

12.51 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

COIR BOARD

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): On behalf of Shri Manubhai Shah, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-rule (1) (e) of Rule 4 of the Coir Industry Rules, 1954, as amended by SRO No. 3983, dated the 12th December, 1957, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coir Board for the next term to be specified by the Central Government."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-rule (1) (e) of Rule 4 of the Coir Industry Rules, 1954, as amended by SRO No. 3983, dated the 12th December, 1957, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coir Board for the next term to be specified by the Central Government."

The motion was adopted.

12.52 hrs.

KERALA-BUDGET 1966-67 GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (KERALA)—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Kerala) for 1966-67. The time taken so far is 45 minutes.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Will it continue for the whole day?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. Shri N. Sreekanth Nair to continue his speech.

Shri N. Sreekanth Nair (Quilon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I was ex-

plaining how the State of Kerala has been denied electricity and the capacity to generate electricity; during the past five year Plans. Whenever the State of Kerala advanced a claim or brought forward a scheme for producing electricity, some neighbouring States would bring forward a frivolous complaint or a frivolous dispute and immediately, the Central Water and Power Commission would say, "stop it." So much so, that the State of Kerala is now one of the most backward States where electricity is least available, in spite of the fact that it is a State with the highest or the maximum water capacity for producing electricity.

Another strange aspect is that our administration has been so weak that they succumbed to any political pressure put on the State for giving some foreign country financial patronage. I am referring to the Sholayar scheme. Yugoslavia wanted to experiment on the production of machinery for generating electricity, and the poor State of Kerala was asked to shoulder the responsibility so much so that the scheme has never been completed and I do not know whether it will be useful to the State, whether the expenditure incurred on it would be of any use to the State when it is completed. This has been the attitude of the Union Government towards the State of Kerala. The present position of electricity there is, we have only used up eight per cent of our capacity for generating electricity. So, unfortunately, we will be short of power even after the expiry of the Fourth Plan period. That is why we have been crying hoarse for getting a thermal plant established there.

The Committee on Public Undertakings, at page 32 of its 27th Report on Planning, Management and Administration of Kerala State Government Companies has stated as follows, in respect of paragraphs 46-47,