities of the "only rain forest" in the country being denuded because of the project coming up there. The task force for the ecological planning of the Western Ghats strongly expressed itself against proceeding with the project as it might create ecological imbalance. It also pointed out an instance of the Tamil Nadu Government dropping a similar project in the Moyar River basin on the ground that it would upset the ecology in the area.

It was only with great reservation that the task force said the Silent Valley project might be sanctioned and that too subject to certain conditions which the Kerala Government would have to fulfil while executing it.

As per the suggestions of the task force, the clear-felling of the forest is to be reduced to the minimum. Trespass into the project area should not be permitted. While goats should not be reared in the area, other types of cattle should be stalled. Adequate measures are also to be taken against forest fire.

All the conditions put forward by the task force were accepted by the Kerala Government and it also agreed to the creation of a 'monitoring Committee' to supervise the implementation of the safeguards suggested. A legislation has already been enacted by the State Government in this regard.

In spite of all these, clearance has not yet been given to the project.

As this project is an important prestigious one, I request the Government to give immediate clearance to the same.

(xvi) FIXATION OF UNIFORM EX-INSTALLATION PRICE OF KEROSENE OIL

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the following matter of urgent public importance.

The ex-installation price of Kerosene oil at Mourigram, Calcutta is about the highest in the entire country. It is Rs. 1229.37 per K.L. at Calcutta as against Rs. 1193.98 for Bombay, Rs. 1196.50 for Cochin, Rs. 1201.78 for Vishakhapatnam, Rs. 1204.40 for Madras etc. This is in spite of the fact that Calcutta has both part and pipeline facilities and nearly refineries. We have been pressing the Government of India that there should be for the time being parity in the installation price of kerosene oil at least at the major ports but ultimately an essential commodity of mass consumption like kerosene oil should be sold throughout the country at more or less a uniform price.

It appears from the press statements of Central Petroleum Minister that the ex-installation price of kerosene oil