

31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Agricultural Research'."

DEMAND NO. 39—ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,53,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Animal Husbandry'."

DEMAND NO. 40—FOREST

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,46,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Forest'."

DEMAND NO. 41—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,08,52,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 124—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,77,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

DEMAND NO. 125—PURCHASE OF FOODGRAINS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,19,54,49,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum

necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Purchase of Foodgrains'."

DEMAND NO. 126—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 67,53,97,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

15.38 hrs.

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Speaker: The House will take up discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, for which 6 hours have been allotted. Hon. Members who wish to move cut motions may send slips to the Table indicating the numbers of the cut motions to be moved and they will be treated as moved if they are otherwise admissible.

DEMAND NO. 67—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,68,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 68—MULTI-PURPOSE
RIVER SCHEMES

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,76,03,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Multi-purpose River Schemes'."

DEMAND NO. 69—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,26,22,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 132—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON
MULTI-PURPOSE RIVER SCHEMES

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,66,78,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Multi-purpose River Schemes'."

DEMAND NO. 133—OTHER CAPITAL
OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,56,78,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges

which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

Dr. Saradish Roy (Katwa): Before going into the subject proper, I would like to say a few words on the Ministry itself. The outlook and the attitude of the Ministry ought to have changed now with the assumption of the charge of this Ministry by an eminent engineer of repute from whom the expectation is very high, and who, it is expected, will rise to the occasion.

While expressing these expectations, it is necessary to utter a few words of warning. It may be the tendency of the hon. Minister to interfere in details of the working of the projects and so on which are strictly within the functions of the Chief Engineer. In doing so, he is likely to be disliked by the officials. This will be a very unfortunate development resulting from the experiment being tried of putting an eminent engineer as the Minister in charge of a technical Ministry. It is reported that this is not being liked by the politicians and civil administrators who are now ruling the country. So, any failure on this account caused by the activities of the Minister is likely to be exploited.

As regards the irrigation potentialities envisaged in the Third Plan, it is reported that the target will be less by 5 million acres. Some reasons have been given in the Report. One of the reasons is that the targets were "pitched optimistically high." This is the case particularly of all the projects, because whenever a scheme is sanctioned, it is desired by the Ministry that it should be remunerative. As a result, the State Governments always push up the target so that the schemes may be accepted by the Ministry and the Central Government.

[Dr. Saradish Roy]

There are certain reasons given for the expected shortfalls in the Third Plan targets. The most important is the insufficient utilisation of the water resources. The water resources generated by the projects can be utilised to the maximum extent if the farmers are enthused to do so. But they are forced to pay a very high rate of tax for the water supplied. In the DVC area, which I represent, the farmers have to pay Rs. 25 per acre for double crop. This way they are not enthused to utilise these potentialities.

In this connection, I may mention one thing which the Public Accounts Committee has referred to in its 15th Report on the DVC. It has been suggested that to increase the revenue of DVC, there should be a lowering of the rate. I suggest that the Ministry should examine this matter very carefully and reduce the rates so that the cultivators may be enthused to utilise the potentialities created in an economical way.

By the end of the Third Plan, only 26 million acres of land will be irrigated by the major and medium irrigation projects. This is far below the requirements of the time, when we are facing a huge shortage of food. The Ministry should take up with the Planning Commission certain new schemes in the Third Plan itself so that the irrigation potentialities by these major or big, and medium, projects may be augmented by the end of the Third Plan or the beginning of the Fourth.

As regards utilisation of potentialities created, only 80 per cent is being utilised now. In DVC, the shortfall is maximum; more than one third of the potentiality is not being utilised. There are various reasons. The main thing is the deficiency on the part of DVC in not providing the field channels and distributories in proper time. Even this year when the West Bengal Government had taken over the DVC canal system, it was openly said in West Bengal papers that without these

distributories, the canal system, we cannot supply water even to 6 lakh acres of land, which is two-thirds of the total target. This target is also being revised from time to time. Originally it was 12 lakh acres from DVC, then it was reduced to 10 lakh acres, now it has been reduced to 8 lakh acres or even less. For the rabi crop, it was originally 3 lakh acres, it has been reduced to one lakh, and for the running of the navigation channel it is reduced consequently to 55,000 acres of land. This is a very unhealthy state of affairs. Proper importance is not being given to irrigation. Importance is being given to navigation or water for industrial use or for generation of power. So the irrigation potentialities of the DVC project are not being utilised properly.

Regarding power, shortage is being experienced all throughout the country during the last three years. It is specially acute in the Bengal-Bihar DVC zone. Even this year, the anticipated shortage of generating capacity will be about 0.2 million kw. The introduction of the zonal grid system and advance planning for the Fourth Plan projects are commendable. But with the shortage of power, what is happening in West Bengal? New industries are not coming up and old established industries are compelled to shut down for certain hours of the day. The West Bengal Government, with the help of the Central Government, have sunk 292 tubewells during the last three years. Of these, 116 are working and 176 are lying idle even today due to shortage of power. I therefore suggest that the Ministry should take special care to see that these power projects in the eastern zone, specially Chandrapura, Bandel and Bokaro may be completed in scheduled time, if not earlier.

It is regrettable that in almost all the power projects no economical measures are introduced for executing

and operating the schemes. As a result, the cost of the projects and their maintenance are going high and the return by way of electricity charges is becoming low.

Now a cry has been raised that the power industry should earn a profit of 10 per cent per annum. Domestic consumers fear that in order to achieve this return the rate may further be increased. In most of the States, the rate charged for domestic consumption of power is about 2—3 times that charged for industry. Even for agriculture, the rate charged is between 1 and 2 times more than that charged for consumption by industry. In West Bengal, excluding Calcutta, the electricity charge is 34 nP. per unit. In addition, an electricity duty is levied in all the States, varying from 1 nP. to 3 nP. per unit. The State Governments are earning a good amount as revenue on this account.

In almost all the States, power is supplied to industry at a very low rate, even below the cost price, I know of certain States which offer very low rates of power in order to attract new industries, which leads to very unhealthy competition. We all know that expenditure incurred by industry on electricity charges is a very small fraction of their total expenditure. So, I suggest that uniform rates should be introduced for industry throughout the country, and that it may be enhanced to get more revenue for the State.

On the other hand, power should be supplied at a very cheap rate, if necessary at subsidised rates, to agriculturists for irrigation, to enable them to increase production. In my area there is a co-operative lift irrigation organisation. They asked for power, but about Rs. 15,000 was charged from them for the transmission line etc. Somehow they procured the money, but the electricity charge is so high that it is quite impossible for them to run that lift irrigation. So, I would plead that the Ministry

should take special care to see that agriculturists are given special preference, as industrialists have been given till now, and that the transmission and electricity charges should be nominal so that production on the food front is increased.

The DVC supplies electricity in bulk at very cheap rates to the Calcutta Electricity Supply Co., which is a foreign firm, which sells this power to the consumer at high rates and makes very high profits. If you nationalise this company, it will give you lakhs of rupees every month, and thus augment your resources.

The progress of rural electrification is not uniform in all the States. Except probably for Delhi, the per capita consumption of power in West Bengal is the highest in the country, but the number of villages electrified there is the minimum. In other States where the per capita consumption of power is lower, the number of villages electrified is greater. In the Report the results we have achieved in rural electrification are not mentioned. I do not suggest that every village should be electrified, but we should have a certain aim, namely to make power available for irrigation purposes and for cottage industries. But from the Report nothing is clear in this respect. I suggest that in the villages where power can be utilised for irrigation purposes or for developing cottage or other industries, power supply should be arranged, and the transmission charges should not be recovered from the villages.

It is well known that considerable resources are required to control floods efficiently in a vast country like ours. From the Report it is seen that about 74 per cent of the allotment for the Third Plan has been spent during the last three years. And the flood protection work undertaken is nominal. Every year when there is heavy monsoon, we experience floods in one State or the other, in one river or the other. So, I suggest that the Ministry should ask for more grants during the

[Dr. Saradish Roy]

Third Plan from the Planning Commission for new schemes of flood control in the country.

In the Report, floods occurring in the different States are mentioned as also the steps taken, but it is very regrettable that one very important river of West Bengal, the river Ajoy, which causes floods almost every year is not mentioned. Even last year there was a great flood and crops on about 8,000 acres of cultivable land were damaged. Even the DVC canal system has been damaged by the flood in that area. I personally visited those places, but not a word has been mentioned in the Report about that flood. I would request the Ministry to take up this case and see that proper flood protection measures are adopted.

There was a plan from the West Bengal Government to utilise waters of the rivers for irrigation purposes or industrial purposes. I understand that plans for the utilisation of the waters of this river are pending with the Central Government. I request the Ministry to take up this matter and see that the flood in this river is controlled and that its water is properly utilised.

There has been criticism of the working of the DVC on several occasions on the floor of the House and outside. Last year too it was discussed. I do not want to go into the irregularities and shortcomings of the DVC now. At the time of its inauguration, our Prime Minister described the DVC as "our great national scheme" but this project is now in a state of disintegration. It was to be a co-operative scheme among West Bengal, Bihar and the Central Government, but for various reasons this organisation is now disintegrating. Even among the staff, there is now lack of sincerity. If you go to Anderson House, the headquarters of DVC in Calcutta, or any project under it, you will find that there is demoralisation in the staff from the highest to the lowest.

They are not in a mood; they are not sincere at present because the future of their organisation is not clear to them. Over the last year it is being discussed in papers and they say it is going to be reorganised but no proper decision has yet been taken. And their future is uncertain. The canal system has been transferred to the West Bengal Government; two of the four dams will be controlled by the Central Power Commission and the other dams, by the DVC. There is thus this triple authority on the supply of water for irrigation purposes; it is not at all convincing. When the DVC was established with the participation of three Governments, this arrangement was not functioning well; how can triple control function effectively now? Only future operation will show how it functions.

16.00 hrs.

DVC without the barrage, without irrigation, is left alone with the generation of power, that too thermal power. It has the functions almost of a State electricity board. The other functions such as the navigation canal flood control etc. are there. I will come to them later. It is quite impossible to have a DVC in this state of affairs. So, I suggest that a speedy decision regarding the reorganisation of the DVC should be taken by the Central Government.

On the navigation canal the DVC has spent about Rs. 5 crores. In the report it is said that it was being used and some articles could be sent to Ranchi from Calcutta. For maintaining this navigation canal, you have reduced the supply of water to agriculturists. This navigation canal is very costly. From 1959 onwards, only a few articles could be sent through this canal—in the last five years.

16.03 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

For maintaining this canal, we have to cut down the facilities for cultiva-

tors. I, therefore, suggest that they should consider whether it is profitable to run this canal or not. If it is not profitable, let it be abandoned. For two years we have been having discussion every year about carrying goods through this canal. For providing facilities to agriculturists, I suggest that this scheme should be abandoned for the present. It was linked to other multi-purposes such as flood control, erosion, etc. They have abandoned them. So, I appeal to the Ministry to decide about the reorganisation of the DVC at an early date so that this organisation can do some work.

The staff of the DVC are very much demoralised because they are facing some uncertainty about their future. I request the Minister to announce forthwith in the House that whatever may be the reorganisation of the DVC, the staff will be provided with alternative jobs and their service conditions will not be hampered. The staff there are greatly agitated because some of them have put in more than 15 years of service in that project and their future is not now certain. There are about 20,000 people there and with the transfer of the barrage to the Government of West Bengal, 2,000 staff of the DVC are declared surplus. They are not finding any job; neither the DVC nor the Central Government nor the West Bengal Government have any responsibility to provide them with a suitable job. No assurance is given to them about their service conditions.

I may say one word in this connection about the Farakka barrage. It is important not only for Calcutta port but also to have easy communication between the eastern part of India and the rest of India. I am happy that the Minister has taken the trouble to see that the daily work at Farakka is being done quickly. Still this year's schedule of work is not being fulfilled. A regular watch should be kept so that the Farakka barrage may be completed as per schedule.

For 30-35 miles around Calcutta, we are experiencing erosion on both sides of Hooghly every year; it is a highly industrial area and it causes much trouble. The Ministry should take up this and some preventive works to stop erosion should be taken at an early date.

Shri P. K. Deo: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it is gratifying to note at long last that the responsibility of this important Ministry has fallen on the able shoulders of a technician and expert on this subject, like Dr. K. L. Rao. We all expect that during the tenure of his office, this Ministry will play an important role in building a more prosperous India. This Ministry deals with irrigation and power, so vital for the promotion of agriculture and industry and I would confine my observations to these two aspects of the activities of this Ministry.

To start with, I would like to speak something on power, which is so essential for our industrialisation. It was estimated that we will achieve the target of 12.5 million kws. by 1966. Though there will be a shortage in fulfilling our target so far as the irrigation potential is concerned, we will be achieving the power target by the end of the third Plan. The shortfall would be to a tune of one million kw in our power demand, because there has been a delay in the progress of industries like steel, aluminium, etc. I hope that the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering and the Ministry of Industry will go ahead with the programme so that they could fully utilise the power that will be generated by the end of the third Plan.

There could be no two opinions that an all-India grid is an ideal proposition. Natural resources do not conform to man-made boundaries. After all, the boundaries of the States have been reorganised, but our natural resources do not confine themselves to these boundaries. So, it is all the more important that we must have an

[Shri P. K. Deo]

all-India electric grid. We are pleased to note that some power has been switched on to the deficit West Bengal zone from the Rihand, and the DVC has been connected with Rihand; some surplus is available from Hirakud to the DVC. So, if this Hirakud system could be connected with the Machkund, we will get an entire all-India connection of electric grid right from the down South to Uttar Pradesh. This should be done without any delay.

Though in the second Plan of my State, it was proposed that Hirakud grid and Machkund grid could be connected somewhere in my constituency, this has not been given effect to as yet. As a result of this, the paper mill which should have been established at Keysingha has to be transferred to Rayaghada because they have to be connected with 132 kv line from Machkund to the Hirakud system. At the same time, I beg to submit that the proposal of an all-India grid is an ideal one. We must, along with it, have a uniform rate of electricity for consumers. We find that there has been partiality in this regard. Though a great concession is being shown to industries like aluminium from Rihand—they get it at three naya paise per unit—step-motherly treatment is being shown to the agriculturists who are charged at the rate of 19 nP per unit for pumping this much-needed water to the thirsty land. In areas where there has been diesel generation of electricity, agriculturists have been paying much more than this 19 nP, which is usually charged elsewhere for agricultural purposes.

Coming to the rural electrification programme, from the brochure that has been supplied to us at the informal consultative committee, we come to know that out of 20,000 additional villages to be electrified, 7,770 villages have been covered in the two years of this third Plan, and we hope that by the end of the third Plan we will be able to achieve this target and will be able to give cheap electricity

to our agriculturists who will then be able to get an impetus for food production and, at the same time, be able to modernise their agricultural operations.

In this connection, I would like to urge upon the Government that the State Government and the Centre should subsidise the State Electricity Boards, as rural electrification is not a commercially paying proposition, and financial assistance should be given to the consumers for meeting the service-line charges and for the purchase of pumps, etc. In some States, the rates charged for the agriculturists are much more than the maximum economic rates indicated by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. So, there should be a co-ordinated approach to this programme.

My remarks in this debate would not be complete unless I take this privilege on this occasion to point out the biggest fraud that has been committed by the Orissa Government on the nation, by asking the Prime Minister at Tikkerpara to lay a stone on which was inscribed "Let the great project serve the nation". The Government of Orissa says it was the foundation stone of Tikkerpara project. In reply to the various questions in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the Minister has replied very nicely in words couched with diplomacy that it was not a foundation-stone, but it was a commemoration stone. I would like to know what it will commemorate. It cannot commemorate a vacuum. I would request the Minister to throw some more light on this subject.

A few months back it appeared in the papers that Shri B. Patnaik, the Chairman of the State Planning Board, had written to the Prime Minister to make a provision of Rs. 1000 crores for this project. Before the Prime Minister laid this foundation-stone, Shri Asoka Mehta, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning

Commission, came out with a statement that it has not received the approval of the Planning Commission. The Central Water and Power Commission, which is the highest expert body on the subject did not give green-signal to this project. Now the nation is going to be committed to an expense of not less than Rs. 278 crores, being estimated now. This has been estimated by an eminent engineer like Dr. Khosla. But we know his first estimate of Hirakud was Rs. 48 crores and it went up to Rs. 100 crores. So, this estimate of Rs. 278 crores will go up to what astronomical figures, I do not know. But at the initial stage, the nation is going to be committed to the tune of Rs. 278.31 lakhs, submerging 1000 square miles of most fertile land, uprooting 4 lakhs of people. This is possible because the Chairman of the State Planning Board is not the Chief Minister, who is responsible to the Assembly. Here some third person is at the helm of affairs of planning and he by-passes the Planning Commission; he by-passes the Central Water and Power Commission and goes to this stage, throwing to winds all canons of planning and all priorities fixed by the Planning Commission. I do not know whether we are in a stage of planning or astrology.

Shri Iqbal Singh (Ferozepur): But your party is not for the Plan.

Shri P. K. Deo: I am saying what your party says.

The real cat came out of the bag when Shri B. Patnaik stated in the Orissa Assembly....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member can criticise the Planning Commission, but not members who are not here.

Shri P. K. Deo: My misfortune is regarding the Tikkerpara dam, I have been running from pillar to post to get more facts about it. In the informal consultative committee,

I requested the Minister to throw some light on it. I phoned to the CWPC to let me know some details but they say, we have not received any report as yet. But in the report of the Tikkerpara project which was placed on the Table of the Orissa Assembly, there are minutes of several meetings held with the members of the CWPC, where Mr. Chopra, Mr. Handa and Mr. Murthy were all associated. These meetings took place on 6th April, 1963, 17th August, 1963 and on the 19th August, 1963 at Bhubaneswar, with prior meetings at Delhi. My remarks would be most appropriate if I draw the attention of the House to something so vital and which is affecting all of us so much, a debate on which took place in the Orissa Assembly the other day. There the Chairman of Planning Board says:

"A justifiable strategy to meet competition from other States by obtaining the blessing of the Prime Minister even without the project report."

He further says: "everything is fair in love and war". We are not making love with anybody, nor are we at war with anybody. Then it is said: "It is the blessing and goodwill of the Prime Minister that will ultimately prevail."

We are surprised as to how all these things could take place. If the nearness to the Prime Minister of certain individuals is going to decide the destiny of the nation and of so many people, then God save the planning and this country. Sir, the only corollary in history that you will find is when Mrs. Wilson wielded much more power than Mr. Wilson, the American President, when he was ill. So, taking advantage of the illness of the Prime Minister, all these things are happening. We cannot be at one with all these mysterious state of affairs. I hope the hon. Minister will throw some light on it.

[Shri P. K. Deo]

Regarding this Tikkerpara project, when after the Hirakud Dam the floods could not be controlled in the delta area and when the estimate shot up from Rs. 48 crores to Rs. 100 crores and we could not achieve the various targets even when 300 square miles were submerged and about a lakh of persons were uprooted without compensation being paid uptil now of whom 50,000 were landless labourers, who were thrown out in the streets without any alternative employment, and the Prime Minister's brave words that land for land and house for house would be given to the people of Hirakud have yet remained a myth. Sir, is it not my duty to point out here that all these promises given in the paper are good for nothing? At that time the Orissa Government appointed one eminent engineer, Shri M. S. Thirumala Iyengar to go into the entire question of Mahanadi Valley Development. In his report he has categorically stated that the idea of Tikkerpara Dam and Naraj Dam which submerge large areas of fertile lands should not be considered. He has suggested that the tail water coming from Chiplima power house of Hirakud Dam could be taken on the right side of Mahanadi by a lateral canal up to Bavdgarh and there it could generate 200 megawatts and irrigate 60,000 acres of land. If it would be further taken to Tikkerpara it would give a head of 90 feet by which we can easily generate 125 megawatts without submerging any area.

Recently, there was another Flood Committee appointed by Shri S. N. Bhanj Deo, Minister of Irrigation, Government of Orissa. It has recommended that these high dams should not be taken in. It has been accepted by the Government of Orissa. Now, in a 15-page pamphlet of Dr. Khosla, by name *Decade of Destiny*, he throws all these recommendations to the waste paper basket. I would call this not a decade of destiny, but I say that it will be a

dooms-day for the people in the upper reaches of Mahanadi. It envisages the submersion of 12,43,800 acres of land of which 6 lakhs of Bavd, Sonepur and Athmalik would be submerged by the Tikkerpara Dam and 1,48,000 acres of Bamra and Bonai in Barkot, 80,000 acres of Keonjhar in Bhimkund and 34,000 acres of Rairakhol by Tikra project and 20,000 acres of Daspalla by the Gania Barrage. If all these things take place, about a million people of former State areas would be completely uprooted and thrown in the Bay of Bengal. They were promised an Utopia by the Congress Government. They have not got an inch of land to rehabilitate themselves. Besides that, we are welcoming several lakhs of refugees from East Bengal.

Now, in the whole globe only one-fourth is land and three-fourths are water. So, if we want to increase the water area, I cannot understand the argument behind it. In highly-populated States, like the Netherlands, they are reclaiming sea, Zuider Sea, in Rotterdam and Amsterdam to give more land for the people. But, in this country, where the pressure of population is so much on land, we are trying to have more lands under water! So, I beg to submit that all these aspects have to be examined.

Coming to the merits of the Tikkerpara dam, it is supposed to generate 2,000 mw of electricity. I cannot understand what useful purpose would be served by generating 2,000 mw. In the report of the Central Water and Power Commission on *the Possibilities of Load* for Orissa they have come to this conclusion that Orissa's requirements of power during 1975-76 would be 1,404 mw. These 1,404 mw would be easily available if we could take up the following projects. From the Talcher thermal, which has been taken up, we would be generating 250 mw. From Balimela, we would be generating 360 mw which will ultimately

increase to 480 mw. From the new projects which could be taken up, from Indravati we could generate 390 mw and from Upper Kolab 162 mw. Even though the Orissa Government has made an estimate of the requirements of electricity, it has not been able to utilise fully the quota of electricity generated from the Machkund project, a joint venture of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Though 34 kw is available as Orissa's quota, only 12 kw is being utilised by Orissa. So, a balance of 22 kw is available. From Shri Iyengar's proposal for utilisation of the tail water from Hirakud power house we would be getting 342 mw, making a total of 1,806 mw. So, I cannot understand why Government should go in for this Tikra project. By taking up this project, they would be creating more problems than solving some of the existing problems.

Then I come to another interesting finding in the Tikkerpara report. On page 13 it is stated that if the load does not grow as fast as has been estimated, we may be sure of selling a certain amount of bulk power to the neighbouring States. We cannot very well appreciate the fallacy of this argument that besides meeting our requirements we are supposed to sell. Are we to open an electricity shop in Orissa to meet the requirements of the neighbouring States? It is all fantastic. In this atomic age, when we will be generating power from atomic fuel, when the entire conception of generating electricity has been revolutionised by the ushering in of the atomic age, to think of the submersion of 1,000 sq. miles of area and uprooting 4,000 people for just generating 2,000 mw of electricity is bad planning, to put it mildly.

Coming to the Indravati project, I beg to submit that top priority should be given to that. It is one of the cheapest projects for power generation in this country. According to Dr. Khosla, the cost of generation of electricity per unit in this project works out to Rs. 1.26 which compares very favourably with other profitable

power projects like Idikki (Rs. 1.77 nP), Pamba (Rs. 1.33 nP) and Koyna (Rs. 1.33 nP). It is only beaten by Sharavati where the cost works out to Rs. 1.22 nP; but in Sharavati there is no irrigation. It is purely a power project but this Indravati, besides generating 390 megawatts, would be irrigating 2,32,000 acres of very fertile land in Kalahandi District which is the second largest surplus district in Orissa so far as foodgrains are concerned. So, the highest priority should be given for the generation of electricity by implementing the Indravati Project. The cheap power available there could be utilised for the aluminium industry and for developing the Dandakaranya area which is one of the backward areas in the country and where a large quantity of bauxite is available.

To complete my observations on power, I want to bring to your notice one thing. It is a good thing that a power research institute is being established at Bangalore with the aid of the U.N. Special Fund. Its primary duty should be to undertake an exhaustive survey of the power potential including thermal from coal and natural gas, hydro-electric and atomic generation and fix priorities. Then only real justice could be done.

Then I would like to say a few words about irrigation. Our rise in food production has not kept pace with the rise in population. Last year we imported to the tune of 4 million tons of foodgrains and by the end of the Third Plan we fear that there will be a shortfall to the tune of 20 million tons every year. So, as has been pointed out so ably in the previous debate, Indian agriculture has been subject to the vagaries of the monsoon and our agricultural production, in spite of the statistics given here, has declined by 3.3 per cent in 1962-63. They say that it is on account of adverse weather conditions. In a predominantly agricultural country, like India, which constitutes 87 per cent of the rural population, land is there where

[Shri P. K. Deo]

we could grow additional food provided we could supply moisture at the right time. India's sunshine is so good that we will be capable of raising two and even three crops in the course of a year. So, taking into consideration all these facts, the Third Plan envisages the creation of an irrigation potential to the tune of 16.3 million acres. But we got a very gloomy picture from the mid-term appraisal which shows that the shortfall would be to the tune of 5.2 million acres. The reasons given are that assessment of the target was optimistic and the delay in execution was due to increased revised estimated cost due to the rise in the cost of material and wages and shortage of foreign exchange etc. But all these things should have been taken into consideration at the time of formulating the Third Plan. I do not find any reason why this House should excuse the various lapses. But, at the same time, I submit that attempts should be made to achieve these targets.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri P. K. Deo: Five minutes more. I am the only speaker from my party. The Communist Party Members spoke for 40 minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He spoke only for 30 minutes.

Shri P. K. Deo: Even after the creation of the irrigation potential we find that there has not been full utilisation of it. There has been a lag to the tune of 2.21 million acres and the States where the lag is the greatest are Gujarat, Mysore and West Bengal. In Gujarat the percentage of utilisation is only 33 per cent of the irrigation potential created. In two of its big projects, that is, Mahi Stage I the utilisation is only 24.68 per cent and in Kakapera Project it is only 22.86 per cent. Without blaming anybody, we should go deep into the

question as to why there has been a lag in the utilisation of the irrigation potential. They say that there has been delay in the construction of the water courses and the various channels and it is also due to lack of adequate knowledge to appreciate the benefits of irrigation.

The most important thing which I bring to the notice of the House is the betterment levy. It is this betterment levy which is standing in the way of fuller utilisation of our irrigation potential. The ryot pays water tax besides that. He will have to pay betterment levy which is not justified at all. No canon of equity could justify the betterment levy. Then, there have been some procedural mistakes. That is why there has been a lag in the fuller utilisation of our irrigation potential. Some report came to me from Gujarat that prior to taking water, they will have to sign some time period forms in which they will have to give their requirements of water, the period, etc. As you know, Sir,—you are a very keen agriculturist.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not an agriculturist.

Shri P. K. Deo: I am sorry. There are so many in this House who can appreciate my argument. The water is such a thing that you cannot anticipate it advance. The requirement of water depends on so many conditions, the rainfall and other things. Sometimes it happens that when we do not need water, we have plenty of water from the distributaries and such things should not happen.

In Gujarat, at the time of signing these forms, they further insist that they will have to pay the water tax in advance whether they take water or they do not take water. By that way, they are put to a great hardship. In the two villages of Kaira District in Gujarat, they have collected Rs 3000 from them and even though water has not been supplied to them, they cannot get the money back.

I would like to say a word about the Rajasthan canal. This canal has got a great potentiality which could turn this desert into a garden. But we get grim reports of famine conditions there—shortage of food—shortage of fodder and shortage of drinking water. In Lunkkeranser Brackish belt of Rajasthan, drinking water is taken by rail-borne wagons every day from Bikaner. People have been put to a great hardship. I think all these things have to be looked into and Rajasthan canal should be completed without delay.

Coming to minor and medium irrigation projects, I beg to submit that there has been a parochial approach to this thing. These things are decided on partisan consideration. My friend Shri Narasimha Reddy comes from Rayalseema area where there is a scarcity of food. Now, in Chittor district even though the Bahuda project was given a priority taking into consideration the famine-stricken conditions of Rayalseema, this project has been given up on account of group rivalry. Such considerations should not be there.

Then, I wanted to speak regarding the water-logging in Puniab which has created a problem there. Water cannot be drained away. So also is the Hirakud ayacut where the best paddy fields have been turned into swamps. And still there is a betterment levy and the water tax. All these things have to be studied, and more emphasis should be given on minor irrigation projects as they are less costly and quick results can be achieved by them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member should conclude now.

Shri P. K. Deo: Of course, there are many other failures also. Proper selection has not been made and there has been a shortage of staff. At the block level and at the district development board level, we come across the shortage of staff. That aspect

also has to be looked into by the Ministry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members may not move their cut motions subject to their being otherwise admissible.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to take proper steps to control flood in different parts of the country (1)].

(ii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Rs. 1."

[Utilisation of irrigation potential (2)]

Shri P. K. Deo: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Lag in the utilisation of irrigation potential to the tune of 2.21 million acres. (3)]

(ii) "That the demand under the Head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Undesirability of the Tikarpara Dam project in Orissa and the various complications arising out of it (4)].

(iii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Urgency of taking up the Indravati hydel and irrigation project in Kalahandi District in Orissa. (5)].

(iv) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri P. K. Deo]

[Need for early construction of the Rajasthan Canal Project (6)]

(v) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for early completion of the Balimela (Upper Sibiru) Project (7)]

(vi) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take adequate and early measures to stop land erosion along the Kerala coast (8)]

(vii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to stop further denudation of forest along the Mahanadi Basin in Dandakaranya area which has aggravated soil erosion and flood problem. (9)]

(viii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide flood protection embankment along the Tel, the Mahanadi, the Brahmani, the Baitarini and the Subarnrekha (10)]

(ix) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to have an All-India grid of electric supply (11)]

(x) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to have uniform electricity rates throughout the country (12)]

(xi) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Non-utilisation of 34 megawatt of Orissa's quota of electricity generated at the Machkund Hydel Project (13)]

(xii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to extend 132 K.V. line at an early date from Machkund Project to Kalahandi District and connect it with Hirakud Grid as contemplated in the First and Second Five Year Plans (14)]

(xiii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to have uniform rate for water irrigation purposes (15)]

(xiv) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to have an exhaustive survey of power potential of the country including Thermal (both coal and natural gas) Hydroelectric and Atomic generation (16)]

(xv) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up a power research institute in the country with the aid of U.N. Special Fund (17)]

(xvi) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up weather radars, electronic routing machines, radio operated automatic river and rain gauge equipment and other flood forecasting machines in all major rivers in the country (18)]

(xvii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to utilise natural gas struck in Assam, Gujarat and Punjab for purposes of power generation (19)]

(xviii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Gulhati Commission report regarding the Krishna and Godavari Waters (20)]

(xix) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Urgency of construction of the Farakka barrage in West Bengal (21)]

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Failure to implement the recommendations contained in the Gulhati Commission Report (23)]

(ii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to irrigate the famine areas of Bellary Raichur and Dharwar Districts of Mysore State through Upper Tungabhadra Scheme (24)]

(iii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to construct Upper Krishna Project first near Alamatti to irrigate the most famine stricken areas of Mysore State (25)]

(iv) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need for rural electrification of all submerged villages in Bellary and Raichur District of Mysore State (26)]

(v) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to construct medium size and small irrigation canals through small diversion and Anicut Schemes at Tungabhadra River (27)]

(vi) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Survey Report of old Chief Engineer Tirmal Iyengar of Madras on Tungabhadra River especially near Gabbagudi in the year 1890 (28)]

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to adopt early steps to check the erosion of both the banks of river Hooghly (29)]

(ii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to supply more power to the industrial belts in West Bengal (30)]

(iii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Shri Dinen Bhattacharya]

[Need to supply adequate power to the rural areas both for small scale industries and private consumption (31)]

(iv) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need for proper steps for training the river mouth of Hooghly and Purnayan (32)]

(v) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to supply power at cheaper rate to the small scale industries run on co-operative basis (33)].

(vi) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need for early completion of Farakka Barrage Scheme (34)].

(vii) "That the demand under the head Multipurpose River Schemes be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to run the D.V.C. Project properly (35)]

Shri Vishram Prasad: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to implement the recommendations of the Gulhati Commission Report. (40)].

(ii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to supply power at cheaper rate to industrial towns in Uttar Pradesh. (41)]

(iii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to take effective steps to control floods in different parts of the country. (42)].

(iv) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to bring about agreement between States on problems associated with inter-State rivers and canals. (43)].

(v) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to utilise the water resources for irrigation. (44)]

(vi) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to develop power potential. (45)]

श्री रामसेवक यादव : मैं प्रस्ताव कहता हूँ :

"कि 'सिच्चाई और विद्युत' मंत्रालय क्षीर्ष के अंतर्गत मांग में १०० रुपये की कमी कर दी जाय" ।

[बाढ़ों और जल-निरोध को रोकने में असफलता ।]

Shri Vishram Prasad: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to provide more financial and technical assistance to State Governments in the field of irrigation, power, flood control, drainage, anti-water-logging and anti-sea-erosion measures. (62)]

(ii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to evaluate the progress of execution of projects in the irrigation and power sectors. (63)].

(iii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to evaluate the working of the Central Water and Power Commission. (64)].

(iv) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to resolve the Krishna-Godavari Water dispute. (65)].

(v) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the installed generating capacity. (66)].

(vi) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to intensify the rural electrification programme. (67)]

(viii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to expedite the construction of another power station at Delhi. (68)].

(viii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for more co-ordination among the Electricity Boards in different regions. (69)].

(ix) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to speed up the work of Ramganga Project in Uttar Pradesh. (70)].

(x) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reorganise the Damodar Valley Corporation. (71)].

(xi) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evaluate the working of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking. (72)].

(xii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to commission the second stage of the Koyna-Hydro Project. (73)].

श्री रामसेवक यादव: में प्रस्ताव करता हूँ ;

"कि 'बहु प्रयोजनीय नदी योजना' शीर्ष के अन्तर्गत मांग में १०० रुपये की कमी कर दी जाये।"

[किंतु लखर्ची और व्यापक मश्टाचार (७४)].

Shri Sarjoo Pandey: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to utilise the water resources for irrigation (87)].

(ii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to develop power potential (88)]

(iii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to supply power at cheaper rate to industrial towns in Eastern U.P. (89)].

(iv) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to take effective steps to control floods in different parts of the country. (90)].

Dr. M. S. Aney: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Dr. M. S. Aney]

[Need to widen the scope of work of the Central Flood Control Board with a view to include in its programme the scheme of flood control of all the principal sea going rivers of South India. (91)].

(ii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to persuade the Government of Nepal to agree to the alignment of main West Kosi Canal in order to speedily complete the Kosi Canal System and the Rajpur Canal System. (92)].

(iii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to supply electric power to cultivators at cheap rates. (93)].

Shri Sarjoo Pandey: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evaluate the progress of execution of Projects in the irrigation and power sectors. (94)].

(ii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to intensify the rural electrification programme. (95)].

(iii) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to prescribe uniform rates for water for irrigation purposes. (96)].

(iv) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to accelerate the work on flood protection works and projects. (97)].

(v) "That the demand under the head Ministry of Irrigation and Power be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide more tube wells in Eastern U.P. (98)].

Dr. M. S. Aney: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Multi-Purpose River Schemes be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to revive the multipurpose river scheme known as Vainganga River scheme in Bhandara Scheme. (99)].

Mr. Deputy Speaker: These cut motions are now before the House.

Shri Himatsingka (Godda): I am glad that at the helm of affairs Dr. K. L. Rao has been put in charge and therefore, we can hope that the short-falls in both power and irrigation potential may be attempted to be made up in a shorter time than perhaps would have been possible before.

The development of the irrigation potential that was planned for achievement at the end of the Third Plan was 29.47 million acres to be irrigated. But we are now nearing the end of the Third Plan, and it is expected that only 23.16 million acres will be irrigated. Therefore, there is a very big leeway to be made up, and it is necessary that our efforts should be directed in that direction.

After all, the import of foodgrains has been going up year by year and there is a very heavy drain on our resources on account of these imports, and that can only be stopped if our land begins to give more, which is very much possible, provided we can make necessary arrangements for the supply of water when it is needed. Instead of a situation where some of the States have not been able to spend more money on this item on account of tight position of finances or have wrongly diverted the funds for other purposes, I think that our attention should be concentrated on bringing as much land under irrigation as possible. I have not doubt that there is enough potential for that purpose.

I am speaking from my personal knowledge, when I say that the Santal

Parganas is a district having very good fertile land, and there is only one crop produced there, namely paddy, and that also depends on water. If we can supply water and the cultivators could be assured of the supply if and when needed, I think that the land will be easily made capable of producing two crops definitely, and perhaps in certain places three crops. Even at the present moment, the district is surplus, but I have no doubt that it will be able to give a return of at least 20 to 25 per cent of the investment.

There are a number of rivers whose waters go waste through the Ganges and through the Ganges into the sea. There is no reason why we should not be able to utilise the waters of those rivers and put them into service for supply to cultivators.

Therefore, I would suggest very strongly that Bihar, if it needs a little more fund, should be given that fund, for the simple reason that to that extent our imports will be curtailed and we shall be having money in another direction. It is always better to produce more from our land than to depend on imports. Moreover, we cannot go on importing for ever. As a matter of fact, at present, I find that there is not much criticism about these imports. Formerly, we were told on a number of occasions that our country would be self-sufficient by a particular date, but that date was over many years ago. Unless we exert our influence and direct our energies to making this country self-sufficient by increasing the irrigation potential, in all possible manner, we shall have to depend on imports, because anyhow we must feed our population which is increasing rapidly.

Therefore, I feel that the very large number of river schemes that can possibly be executed and easily be taken advantage of in various districts should be taken advantage of and utilised to give better results and to produce more food.

Similarly, I feel that there is a shortage of power also. But for the

fact that the industries have not come up to the extent that we had expected, on account of certain fiscal measures and other difficulties, I think the position of power supply would have been very precarious. Because the industries have not come up to the extent that was planned or intended, the pressure is not so much. I would submit, however, that so far as power is concerned, we should always plan ahead and not lag behind the needs. We should always be ahead of the expected demand so that no industry would suffer or would have to wait for want of power. I know that in Bengal, Assam and Bihar, industries cannot be set up for want of power. Unless power is made available, no new industries can come up because it needs more money if they have got to have their own power.

I also find that a large number of machinery items which become surplus after the completion of one project or another lie unutilised. I understand that a beginning has been made to divert this machinery to other projects. Still if you go to the various places in the interior, you find a large number of tractors lying idle. I do not know whether they belong to the irrigation department or the agriculture department. But they are lying unutilised for years. If they have got to be disposed of, let them be disposed of quickly so that they may give some return.

There is another thing. More and more earth-moving machineries are being utilised both for irrigation and for power purposes. But there are no trained personnel. Certain training centres have been opened. But all of them are on the western side, for instance, in Gujarat, Bombay, Punjab and perhaps Maharashtra. There are no such training centres in the eastern zone. I suggest that such training centres should also be opened in Bihar or Bengal or wherever they can suitably be opened. I think Bihar has a very large area for cultivation. So one of the centres should be opened there.

Another thing is this. Even the present potential of over 12 million

[Shri Himatsingka]

acres is not being utilised. Steps should be taken to find out the causes of this non-utilisation. Mention was made by a previous speaker of the betterment levy which the cultivators were not willing to pay. Anyway, when the potential is there, there is no reason why steps should not be taken to see that it is fruitfully utilised. If it becomes necessary to reduce the rates, I think Government should not mind doing it—if that stands in the way. I do not know what is standing in the way, but if that be one of the grounds, I feel that factor should be considered and something done in that direction.

As I mentioned, a number of schemes can be taken up in the district of Santal Parganas which will give results latest within two years. A large number of them can be completed within a year and in any case, within two years they will begin yielding quick returns. This should be looked into and taken up. States should be encouraged with advice, money and other resources and any support they may be in need of.

Shri Lalit Sen (Mandi): While supporting the demands of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, I would not like to commence my speech with a platitude about the importance and magnitude of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. Irrigation and power combined together form the very nexus and the basis for the future of our agricultural and industrial development, and it is not really necessary for me to over-emphasize this aspect.

At the very outset, I would like to congratulate the Minister for the sense of efficiency, urgency and dedication that he has been able to bring about in this Ministry, and I am particularly mindful of the accord and agreement that he has been instrumental in bringing about amongst the various States with re-

gard to the various water disputes. Particularly, I would like to mention the agreements between Punjab and Rajasthan regarding supply to the Sidhmukh area, between Punjab and U.P. regarding the Gurgaon canal, between Andhra and Orissa regarding Sileru, between Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, U.P. and Delhi in the Yamuna agreement, and last but not the least the settlement of the Krishna-Godavari dispute now seems round the corner.

Article 262 of the Constitution envisaged certain special powers for the Central Government with regard to such disputes. Our constitution-makers in their wisdom had visualised the very situations that have arisen today. Wherever and whenever there is a likelihood of the interests of two States clashing, the Government of India and this Ministry should not hesitate to use their good offices in good time to settle the dispute, because they have powers to do so under this article.

Another good step has been the bringing together of the Ministries of Irrigation and Power and Food and Agriculture under one umbrella. I think a natural corollary that outflows from this decision is to bring in all the minor irrigation schemes within the purview of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. We cannot forget that minor irrigation, even at the end of the Third Plan, will cater to about 47 per cent of our irrigated land, as against only 43% under major irrigation schemes. I realise that 70 to 80 per cent of our lands will have to depend upon irrigation from the big projects, but the importance of minor irrigation cannot be minimised, and I hope that not only will minor irrigation come into the technical hands of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, but a study will be made of the performance of minor irrigation schemes, because a

large sum of about Rs. 122 crores or so has been spent and the results have not been too satisfactory.

What we need is a plan for the future, what is known as perspective planning. I do feel that a radical change is required in our system of power planning. At present estimates are based upon the requirements as calculated from the end of one plan to the end of the next plan. All these power projects take three or four or even five years to be completed, and so power lags and shortfalls become inevitable. If we cannot plan on a long-term basis for the next Plan, we should at least plan from the middle of one Plan to the middle of the next Plan. We should plan for the Fourth and Fifth Plans right from now. Ultimately our aim should be to utilise all our hydro-electric potential which comes to about 41 million KW. If this is not done, I am convinced that our industrial licensing policy in the future will have to be severely curtailed. In our country the tendency in the past few years has been for power demand to outstrip power production, but in the case of irrigation, it has been just the other way round. Irrigation potential has been more than actual utilisation.

Whereas we have made good progress in irrigation utilisation, which is about 82 per cent, the progress with regard to the creation of power production is not satisfactory, and I do believe special steps will have to be taken by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power to consider this whole matter.

A word about irrigation. The primary aim of our irrigation policy, as has been rightly mentioned by speakers before me, is to raise our food production. We have done very well in the last few years, and a study of our dams and river valley projects is really a study of missions having been fulfilled and dreams having come true. In the first two

Plans, a sum of Rs. 750 crores has been spent and Rs. 661 crores are to be spent in the Third Plan, and at the end of the Third Plan we hope that 65 million acres will be under irrigation. But I must point out that while utilisation has been good, and the Plan is good, the creation of irrigation potential still lags behind by about 6.31 million acres. For this I cannot think of any other way except that we should have more schemes. Out of our water resources running into 1400—2000 million acre feet, only 20 per cent are utilised. We should start thinking in terms of more schemes from now on and provide more funds. Projects such as the Rajasthan canal should be taken up on a priority basis and be given more funds. The Centre should take greater interest. New schemes should be taken up, to mention a few: Pochampad Srisaillam in Andhra, Koyna, Jaykundi project in Marathwada on the Narbada etc. Whether it is the question of surveying the Himalayan waters and assessing their potential in terms of power which they are capable of generating or even Tikarpara, so vehemently referred to by an hon. Member who spoke earlier—they should all be investigated. The Tikarpara scheme seems to have created more heat than light though I am in the dark about it. We do not know very much about the scheme. I would only say that it is not quite correct to condemn or recommend a scheme before investigations have been completed or to hold opinions about a scheme regarding which we do not know much. I would only say that this scheme should also be investigated and if found beneficial there is no reason why the Government of India and the Irrigation Ministry will not take it up.

I would say a word about hydrological operations. Some years ago we used to get some information from the Chinese about the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra—it might have

[Shri Lalit Sen]

been right or wrong. That information does not obviously come now. The necessity for strengthening our hydrological surveys in the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra and the Ganga basin has become very obvious. Uptodate equipment in the form of wireless sets and helicopters should be made available so that these hydrological operations could proceed satisfactorily.

Just as irrigation has to be utilised to increase food production, power has to cater to industrial growth. 60—70 per cent of our power is being utilised by industries. Our commercial consumption by the end of the Third Plan, by 1966, may run to 15 million kilowatts. We have spent Rs. 827 crores in the first two plans and I presume out of the total planned outlay of Rs. 1089 crores we must have spent about half that amount. Instead of 7.7 million kws. we have only about 7 million kws. generated. We have good reasons for this. Nevertheless it is a matter which requires the closest attention of this Ministry; if we have to achieve the target of 12.69 million kws. by the end of the Third Plan, the average annual generation of half a million kws. should be doubled or even trebled. New schemes generating 2 million kws. may be taken up at an additional expenditure of Rs. 70 crores with a large foreign exchange component.

I welcome the steps the Ministry has taken, as also the initiative in the formation of regional electricity boards. I hope these boards will soon lead to the formation of regional grids, ultimately leading to the national grid which we all want. Even a cursory study of these grids shows that they are going to account for about Rs. 150 crores saving in our power outlay and account for the generation of about 2 million kws. of extra power by this inter-State co-operation.

I would briefly mention the necessity for co-operation between the various agencies which produce power—In particular the Central Water Power Commission and the Atomic Energy Commission. The AEC is doing good work in planning nuclear power stations in the Third and the Fourth Plans. We all know that our thorium deposits are vast and uranium deposits are limited. But both put together are capable of producing sixteen times the energy of our known coal reserves. There is, therefore, the greater necessity for the Central Water Power Commission and the Atomic Energy Commission to co-operate so that an integrated approach can be made to the whole subject.

Now, the position about the production of power equipment is also a matter to which I would like to make a brief reference. As we all know, by the end of the third Plan we shall be spending about Rs. 3,000 on our power projects. The Bhopal factory is probably going to produce about 11 lakh kilowatts of equipment by the end of the Fourth Plan. The First Electricity Survey report indicates that a lag in the production of electric equipment will go on till about 1970-71. I would, therefore, like to suggest that the Government should immediately consider the possibility of setting up a new factory in the private-sector. I say, private sector, because, after all, we are spending crores and crores of rupees on importing equipment from abroad also from the private sector. If we can buy equipment from the private sector abroad, I do not see why we should not encourage our own private sector here also. If this does not happen, I am sure that the cost of the power projects, by the end of the fourth Plan in terms of foreign exchange, import restrictions and revised estimates etc. would increase by 20 to 25 per cent . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may continue afterwards. We will now take up the Calling Attention Notice.