

[Pandit G. B. Pant]

a vast country and references have often to be made not only to attached offices, subordinate offices and other offices, but also to State Governments. We have no control over them. We have to send reminders to them occasionally. They are also hard-pressed for time. But we get what we need from them. So the delay is not dismal, but the delay should be eliminated even where it is.

He referred to pension cases. Well, I am sorry that still pension cases are not being disposed of as quickly as they ought to be. But it is not only a matter concerning government servants who are directly under us, the Auditor-General and the Accountant-General also have to examine these cases very thoroughly. Then, in every case where a man goes out a preliminary estimate is made and pension to that extent is sanctioned at once; it is only for the final sanction of the exact amount in rupees, annas and pies—well, there are no annas and pies now, it is now naye paise—that he has to wait. Even this, I agree, should be eliminated, but it does take some time.

He also referred to the aspect of training. There too we are doing a lot. After all, how are the services to be improved? We have to give them training so that those who join government service may be of the proper standard. For that, we are now going to establish our National Academy of Training. It is my idea that all those who are recruited, whether for IAS, IPS, Central Services or for Accounts and Audit, should first receive a ground work for four or six months in the fundamentals of our Constitution, of our objectives, of the principles of social justice, equality, liberty etc., which are enshrined in our Constitution, and of the directive principles that are there. We have thought over the matter, and we want to have more of the Gandhian philosophy

introduced in the syllabus, so that people may at least be able to realise what we were told we have to work for, even if we are not able to act up to all the ideals and objectives.

17 hrs.

So, there is a continuous effort in every direction, I would like anyone, if he is interested in this, to help me in this task. If it is so desired, one or two or three Members can be associated in discussing administrative problems. I would be glad to discuss this matter with Mr. Mathur and others who may be interested as to how far we have got scope for work in this field. That has to be examined, because ultimately it is essentially an administrative problem and so, the matter has to be examined by those who are thoroughly acquainted with the practical operations in this field. There may for example, be very good doctors; they may be well versed in theory, but they may not yet have attained that skill which makes a great doctor. So, it will have to be considered whether we can by associating together help the purpose which we all have in view.

There are a number of matters to which I would like to refer, but I do not want to encroach upon the time of the House, especially when the exact time has been fixed.

17.02 hrs.

#### \*SHARAVATHY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I want to read rule 55, because I have received two chits and two hon. Members have asked me to give them five minutes each in this half-an-hour discussion.

"The member who has given notice may make a short statement and the Minister concerned shall reply shortly. Any member who has previously intimated to

the Speaker may be permitted to ask a question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact"

So, Mr Imam may have 10 minutes and the Minister may take 10 minutes for the reply. The intervening 10 minutes may be given to two or three Members.

Shri Mohammed Imam (Chitaldrug) Mr Deputy-Speaker, I am raising a discussion on this question with a view to appraise the Government and more particularly the Minister for Power, to consider the urgent necessity of implementing and completing the Sharavathy Valley Project in Mysore, which is of vital importance to the State of Mysore but also to the adjoining States around it.

This is not the first time this question is raised in this House. Repeated representations have been made to the Government and to the Minister both within this House and outside. It is true that successive Ministers for Power have expressed abundant sympathy and some have expressed their admiration for the scheme. Shri S. K. Patil when he was Minister for Power—I think he inaugurated the scheme—expressed in this House that this is one of the fine projects and deserves all help. But before fulfilling his promise he had to switch on to another Ministry. I think the present Minister also expressed his appreciation and admiration in similar terms. When the question was raised during the last session the Deputy Minister was pleased to state that the scheme and the project would be brought within the core of the Plan. So we all expected that after the return of the Finance Minister from his foreign tour due consideration would be given to this scheme and necessary foreign exchange would be allotted. What was our surprise and disappointment when we received the reply to the question I tabled that the Government have not provided the foreign exchange and that they are still exploring the possibility of providing the foreign

exchange. This raises very serious misapprehensions in my mind whether the Government will be generous enough to come and render all possible help.

The State of Mysore is a pioneer in this field. Mysore was the first to start hydro-electric works in the whole of India. Sivasamudram valley project was harnessed and that project provided about 64,000 kw power, which was the basis for industrial development in the State of Mysore. Realising the need and the increased demand for power in Mysore, the then Government in Mysore constructed the Mahatma Gandhi Hydro electric Works, which provided additional power of 1,20,000 kw. But, on account of the increased demand this power was fully utilized in the course of three or four years. This extra power was utilized by the iron works of Bhadravathi, by the defence factories that were started by the Government of India at Bangalore and other industries. The increased demand was necessitated by the enlargement of the State and the need to supply power to the under developed portion of the State of Mysore. So much so, the present position is that there is not a single horse power of power which can be utilized for other purposes. The State has been suffering from starvation of power. Both for domestic consumption and for industries power is not available. There are instances where companies have imported machinery and material from abroad but they cannot put them into service because of want of power. In fact, I can say that an industrial crisis has set in, all developmental work, both industrial and agricultural, has come to a stop.

Realising that there would be a shortage of power very soon the Government of Mysore started the Sharavathy Valley Project. In fact, the Government of Mysore prepared a scheme in the year 1949 and the Minister held out hopes about this scheme. I remember it very well, because I was a member of the

[Shri Mohammed Imam]

Assembly at that time. Even a small provision was made in the State budget. Now eight years have elapsed and still we do not see any response from the Central Government.

Now I may say something about this scheme. I have no hesitation in saying that this project is one of the most economical ones in India. I can even say that it is the most economic scheme in India. The estimate is a modest one. I think it has come to about Rs. 40 crores. The total power that will be generated after completion will be 9,00,000 k.w. and it can be stepped up to nearly one million k.w. The cost of production per k.w. will be about Rs. 450 or Rs. 500 per k.w. I would like to know if there is any other project in the whole of India which can be compared to this scheme and whether anything has been constructed at a cheaper rate.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): No project.

Shri Mohammed Imam: What is more, this project is meant not only for the State of Mysore but for the adjoining States also which are neglected. The Mysore Government have started the civil portion of the work. They have started construction of the dam. The canal work is going on and ten thousand people are working on this site. The Mysore Government have already called for tenders for the machinery. Quotations have been received, but they cannot accept the quotations and cannot place an order because the Government have not made available the foreign exchange. This is a very deplorable position. After all, we do not want foreign exchange for the full scheme. We want to execute the first portion of the scheme and if we fulfil the first phase of the scheme we will be generating power to the extent of 1,82,000 kilowatts. Perhaps the foreign exchange that is needed will be about Rs. 2 crores or even less because now we want only two generators at this stage. It is expected, taking the

present circumstances into consideration and taking into consideration that the hon. Finance Minister has succeeded in his mission and has secured much foreign exchange, that it will not be difficult for the Government of India to set apart a small portion of the foreign exchange that is so much needed.

I may point out to you that the target contemplated under the Plan is about 3.5 million kilowatts and the amount set apart is about Rs. 900 crores. If you complete this scheme, one-third of the target contemplated in the Plan will be realised within Rs. 40 crores. I find from the core of the Plan that you have added a number of hydro-electric projects like Bhakra, Chambal, Rihand and various other projects which are in the Plan, which consume a lot of money and the cost of production is very high, whereas in the core of the Plan you have included only two schemes, i.e., Tungabhadra and Bhadra. The Bhadra scheme was started long ago and it was practically complete. In fact, you want to say that you have included two schemes from the South also. But I may point out that the Tungabhadra multi-purpose scheme and Bhadra were started in the year 1950 and they are completed. They did not need much foreign exchange. In fact, this is the life blood of the State of Mysore and we want this to be completed with various works.

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

Shri Mohammed Imam: I want two minutes more.

It is needed firstly to develop our iron industry. Because there is no coal, we need electric power for starting a furnace in the Bhadravati Iron Works. We need power to start more industries and for agricultural purposes. We need power because the State has enlarged in its size and population. It has nearly doubled than what it was ten years ago.

The rest of the Mysore State is undeveloped and they are clamouring for power. So, I submit and I pray that the Government will readily announce their willingness to set apart the foreign exchange that is needed for the scheme. I assure you that you will not be sorry for setting apart the foreign exchange for the scheme because it is one of the finest and most economical schemes. So, I pray the hon. Minister to consider this sympathetically.

**Shri Basappa (Tiptur):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I must congratulate my hon. friend, Shri Mohammed Imam, for raising this half-an-hour discussion on the vital subject of the Sharavathy Valley Project.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He can ask a question or two and not make a speech and congratulate.

**Shri Basappa:** I want four or five minutes.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If I give him four minutes and four or five minutes to another hon. Member, then maybe the hon. Minister will not be left with anything to reply.

**Shri Basappa:** I will not take more than four minutes.

The whole point is that since this Sharavathy Valley Project is a very cheap one, since Mysore and the neighbouring parts are starved of electric power, since the hon. Minister is fully aware of the long discussion that has taken place on the 24th and the 25th of last month in the Mysore Assembly wherein strong criticism was made against that Government for not fulfilling their promise, since the reason given by this Government that it is not connected with any of the schemes for production of steel or coal or transport facilities is not a reasonable proposal, may I ask the hon. Minister to reconsider the whole position, because, the very rationale of their

including projects in the core of the Plan is put to question.

Therefore, I insist that this Government should reconsider their position regarding the projects to be included in the core of the Plan. After all, the Plan is not sacrosanct. We have been reappraising the Plan a number of times. On the sole ground that it is not in the core of the Plan they should not exclude it.

The foreign exchange involved in the first stage, which consists of only Rs. 22 crores, is only Rs. 7 crores. I understand it is in fact less than Rs. 7 crores. The ex-Chief Ministers of the State are all here, and ex-Chief Ministers Hanumanthaiya and Nijalingappa have all spoken with one vehement voice on this matter.

May I therefore request that this Government will kindly reconsider the matter? Assurances were given by you, a number of them. What efforts have you made to implement them? What is the result of it? Is it going to be fulfilled and is it going to be taken up?

This project is needed not only for the people of Mysore, but the Central Government industries are located there. All those will be starved. May I therefore request that this may be reconsidered as it will be only a small sum that will be needed? My hon. friend here is telling me that only Rs. 1 crore is required. I therefore request that an assurance may be given that this will be included in the core of the Plan or in any case that the Sharavathy project will be fulfilled.

**Shri T. Subramanyam (Bellary):** I will put only a question. In view of the fact that when I recently went there several works were under construction and about ten thousand people were employed, and in view of the fact that previously assurances were given to us that topmost priority would be given for this Sharavathy project outside the core of the Plan,

[Shri T. Subramanyam]

and in view of the fact that the balanced regional development of that area would be absolutely impossible without undertaking and completing this Sharavathy project, and in view also of the fact that....

**An Hon. Member:** Very clever:

**Shri T. Subramanyam:** ...that taking the figure for construction of civil works and other things, the amount required by way of foreign exchange is absolutely negligible inasmuch as that for the first phase of the project it is only just one crore or a little below one and a half crores of rupees that is required, in view of all these facts may I ask the hon. Minister....

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy):** Only a question.

**Shri T. Subramanyam:** Yes, I am putting the question. In view of all these facts may I put this question to the hon. Minister whether Government is seriously considering it and whether they have decided to provide the foreign exchange for this important project?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Dr. Melkote. A question only.

**Shri Mohammed Imam:** Sir, I want only one information.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He should have put it earlier. What has he been doing?

**Shri Mohammed Imam:** Was not the hon. Minister for Works, Housing and Supply the Chief Minister of Mysore at that time?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** It is true that the project was initiated when I was Chief Minister of Mysore. But what has that to do with this discussion?

**Shri Keshava (Bangalore City):** Is it impossible to spare just a crore for this project? That is my question.

**Dr. Melkote (Raichur):** May I ask the hon. Minister to let me know whether Mysore is not running short of electricity acutely; secondly, whether it is not a fact that the amount needed in the Second Five Year Plan is a very meagre sum which can be easily allotted; thirdly, when we met the Minister and a few Members of the Planning Commission about two months back whether the Minister has not assured us that as soon as the Finance Minister returned from America and the position improved this will be given first priority?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Mr. Dasappa

**Shri Mohammed Imam:** Another Mysore Minister!

**Shri Dasappa (Bangalore):** May I know whether the terms that the Mysore Government has secured for the purposes of purchase of plant and machinery for this are not extremely advantageous and no such favourable terms could be had anywhere else? That is one question. The second question is, since coal is included in the core of the Plan, why have they excluded white coal which is electricity, because coal generates power and hydro-electricity is also generation of power. I would like to have an answer on the point.

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim):** Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. Members of this House to have reminded again about the necessity of the Sharavathy project. As far as Mysore is concerned, in the old Mysore and in Mysore which is constituted after the re-organisation of States, there is acute shortage of electricity at present. I know that very small loads have to be refused today. So, there is no doubt that the Mysore State, as it is at present, needs, rather badly needs, provision of electricity at the earliest moment.

As far as the Sharavathy Scheme is concerned, about which you have

heard so much during this discussion, I can say that I am probably more enamoured of this scheme than any other Members of this House here may be.

**Shri Keshava:** Show that affection in action.

**Some Hon. Members:** He will.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This ought to be sufficient for the hon. Member.

**Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim:** I desire and really I assure hon. Members, I am not speaking for the sake of speaking or deceiving hon. Members, I am speaking the truth and only the truth that my desire is that this scheme may be completed within the shortest possible time. One of the merits of this scheme, which makes it a unique scheme throughout the whole of this country, is, lakhs of k.w. of electricity will become available at damn cheap cost. This is one of the merits, which is the most prominent merit and no one scheme in India compares with it in regard to this. It is for this sake also very dear to me as well. As I said I am most desirous of seeing it through. But, as it is already known....

**Shri Keshava:** No 'but', Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The 'but' has come; hon. Members ought to be more patient.

**Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim:** I will say this is a very favourable 'but'. A very favourable 'but' it will be.

**Shri Keshava:** Then it is welcome.

**Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim:** Not only I. I assure this House on behalf of those also who are not present here—the Members of the Planning Commission of this country—they are also very desirous of pushing through this scheme and they have been also putting their efforts and their sympathy with it.

As far as the 'but' is concerned, it is too well known that we are short of foreign exchange. In the core,

which was being spoken about just now in some speeches here, fortunately or unfortunately, whatever it may be,—at least I am not responsible for that core—this scheme does not come in.

**Shri Basappa:** It was included in the B Class projects.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let us hear.

**Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim:** If I forget anything, afterwards, it may be pointed out by hon. Members.

Leaving aside the core, this scheme has got the highest priority in all the schemes relating to electricity and power in this country. Still, in spite of that difficulty which is a real difficulty at present in the way of all progress we are making at present, we are making an earnest effort that anyhow we should be able to achieve this object and we must begin it just tomorrow. As to what we are doing for it at present, I shall, to be very exact, read two or three lines from my note which is a very short one.

The possibility of procuring the plant and machinery required for this project by utilising the Export and Import Bank loan, the yen credit and the D.L.F. loan to the extent possible is being explored. The possibility of procuring some equipment from the USSR under the Indo-Russian Trade Agreement for which negotiations are in progress, is also being explored.

This is what we are doing at present, and I assure the hon. Members that our efforts for it will continue till we succeed, and we hope to succeed not very late. I am not disappointed, I am hopeful that we will get something, and this scheme will be put through.

With these words I finish. I need not say anything more.

17.26 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 10th December, 1958.*