

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI N. DENNIS : Sir, the Chief Engineer of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and other authorities have conducted on-the-spot study regarding the feasibility of a Thermal power project at Rajakkamangalam of Kanya Kumari District. Suitable site has also been identified, which is a government land. Previously it was used for salt manufacture and now this land has been kept idle for this purpose. It appears that the authorities are fully satisfied with the proposed site for setting up a thermal power plant at Rajakkamangalam in Kanya Kumari district. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any proposal has been received by the Government in this regard and any representation has also been received from the public in this regard? I would also like to know whether the Government would re-examine its decision and come forward to set up a thermal power plant in Kanya Kumari district.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, the Central Electricity Authority has not received any proposal so far from the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board for setting up a power plant in Kanya Kumari District or for techno-economic clearance by the C.E.A. However, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is examining the possibility of locating a thermal power project at Kanya Kumari. There, they have undertaken survey for locating and investigating a suitable site for a thermal power station with an initial capacity of 2×210 megawatts and ultimate capacity of 5×210 megawatts near Colachel in Kanya Kumari District where a port facility is proposed to be developed. At the moment the port facility proposed to be developed does not exist there. If there is any proposal, then it is with the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and nothing has come to the Central Electricity Authority or the Central Government so far.

SHRI N. DENNIS : Sir, the place referred to earlier is an ideal place for setting up a thermal power project. All the infrastructural facilities are there. Nearness to the Colachel harbour and railway station and other circumstances greatly favour the setting up of a thermal project there. This district is classified as an industrially backward district.

Educated and un-educated unemployment is very high there.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether these aspects will be taken into consideration as additional favourable points for setting up of a thermal power project at Rajakkamangalam in Kanya Kumari district?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : When the proposal comes to us, we will take all these aspects into consideration.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : In India except in one or two States in almost all the States, there is a power constraint. Power is the main important input for an industry and according to our Industrial Policy also, without power we cannot install any industry at all. We are going for mechanised industries and not labour-oriented industries. Thermal power is always costlier than the hydel power. We have exhausted all sources with regard to hydel power. If we go in for thermal power, the cost of production will be more. I think, there is a scheme for using sea water to generate energy as also use the water for drinking purposes. I would like to know whether the Government is going to implement such a scheme.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : It is true that while considering the various sources of energy in the non-conventional area, there is an idea of using sea tide also as a source to help generation of energy like the wind or other sources. But technologically, it has not yet been fully established as to how it can be economical to generate power, but efforts are being made to study the available technology and experience abroad as also in our country. We will definitely see how far we will be able to utilise this source for generating energy. We want to tap every source possible.

[Translation]

Linking of Lucknow with Ayodhya by S.T.D.

*314. **SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to link Lucknow with Ayodhya Telephone

Exchange (Uttar Pradesh) through S.T.D. and

(b) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) Due to limitation of resources, priority is being given to connect District Headquarters to State Capitals. There is no plan at present to link Lucknow with Ayodhya Telephone Exchange through S.T.D.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : Sir, I think it will not be proper to keep Ayodhya, the city of Lord Rama, so low in the list of priorities. Mahatma Gandhi had aimed at establishing *Ram Rajya*. Keeping in view the importance of this city as also my request for linking Ayodhya Exchange with Lucknow and Delhi, will the hon. Minister consider modernisation of this Exchange ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, there is one Exchange in Ayodhya at present having a capacity of 100 lines of which only 61 lines are working and there is no waiting list. If devotees of Rama are anxious, they can get telephone connections.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : Sir, I had raised this question keeping in view the convenience of the tourists visiting this place.

My second supplementary is that a decision to convert Faizabad Telephone Exchange, which is the district headquarter of Ayodhya city, into electronic exchange was taken recently, but it has come to my notice that that decision is now being reversed. Therefore, I would request and like to know, through you, Sir, that what is the present position and by when the proposed electronic exchange would be installed there ?

MR SPEAKER : Let us accede to the request.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked about Ayodhya and Faizabad, the city of Lord Rama and he had also met me. This is a fact that Faizabad is a district headquarter. It has an automatic telephone

exchange as also S.T.D. facility, but there is a suggestion to improve it. We shall certainly consider the suggestion given by the hon. Member

[English]

Viability of Engineering Projects (India) Limited

*316. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :
SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the employees union regarding viability of Engineering Projects (India) Limited, a public sector enterprise ;

(b) if so, the details of the said proposal ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) Engineering Projects (India) Limited Employees Union have given suggestions to the Government for improving the viability of the Company, which include recovery of advances being shown as losses, appointment of a regular Chief Executive, action against corrupt officials and running the Company on a new footing. While taking a final decision on certain proposals for restructuring of the Company which are under consideration, Government will give due consideration to the suggestions made by the Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. Employees Union.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : May I know from the Minister whether any inquiry has been ordered into the losses of the EPI and also against the corrupt officials, as demanded by the Engineering Projects (India) Limited's Employees Union ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : As far as the losses are concerned, the matter is being inquired into and as soon as we are able to identify the people concerned, suitable action will be taken.