

**Nuclear Power unit in Southern Region**

\*143. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision on the site for setting up nuclear power unit in the southern region; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, the people of Karnataka have been experiencing severe power shortage for the last 6 or 7 years. Not only that, Karnataka is the only deficit State in the entire Southern region in so far as power is concerned. It has no other alternative resource to augment power resources. The Central Selection Committee has selected two sites, one in the Sharavati project area and the other near the Tungabhadra Project area. These areas fulfil all the criteria fixed for setting up nuclear plants. These sites are far away from the populated area. Here water is available in plenty in the existing reservoirs to meet the needs of the nuclear plants. Necessary roadways, railway link and also other infrastructural facilities exist. A strong and suitable electricity network is also available to absorb the power generation from the nuclear power lines. In addition to that, there is another site ...

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot explain all these things. You have to put your question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: May I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether the Government of India is going to agree for the setting up of a nuclear power plant in

Karnataka to meet the present power shortages in that State?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned the fact about the power requirements of Karnataka. The Government of India are aware of the power shortages and its requirements all over the country. A Site Selection Committee was set up on the 16th July, 1981 to go into various aspects of the suitability of sites. The hon. Member has mentioned about various things which will be looked into by the Site Selection Committee. I can only assure the Member that the needs of Karnataka are definitely being looked into by the Government of India and as soon as the Site Selection Committee sends its report, we will disclose the areas in the South where the atomic power stations are to be set up.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Our country has to depend more and more on nuclear energy in order to meet the requirements of energy in the future. I humbly request the Government to consider setting up of a separate atomic power commission because as you know the present situation with respect to design, developments, construction of nuclear power lines and also its maintenance, inspection, certification and supply of fuel to these nuclear power plants, is that these are under one agency, that is, Atomic Energy Commission which is unparalleled in the entire world. I would request the Government that it should have a second look in this aspect. May I also know from the hon. Prime Minister whether there is any plan development to meet the nuclear power lines in the future?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: As far as part one of the hon. Member's question is concerned, I think I have already replied to that and for his suggestion regarding who should look into the sites and who should look after the atomic energy programme. I think we have a fairly definite

policy and I am sure the hon. Member is aware of that. But I would like to mention that the Government has taken a decision to instal larger stations with an approximate installed capacity of 2000 megawatts at the sites because we find that they are cost effective. Land use, population, environmental factors and various other things will have to be looked into before a large atomic power station is set up.

**SHRI B. V. DESAI:** The hon. Minister has just now mentioned about the Committee. Is it not a fact that that Committee has recommended, as a first preference, Munirabad in the Tungbhadra area for setting up such a project?

**SHRI C. P. N. SINGH:** As I have already stated, this Committee was set up on the 16th July and we have had no recommendations from this Committee so far.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** I would like to know whether it is a fact that there is already a nuclear power unit supposed to be under construction at Kalpakkam, which happens to be in the southern region of India, in case you do not know ...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you a student of history as well as geography?

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** I am a scholar, not a student. (*Interruptions*). Is it not a fact that the Government has been hopelessly behind schedule in the completion of the Kalpakkam power unit which is in Southern India? By what time do the Government propose to complete this nuclear power unit?

**SHRI C. P. N. SINGH:** The hon. Member mentioned that he is a scholar, and I am sure, he would be scholarly in understanding that in our efforts towards self-reliance in technological developments and indigenisation, delays owing to certain faults in various parts of our programme are inevitable. We are trying to

rectify them. As far as building of an atomic power plant goes, India can hold its head high ...

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** I asked a straight question ...

**SHRI C. P. N. SINGH:** I am explaining the reasons why the delay has taken place. We are manufacturing most of the things in India and certain factors have been responsible for delay and I am sure that those will be rectified to the benefit of ...

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** When do you propose to complete the Kalpakkam power unit? It is hopelessly behind scheduled.

**SHRI C. P. N. SINGH:** I cannot give a definite date.

**SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:** Already, a nuclear complex is located in Hyderabad and the other infrastructure is also available. Will the Government consider having such a unit at Hyderabad?

**SHRI C. P. N. SINGH:** It is a suggestion from the hon. Member.

#### **Closure of Rama Cast Engineering Motihari, Bihar**

\*144. **SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rama Cast Engineering, Motihari in the district East Champaran at Bihar has been closed since long;

(b) if so, the reasons of its closure and the action taken by the Central Government thereupon; and

(c) the final timings when it is going to be reopened?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India are not aware of the reasons for its