

Power shortage in Tamil Nadu

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*305. SHRI V. MAYAVAN :
SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power shortage in Tamil Nadu has forced closure of mills and created great problem in the Tamil Nadu State;

(b) if so, the reasons for power shortage; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to help the State to overcome the problem ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) :
(a) No, Sir. There is no report of closure of mills in Tamil Nadu on account of power shortage.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI V. MAYAVAN : May I know whether there is a proposal to cut another mine in Neyveli so that the lignite can be used for the production of thermal power ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : That is under consideration. There is not sufficient amount of lignite to make use of for 600 mw capacity that has been installed in Neyveli. So the expansion of the output in that region is under consideration.

SHRI V. MAYAVAN : The hon. Minister had given an assurance earlier that Kalpakam atomic energy would be commissioned in the year 1974. Now they have postponed it to '76. May I know whether this later assurance will be kept ?

DR. K. L. RAO : The Kalpakam atomic power station is expected to become critical by 1975 and power will be available in the early part of 1976.

Commercial Agreement with E.E.C.

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*306. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :
SHRI J. A. G. ANNATH
MISHRA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

a) whether European Economic Community has approved a proposal for

commercial cooperation agreement with India ; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The European Economic Community is in the process of finalising its proposals on our request for Commercial Cooperation Agreement between the two sides.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : May I know whether it is a fact that Britain has entered the EEC to be effective from January 1973 ? If so, what would be the trading problems facing us because of the entry of the British ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Yes, Sir. Britain has entered EEC and only a formality is left for its entry in January 1973. It is for this reason that we are very anxious to have direct arrangements with the EEC countries. We want to have commercial co-operation agreement. We have made some progress but there are some difficulties. We hope we will be able to sort them out as a result of our direct negotiations with the EEC member countries.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : What is the result of the talks on the duty-free export of coir and jute products to the EEC countries ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : It is not only a question of coir or jute, which are individual items. First an agreement has to be made with regard to all goods. Then alone trade will follow.

DR. RANEN SEN : What are the terms that are being discussed with the EEC countries and how long the talks will continue ? What is the trend of the discussion ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : It will not be advisable to give the terms of the agreement at the moment. We submitted an *aide-memoire* in the latter part of 1970. After that I had been to Brussels. The Prime Minister was also there and she was good enough to have talks with the people in charge of EEC. As a result of the changed attitude on the part of some countries—I do not want to mention names—I feel that we will have agreement with EEC. Now that Bangladesh has become a separate independent State, we will not have any difficulties so far as jute is concerned.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Our export of textiles to UK this year has been adversely affected by the duty imposed by UK. In view of the fact that we used to export a large quantity of textiles to UK and EEC countries, may I know whether any special arrangements are going to be made so that we can maintain our exports ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Textile is one of the items in respect of which our performance in the field of exports is very poor. That is our complaint against the textile industry. It has not been able to fulfil its commitment of export. That is one of the main considerations why we are going to take over the export of textiles.

SHRI RAGHUNANDANLAL BHATTIA : What is the attitude of the British Government in respect of the negotiations which are taking place between India and EEC countries ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I will call it helpful. They are not against our direct negotiations.

Trade and Transit Treaty in South Asian Countries

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*308. **SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :**

SHRI B. V. NAIK :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some countries in South Asia have shown keenness to sign a Treaty of Trade and Transit between themselves ; and

(b) if so, what initiative the Government of India have taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There has been no proposal under consideration for a common Treaty of Trade and Transit among the countries in South Asia. There have, however, been certain initiatives under the aegis of Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, for closer trade and monetary co-operation among the countries of the region. These proposals have received the attention of several Governments, including that of the Government of India.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Which are the countries of this region which have entered into

dialogue with the Government of India for having this kind of trade and transit treaty ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : At the moment we have arrangements only with the Government of Nepal. At the Kabul conference of the Economic Ministers of this region it was decided to have this kind of regional development. At the moment, except with Nepal, we have no arrangement, nor is there any dialogue going on.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : For the last two years the Government of India was proposing to open up a land route from Turkey and Iran to Burma via Pakistan because it would facilitate the trade and transit of the countries of the Asian region and also help Afghanistan. Now that the Pakistan border has been opened for trade from Afghanistan to India, may I know whether this proposal has again been taken up ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : As I said, we have not taken up this matter with any country. So far as Nepal is concerned, we already have trade and transit treaty. With Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries we have not come to any arrangement regarding the transit facilities for regional development.

SHRI B. V. NAIK : If we do not already have dialogue with countries of this area like Burma, Nepal, Bangladesh, West Pakistan, Ceylon, Afghanistan and other countries, since we are geographically contiguous to these countries, would we at least at this stage initiate talks for having a South Asian Economic Community because our economies are inter-dependent ?

MR. SPEAKER : You yourself argue about it and then also suggest it. This is not the proper way of asking a question.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : It is a very much wider approach. So far as the ECAFE is concerned, there is already a body for development of this area. So far as having some other body for this area is concerned we have no such proposal. As I said only yesterday in the Rajya Sabha, so far as jute is concerned, we want to have some arrangement with Bangladesh. But it is a loud thinking. Nothing can be said at this stage.