

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Have funds been allocated for the purpose of setting up demonstration units, to establish the technical viability of the project ? If so, what are the details ?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : For the schemes which are sanctioned under the 6th plan, funds are allocated by the Planning Commission. We had not set up any units for demonstration purposes. We are only investigating a new source of energy which is tidal power, about which we have answered another question.

श्री जगपाल सिंह : देश को बाढ़ और सूखे, दोनों से बचाने का सवाल है। दोनों से बचाने के लिए डाक्टर दस्तूर की एक योजना पिछले दिनों अखबारों में छपी थी। यह जो योजना है यह हिमालय और शिवालक शृंखला से जितनी नदियां निकलती हैं उनके मुहानों को बन्द करके वहीं से बिजली प्राप्त करने के बारे में थी। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या ऐसी कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है ?

श्री विक्रम महाजन : यह सवाल इरिगेशन मिनिसट्री से किया जाना चाहिये क्योंकि उन्हीं को डाक्टर दस्तूर ने योजना दी थी।

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : I am told—and the Minister may know it better—that in China small power units are set up on the course of the rivers ; and these power units can cater to the needs of the small paddy fields. Lakhs of such power units are there in China. In our country, especially in the southern part, there are so many rivers whose current is so powerful that thousands and thousands of small power units can be tried ; and the cost of their installation will also be less, as I understand. Will the Hon. Minister make a study on this ? If necessary,

he can send a delegation to China, if he wants to study over there also.

AN HON. MEMBER : Dr. Subramaniam Swamy can be sent to China.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : I have got no objection. Why not study this aspect of power generation which will not create any pollution or will not do any harm to the environment ? I would like to know whether he will examine it ; whether he is prepared to make a study on this and make a statement here.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : That experiment has been done in our country: our people have done it. As far as small units are concerned, well that is also being advised to the different State Electricity Boards to try on that ; and we have promised to give them all assistance which is required from our side ; and also we are prepared to help the State Electricity Boards. (*Interruptions*)

Opening of a Sub-Post Office in Spadum Zanskar Valley of Kargil District in Jammu and Kashmir

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(a) what is the latest position in respect of opening of a new Sub-Post Office in Spadum, Zanskar Valley of Kargil District in Jammu and Kashmir State ; and

(b) what problems the Department is facing in opening such a sub-post office and measures taken to remove the problems ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) A seasonal branch post office already exists in Spadum Zanskar. It functions from July to

October. The proposal is to provide the service round the year. No final decision has yet been taken in the matter.

(b) During the remaining eight months, the public transport services do not operate on the Kargil-Spadum route. Therefore, mail has to be conveyed through runners from Kargil or Leh. Carrying heavy loads at very high altitudes and in adverse weather conditions may be hazardous. Further, the distance being long, the cost of mail conveyance on foot will be excessive even by the liberal norms adopted for backward areas. However, the Department is actively considering these matters.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: As you know, the population of Zaskar is over 18,000 spread over some 30 villages. Like Lahaul and Spiti valleys of Himachal Pradesh, you have a sub-post office in Keylong. The road remains closed for over six months in that area. You have a system of carrying mail through the Army helicopter in that area. Will the Hon. Minister consider such a facility in that land-locked area also?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): We are taking advantage of the Army helicopter not to this particular area but between Srinagar and Leh. As for this particular area, we made a suggestion to the State Government that helicopter service may be arranged for; and by the helicopter, the other commodities to the area also can be lifted; and they may share with us the expenditure to a certain extent. The point is that this isolated area has got to be served—it is a matter for the State Government also. The helicopter can take other things also and a partnership can be there. But their answer was negative. Hence our answer was negative.

Therefore, the only alternative before us is to arrange for runners. The runners have got to be arranged in a team of three starting from one end and the other team starting from the other end. The total length is 220 kms. This area has got to be covered over the base because of the valuable things which are taken. Most of these things go by postal parcels. The other articles to those areas also go by this. This is being examined, but the expenditure is rather too high. The expenditure has been calculated to be Rs. 24,000 or something like that. Anyway, we will have to incur this expenditure. Not only for this, but for the other areas also. A survey is being made. Normal norms not apply for these particular areas. This particular place consists of 24 villages and a population of 7,000 not 18 000.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: There are 6,000 and odd voters. You can calculate out of that. (*Interruption*)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: He knows it better. I admit it.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Do not mislead the House.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Your figure is not correct.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I concede it. Whatever the point is, this proposition of covering it by the Postal arrangement through runners, this we are now reviving it Helicopter proposition we will take up if the State Government also will cooperate.

MR. SPEAKER: Question hour is over.