

17.23 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER
 —contd.

Shri Lalit Sen: Sir, just a few minutes ago, I was suggesting the setting up of another factory to produce electric equipment. In my humble opinion, electric equipment worth 400 million K.W. should be produced by our factories at Bhopal, Ranipur and Hyderabad. As I mentioned a few minutes ago, we are only going to produce 11 lakh KW worth of equipment at Bhopal by the end of the Fourth Plan and that too is going to be composed of 6 lakh KW worth of thermal equipment and 5 lakh KW worth of hydro equipment. I do not understand how this break-up has come about because in the Fourth Plan also we all know that our coal and transport limitations will impose several difficulties in our way as far as production of thermal power is concerned. I really hope that the hon. Minister in his reply will clarify this point and let us know how more emphasis is being placed on the production of thermal equipment instead of hydro equipment for hydro-power which, I do consider will continue to be our strong point for many years to come.

Another point that I would like briefly to mention here is the necessity for the Ministry of Irrigation and Power at the Centre to give more and more aid and help in the form of funds and technical assistance to the States.

I mentioned a few minutes ago the necessity to survey the Himalayan waters all along the States that are near to the Himalayas because it is these waters in these regions which due to their proximity to our load centres, to our consumption centres, to our agrarian centres, the areas which produce the most food, can be made good use of. I am sure the Central Water and Power Commission will do well in surveying all these areas so that the maximum use can be made of the latent potential of the waters of these areas for power and irrigation.

Before I conclude, I would like briefly to refer to my home State of Himachal Pradesh in which State, as you know, Sir, both the Bhakra and the Beas-Sutlej link are situated which are two of the largest schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. Bhakra is going to produce 2,67,000 KW of power and Dehar will produce another 2 million KW of power. The Kishau dam and the Tong may produce another 5 million KW. Apart from these, another 5 million KW. is possible to be produced by the waters of the Himachal Pradesh. I need hardly mention that Himachal Pradesh, situated as it is, is so near our industrial centres, our consumption centres, our load centres, that the fullest use should be made of the waters in Himachal Pradesh. I hope the Ministry of Irrigation and Power will depute somebody specially to go to Himachal Pradesh and survey the potentialities of these waters so that the maximum use can be made of all these waters. The Sutlej itself as it cascades down deep ravines with a minimum discharge of 3000 cusecs falls about 3,000 ft. thereby creating several high heads on the way and I am sure that although a lot of money will be spent on the scheme, the benefits in terms of soil conservation alone will be immense.

I would also like to mention the potentialities of the Beas and the Ravi basins, particularly the Suketi and Alsed which need investigation.

I would just mention a word about the necessity for us to strengthen our research regarding the production of power and regarding the production of irrigation and power equipment. There is an extreme dearth now that we are experiencing for functional specialisation, especially as far as thermal engineers are concerned. I am sure that the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and the Ministry of Education should get together now so that the maximum benefit is taken

of our experience in the latest techniques and methods at the universities, colleges and institutes, and the future generation of engineers who would be coming up will have all this training, will have the best of equipment behind them so that they can make the fullest use of their training and experience.

I may also suggest the necessity for the Ministry to examine the question of bringing out a specialised journal regarding irrigation and power. We have several journals like this in the field, but I do think that we need an up-to-date journal which will have papers contributed by international experts and our experienced engineers so that our younger engineers in the institutes and colleges etc. can take the maximum benefit and come to know the country, its potentialities and difficulties and contribute in a better way.

In conclusion I would only say that the efforts that are being made by the Irrigation and Power Ministry to meet the various shortfalls, whether in irrigation or in power are satisfactory, and I am sure that it will not be vain to hope that with this steady and solid progress that is being made, we shall be able to reach our goal. The administrative implications are vast and call for our continuous and concentrated attention. A high standard of efficiency is called for along with the concentration and co-ordination of our skill and limited resources. I am sure that with the support of this House, Government will be able to fulfil the task and meet the challenge that is posed.

17.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 31, 1964/Chaitra 11, 1886 (Saka).