

whether the Government would consider the desirability of making a provision for giving news in Haryanvi language at least from that Station of A.I.R. as is being done in respect of Punjab and other States of the country? Secondly, I would like to know as to how much time is earmarked for propagation and development of Haryanvi language and Haryanvi culture?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The entire Rohtak studio is for the development of Haryanvi language and Haryanvi culture. As far as Haryanvi language is concerned, it is only one of the languages of the region, and there Hindi is understood by all. Therefore, I don't think he should make a distinction that Haryanvi culture is only in Haryanvi language, because there are other four languages spoken in Haryana; it would create unnecessary complication between the languages. We want to encourage all languages.

Agreement with Nepal for Karnali Hydro-Electric Project in Nepal

*290. **SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to enter into agreement with Nepal for the Karnali Hydro-Electric Project in that country for production of electricity;

(b) the estimated cost of the project and the amount to be shared by India;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom to India;

(d) whether some other sources, besides India, are likely to help finance the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY) (a) It has been agreed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal that a comprehensive study of the Karnali

Hydro-Electric Project will be undertaken and steps taken to prepare a detailed project report.

(b) The present cost can be estimated only when the detailed project report is prepared.

(c) The extent of benefits likely to accrue from the project relate mainly to (1) power supply; (2) irrigation benefits and (3) flood control benefits. The details of benefits will be available only after the detailed project report is finalised.

(d) and (e). Questions regarding financial participation in the project by India or by other agencies, are yet to be finalised.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to put any supplementary? No. Then Mr. Madhavrao Scindia.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The Karnali Hydro-Electric Project is capable of producing 4½ thousand MW power which is equal to almost one sixth of India's total power generation today. Therefore, it is a very important project for India. The main hurdle seems to be the preparation of this Project Report which the Minister has talked about in his answer. Is it not true that a few years ago, three a, b and c technical groups were formed and a fourth group d was formed to coordinate the activities of these three technical groups? It is not a fact that to this day, not even group d has met? Naturally, there is going to be a delay because only after a project report is prepared by these four groups, we can approach the financial institutions. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a time schedule has been laid down for these three technical groups and the fourth coordination group to meet; if so, what are the time schedules; if not, why not? Mr. Ram Satha, the Indian Foreign Secretary, last year suggested in Nepal that a Water Review Committee should be set up between India and Nepal to look ahead 50 years from now. Has there been any Nepalese response to this proposal or is the Nepal Government still adhering to the

regional approach which involves countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and China?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the present moment, what we have agreed with Nepal is the investigating matter. There has been no time limit on this. This is a bilateral understanding. You know we have been trying to make our relation with Nepal congenial, as it should be. There were some difficulties. I am glad to inform the House that atmosphere is over now and Nepal is coming forward with a bilateral understanding. We are having a bilateral understanding with Nepal on these two projects—Karnali Project and the Pancheshwar Project.

This is a multi-purpose project and as you said, we are expecting to get 3,600 to 4,000 megawatt from Karnali and from Pancheshwar project we are expecting to get 2,000 megawatts of power.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: When are these groups meeting? I would like to know when they are meeting.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): The last meeting was held on 3rd February, 1981. (Interruptions) We are dealing at Government to Government level, and the officials had a meeting last month.

श्री मूल खन्दा डागा : देश के अन्दर बिजली की कमी है । आपने नेपाल से पहले पहल कब समझौता किया था और समझौता करने के बाद आपको कितना समय प्राजेक्ट रिपोर्ट बनाने में लग गया ? गवर्नमेंट की मशीनरी धीमी चलती है । कब समझौता हुआ था, तारीख बताइये ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY: It is not possible to give the date now.

श्री मूल खन्दा डागा : कर्नाली के लिए बात कब कर ली है ?

श्री विक्रम महाजन : 3 मार्च, 1981 को मैंने कह तो दिया है ।

Foreign companies for oil Exploration

*292. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign companies for oil exploration in the country have been short-listed.

(b) if so, the names of these companies and terms and conditions accepted by them as well as by Government of India for exploration; and

(c) whether Government are aware that these terms and conditions will have damaging consequences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the names of the companies which were short-listed is placed on the Table of the House. No terms and conditions have been settled with any of the companies.

Statement

Names of the short-listed firms for inviting offers for oil exploration

1. Mobil Oil Corporation, USA.
2. Superior Oil Company, USA.
3. Petrobras International SA, Brazil.
4. Texco International Petroleum Company, USA.
5. Amoco International Oil Company, USA.