

for completion. So far as Thein dam is concerned it is being sanctioned and the work has commenced. It will take nearly 7 or 8 years to complete.

**SHRI V. ARUNACHALAM:** As part of the national power policy, will the Central Government come forward to fix uniform rates per unit for the hydel power to be sold by the States to other States?

**SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN:** Under the existing Act, it has to be done by the State Government. I think one has to go to the State Government for negotiation.

**SHRI ANANT DAVE:** The minister in his statement referred to new schemes yet to be sanctioned, which will give benefits during 1978-83. I would like to know how many new schemes are yet to be sanctioned and whether there is any scheme for Gujarat State.

**SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN:** As far as Gujarat is concerned, all the schemes have been sanctioned i.e. which have come with all the details; and if more details are required, I would request the hon. Member to put a separate question.

**SHRI K. RAMAMURTHI:** Will the hon. Minister kindly state whether the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu joint project scheme viz. the Billigunda hydel project near Hoggenakal has attracted the attention of the Planning Commission as well as of the Ministry? When will that project be taken up?

**SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN:** It is an inter-State scheme. First, i.e. before we take up that scheme, there must be a discussion between the State governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. After that, if the scheme comes to our notice, we will definitely consider it. It is only at the stage of discussion in the newspapers. No detailed project has been received by Government.

### Grant of Pension to Freedom Fighters

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\*204. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of treating Punnapra-Vayalar struggle as part of freedom movement for the purpose of grant of Central pension to freedom fighters is a long standing demand of Kerala Government;

(b) whether this matter was taken up by the State Government with the Centre lately in September this year; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken a final decision on this matter and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL):

(a) to (c) It has since been decided not to recognise the Punnapra-Vayalar Struggle as part of the National Freedom Struggle for the purpose of grant of Central Freedom Fighters' Pension.

**SHRI K.A. RAJAN:** I would like to say that the Punnapra-Vayalar struggle was fought in October 1946. It was a preindependence struggle. Really, thousands of workers and agricultural labourers fought and died in the battle, shouting slogans for independence and against the tyranny of the late C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, former Dewan of Travancore. It was a struggle against the British, and was also a part of the freedom struggle. When hundreds of people disabled and injured in that battle are still living, why are they not being considered for pension? What is the criterion?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): The criterion is whether the movement

was aimed against the foreigner with the aim of liberating the country from the foreign yoke. All other movements which do not fulfil this criterion have not been considered as freedom struggles.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: I am sorry to say that it is entirely a minister-petition. That struggle was part of the freedom struggle. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Iyer was upholding the imperial structure of the British. Those people fought and died in the battle, crying for freedom. As such, I am surprised to hear this differentiation. I am sorry to say that it is quite unpatriotic to say that they are not freedom fighters. I would also like to ask whether all the people in Kerala irrespective of party or government affiliations have upheld it as a freedom-struggle, and asked the Central Government to treat this struggle as such. I would like to have a categorical answer on this.

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: I think there is no reason for the hon. Member to feel sorry. My point is that only those struggles have been regarded as freedom struggles—I would repeat again—which were aimed at the liberation of the country from the foreigner's yoke. Here, the struggle was essentially a kisan struggle against landlords.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: No, Sir (*Inter-ruptions*).

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: What does this mean? Maybe I am wrong; but I have a right to have my say. My point is that it was essentially a kisan struggle, aimed at the landlords. The then Diwan of the State, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, sided with the landlords. So, party it was aimed against the Diwan also. It was not regarded as a freedom struggle is clear from two facts. First, the State Congress at that time kept itself aloof from this movement. Secondly, when independence was attained, all the freedom fighters were released, but not these

gentlemen. They were released in 1954-55.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I am sorry to hear the answer of the hon. Minister, because this happened in front of my house in my childhood days. It is still fresh in my memory. Then the slogan was "End the Diwan's Rule" and "Throw the American model in the Arabian Sea". Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer had introduced the American system of Government in the then Travancore area. So, my main question is why you are discriminating in the matter of the fight of the people in the princely States against the Maharaja and the Diwan, who were under the British control in those days. It is true that this is a part of the agitation of the people against the Diwan, but there is no British rule in the State; only the British Resident is there. This is a fight for independence by the people in the States. In Punnapra Vayalar about 300 people died in police firing, according to the estimate of my father. Apart from that, if you adopt your own criterion, in the then British Malaba there was a big revolt called the Mopalla Rebellion in 1921, and the Congress Working Committee passed a resolution in 1921, upholding this rebellion. And Mahatma Gandhi said "Brave, God-fearing fight against the British tyranny". May I know from the hon. Minister why you make this discrimination between the people who fight against the princely States and those who fight against the British and, secondly, why are you reluctant to accept the Mopalla Rebellion as a freedom movement against the British?

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: I can only repeat what I have already said. Had it been a freedom struggle movement, the State Congress at that time would have participated in it, because that is the biggest political party in the country, in the States also, which was fighting against the British. It did not join this movement. So, my point is that it was a movement sponsored by some Communists; that is all; not by Congressmen. Secondly,

when the country became independent of the British yoke, all the freedom fighters who were then confined in Jail were released immediately. But these people were not released because they were not considered freedom fighters. They were released only in 1954-55 by the then State Government in order to avoid or escape a no-confidence motion. That is all. All these questions which are being raised now, or the arguments which are now being advanced by my hon. friends sitting opposite, these arguments were not raised at that time. Even if they were raised, they did not find acceptance because the incidents of 1946 were fresh in the minds of our leaders.

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** For the first no-confidence motion against Pattom Thanu Pillai the main reason was the refusal to release the political prisoners at that time. Not only the Punnappra Vayalar prisoners but even Congressmen were not released.

**श्री नाथू सिंह :** मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि पूरे देश में कांग्रेस सरकार द्वारा जिन लोगों को स्वतंत्रता सेनानी माना जाता रहा है और जिनको आज तक पेंशन दी जाती रही है, क्या उनमें ऐसे लोग शामिल नहीं हैं जिन्होंने वास्तव में स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में भाग नहीं लिया था बल्कि किसी और अपराध में पकड़े गए थे और बाद में वे कांग्रेस के कार्यकर्ता बन गए? क्या आपने इस बात की जांच की है कि ऐसे कितने लोगों को कांग्रेस सरकार ने पेंशन देना प्रारंभ किया? क्या आपने इस तरह मामलों की जांच की है और पता लगाया है कि वास्तव में कितने लोग स्वतंत्रता सेनानी हैं और कितने लोग हैं जो गलत लोग थे और कांग्रेस कार्यकर्ता बन गए और उनको भी पेंशन दी जा रही है? यदि नहीं को है तो क्या आप इस तरह के मामलों की जांच करेंगे और जिनके खिलाफ

गड़बड़ करने का आरोप है उनके खिलाफ एक्शन लें और उनकी पेंशन बंद करेंगे।

**श्री चरण सिंह :** माननीय मित्र ठीक कह रहे हैं कि इस बीच में कुछ ऐसे लोगों को स्वाधीनता संग्राम के सेनानी मान लिया गया जो वास्तव में जेल नहीं गए थे। जिनके खिलाफ हमारे पास शिकायतें आई हैं और तहकीकात कराने के बाद यह साबित हो गया है कि वे गलत लोग थे उनकी पेंशन बन्द कर दी गई है। मेरे मित्र अगर कोई ऐसा मामला हमारे नोटिस में लाएँगे तो उसकी भी तहकीकात की जाएगी।

(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** This Question is mainly about Kerala.

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:** I was one of the Working Committee Members of the State Congress when I was made an accused in the Punnappra Vayalar riot case. It was Congressmen who led the struggle, and it was naturally against the police because the police, you know, in a native State would always harass anybody.

**MR. SPEAKER:** What is the question?

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:** It was actually a national struggle, and it was on that basis that after getting independence the case was withdrawn and I was let out. Till that time I was in custody. I was extradited from Calicut and brought down. I started a hunger strike. So, it was actually a struggle for freedom.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have given information. Is there any question you want to ask?

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:** I would not get any pension, I do not want any pension, but there are thousands who have suffered from severe beatings from the police, and some have been killed. (Interruptions).

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Manoranjan Bhakta.

**SHRIMATI AHILYA P. RANGNEKAR:** You allowed him to put a question. Let it be answered.

**MR. SPEAKER:** There was no question at all. He merely gave some information.

### **Introduction of Colour TV System in the Country**

\*205. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to introduce colour TV system in the country and if so, details thereof; and

(b) when the multi-channel system in TV is likely to be put into operation?

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present there is no proposal for introduction of multichannel system in T.V.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** May I know whether there was any examination during the regime of the previous Government of having colour T.V. and if so, with what result?

**SHRI L. K. ADVANI:** A steering group was appointed to examine the problem whether this country could go in for colour T.V. and it made recommendations in 1976 that experimental colour television could be introduced at Delhi with facilities for one hour light transmission per day supplemented by film footage, that a foreign system most suitable from the indigenisation angle might be adopted and development work initiated to increase the indigenous content of equipment and that the components required for developing colour T.V.

receivers might be imported. These were the recommendations made by the Group. But the Government thinks, considering the broad perspective we have in respect of T.V. expansion, that it should be used essentially as an instrument of development and mass education, there is no justification whatsoever for the exorbitant investments that would have to be made for Colour T.V.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** May I know whether the multi-channel system will be useful for T.V. purposes or not?

**SHRI L. K. ADVANI:** A multi-channel system means that at one centre you have two or three transmitters so that the viewers and the listeners can have various kinds of programmes as on radio. This too means cost. At the present juncture, I am sure, the House will agree that there is no case for going in for multi-channel system.

**SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH:** Even small countries which are considered backward countries in Africa have T.V. channels for mass education whereas our country is lagging very much behind. In Gujarat, there is a very small T.V. centre. Will the hon. Minister expand the T.V. centre in Gujarat so that more and more villagers can get some education?

**SHRI L. K. ADVANI:** I have already said that so far as the expansion of T.V. network is concerned, it is the policy of the Government to see that the medium is used more and more for the purpose of development and also as a means of mass education. In that respect, we will continue to do that. Here, the question was about Colour T.V. I may mention that the cost of Colour T.V., for one 2-studio station, would be more than Rs. 9 crores. The comparative cost of Colour T.V. receiver also is about three to four times than that of black and white T.V.