

German University also found that the result was very much encouraging. In view of this fact and also in view of the fact that certain distinguished nuclear physicists have suggested to the Central Government to ask the Atomic Energy Commission to set up a pilot plant for the commercial exploitation of the helium in that region, I want to know what step is this Department—not Education Department—of Atomic Energy taking to set up the pilot plant for exploitation of helium available not only in Bakreswar but also in Palamau of Hazaribagh district of Bihar?

SHRI K C PANT The Ministry of Education was funding this scheme in the beginning from 1972, later on after the death of Prof Bose in 1971 this matter was referred by them to the Department of Science and Technology asking them to take over the scheme. The Department of Science and Technology set up a Committee to report on this matter.

Then, the Department of Atomic Energy as I said were also engaged in the task and it was recommended that the Department of Atomic Energy should assess the availability of helium and find out whether it is commercially viable to exploit the helium. Now my friend has given some data and some figures—I am not going into this matter just now because it is now under the consideration of the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology. After seeing the data they will come to a conclusion. It has not been dropped, nor has it been abandoned.

DR SARADISH ROY It has been stated that a sum of rupees one lakh has been given for 1975-76.

SHR K C PANT 1975-76 has not come to an end. One lakh of rupees was given for 1975-76. Day after tomorrow you may ask whether this will continue or not.

DR RANEN SEN: My question has been answered by Shri Pant. To-day is 31st March. Tomorrow is an all-fools day. Does he propose that a small meagre sum of Rs 1 lakh for such an important research will be announced on the all-fools day, that is, tomorrow. Is that his contention?

SHRI K C PANT It depends on persons for whom it is announced.

Proposal for Sharing of Surplus Power by States

*322 **SHRI S M BANERJEE** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether Central Government have made a proposal to the State Governments to share surplus power; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K C PANT) (a) and (b) While no specific proposal has been made the relevant aspects of this matter have been discussed with the States from time to time. It has been agreed that the integrated operation of power systems should be promoted with a view to meeting inter-alia deficits in the availability of power in the various States/Regions when required.

SHRI S M BANERJEE What further directive has been given by the Centre to the State Governments with regard to the sharing of power? I would like to know what financial assistance has been given to the States like the UP, Tamilnadu and West Bengal where we have seen that there was a maximum power shortage. What amount is proposed to be given to those States in the Fifth Plan?

SHRI K C PANT Financial assistance is given by the Centre to the States as part of the annual planning exercise and this is a sum total which is given to the States on the basis of a formula known as 'Gadgil Formula'. That does not include the sharing of

power as one of the ingredients and I would suggest that the States should invest in power to see that shortages do not occur and to see that their projects come up fast enough. Centre does not invest too much directly in power generation. We are now going in for Central super-thermal power stations. We have some hydro-electric stations but by and large States should be prepared to invest sufficiently in power generation. The only manner in which we can help is to give assistance for inter-State transmission lines so that power can go from one State where it is surplus to another where it is less.

SHRI S M BANERJEE Sir, when the question of power shortage was discussed in the House we were assured by the hon. Minister of having a national power grid to help the various States. I would like to know whether any final decision has been taken in this respect. If not, the reasons for delay?

SHRI K C PANT The setting up of a national power grid is a process and it is not something which comes up overnight. It is a process of strengthening the various links within a State then within a region and then between the regions. I would like to say we are at a stage where we are strengthening the regional grid, and creating regional electricity boards. This has been happening in the last few years and today the regional links are fairly strong. Some of the inter-regional links are being strengthened. There are centrally sponsored programmes to construct the inter-State and regional links. Thirty such projects have been taken up in the Fourth Plan.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER Whether the Ministry of Energy is going to chalk out an integrated plan for utilisation of surplus energy in the country. Some time back there were certain suggestions from some of the States for utilisation of the surplus energy particularly during night hours and more particularly in the industrial belt

area so that the surplus energy can be utilised in the night shift and thereby also diverting the energy to the backward and deficient areas where now agricultural operations like lift irrigation, etc. are going on.

SHRI K C PANT Inter-State transfers of power have taken place in many States and many of the deficit States have been helped. So far as utilisation of surplus night power is concerned—which is a problem in Calcutta—I would think that it is easier to use power for industries at night than for agriculture. So, if it is possible for the industries in Calcutta and West Bengal to make better use of power at night then it will certainly help the power situation in Calcutta and West Bengal.

SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY Sir, two things emerge from the hon. Minister's statement. As regards the Gadgil Formula there is no such scope for division and allocation of finances on the basis of augmentation of more power. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether steps should be taken from now on for more and more augmentation of power potentialities of the respective States and for that matter whether adequate finances would be given. Secondly, I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister as to whether he has come across a recent news item that in North-Bengal there is enough potentiality of water wealth and out of this water wealth we can have power to the extent of 1000 to 1800 mw.

A few days ago a Japanese team while visiting that area were saying with regard to exploration that 'dollars are flowing into the sea and nobody is taking care of it. Based on this observation of the Japanese team that dollars are flowing into the Bay of Bengal meaning that the North Bengal water wealth is going waste, will the Government of India on their own appoint a Commission or some experts of the Water and Power Commission to formulate an integrated plan for

tapping this potential in the North Bengal area?

SHRI K. C. PANT: We are aware of the potential in the North Bengal area. In fact, last week, there were two questions in relation to the North Bengal area which I answered in the House where I gave full details of the schemes being taken up, the money that has been allotted and the time-span within which the schemes are likely to fructify.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: What about the observation of the Japanese team?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lakkappa.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: There were bilateral talks between Karnataka and Kerala in regard to the sharing of surplus power. What are the results of the talks?

SHRI K. C. PANT: The deliberations were bilateral, they were not trilateral. The two States know best what happened between them. They have not sent us any official communication. But I do believe that a certain amount of power is going from Kerala to Karnataka, and they have agreed upon a price.

Research on raising Salt yield

*323. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Committee on Science and Technology envisages research on how to raise salt yield in the country; and

(b) if so, the proposed expenditure on this research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). The draft Science and Technology Plan (1974-79) prepared by National Committee on Science and Technology which was

placed on the Table of the House on the 26th March, 1974 had inter-alia identified Research Projects for raising the salt yield in the country and for implementation of these projects, an expenditure of Rs. 14.60 lakhs was proposed.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: What is the need of the country so far as salt is concerned?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I am only dealing with research and development. Salt consumption is not of my portfolio.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: My hon. friend has stated that the Science and Technology Plan envisages that research on salt is dependent on the needs of the country. Planning includes the requirement of the country. It should be known. Unless you know the requirement, how can you Plan? .

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not argue. Ask your question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: He should answer my question. My question is very relevant. That is why I am asking it. He cannot say I cannot put it.

Anyhow, I will put another question...

SHRI N. K. P. SAIIVE: That is a concession to the Minister!

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: What are the development projects envisaged in Karnataka under this science and technology scheme? In Karnataka, there is a very large availability of salt. Which are the places envisaged in the plan?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: There are two points. One is that in research and development and in the science and technology plan, we are trying to undertake those research development projects under which production per hectare can be increased. For that, some ideas have been identified already. But so far as the total production and consumption in the areas is concerned, when I said it is not part of the present