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Effect of Generation of Hydrogen Sulphide Gas on staff working in Hydro Stations

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*375. SHRI GANESH GHOSH :
SHRI K. RAMANI :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :
SHRI UMANATH :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the hydro-station personnel are being affected by the generation of hydrogen sulphide gas due to water contamination in reservoirs;

(b) whether any report submitted with regard to this by the Secretary to the Central Board of Irrigation and Power at its Zonal meeting held in Trivandrum on 10th February last month; and

(c) if so, the main points of the report and the action taken by Government to protect the personnel working in those reservoirs ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDESHWAR PRA-SAD): (a) to (c). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Generation of hydrogen sulphide gas due to contamination of water in the storage reservoirs was noticed after the hydro-electric projects viz., Bhadra in Mysore, Kundah in Tamil Nadu and Sabarigiri in Kerala were commissioned. In each case, necessary precautions were taken to ensure that the power station personnel were not affected.

(b) Power Research Institute, Bangalore has made a detailed study of the problems of water pollution and its adverse effects in hydro-electric installations and brought out a Technical Report in November 1967. Secretary, Central Board of Irrigation and Power reviewed the Report at the Zonal meeting of the Board held recently at Trivandrum.

(c) The report deals with the causes for formation of hydrogen sulphide gas and other water pollutants, the consequent adverse effects on electrical equipment and power station personnel.

The report has recommended the following preventive and remedial measures :

- (i) All vegetation in the area to be submerged should be effectively removed before water is impounded in the reservoir.
- (ii) Provision should be made for exhaust fans where gases are likely to be accumulated and for adequate ventilation in the turbine room; control room should be air-conditioned; insulators should be coated with petroleum jelly and metallic structures should be coated with anti-sulphide corrosive paint; turbine room floors should be scrubbed periodically with sodium carbonate solution; firefighting equipment should be reinforced; the power station operating personnel should be medically checked periodically.

The report has been circulated to all project authorities for compliance.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : The technical report came, as mentioned in the statement, in November 1967. What action has been taken to see that the recommendations made in that report, referred to in part (c) of the statement, are made effective and that Bhadra, Kundah and Sabarigiri are improved on the lines of those recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : The generation of hydrogen sulphide as has been rather peculiar in these dams; it has not been noticed anywhere else, we are still not quite sure how it is coming in these three dams. The only thing that we can do is to remove trees within the reservoir. The other one is to introduce ventilation in power houses, to the hydrogen sulphide gas concentration is not very much. We have taken steps to provide for ventilation and air conditioning in the power house.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : I had not asked this question. What I ask is this. This report come in November 1967. These hydro-electric projects were commissioned long before 1967. What decision has been taken on the recommendations made in the report ? What steps have been taken to implement them ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Actually this was noticed by me when I saw the Sabarigiri project; until then it was not known. Then I asked for investigations to be made by the Power Research Institute. As I said it is still a subject of research; we are not able to know how it is happening and how we can prevent other than by well-known methods. Hereafter we are insisting that all the trees must be cut down before the water is impounded. That is one method by which we can eliminate it. For these three projects, which have already been done, the only thing is to introduce more of air-conditioning and ventilation and that is being done.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : It is said that the report has been circulated to all the project authorities but when it has been circulated is not mentioned here. I want to know as to what action has been taken to see that recommendations (i) and (ii) under (c) are being complied with.

DR. K. L. RAO : The power to give directions to electrical power stations is with the States and not with us. But we have drawn the attention of all the projects to these two important recommendations. One of them is the removal of all the trees before submersion of the reservoir. We shall see that as far as possible it is observed. The other thing is that adequate ventilation must be provided in the turbine room.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : What action has been taken to see that the recommendations are being complied with ?

DR. K. L. RAO : These projects are under the States. All that we can do is to advise them, to circularise these recommendations to them and inspect them from time to time to see that these are observed.

Anti-India Campaign by Pakistan in Arab Countries

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†880. **SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK** :

SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

SHRI D. AMAT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newspaper report on the 15th March, 1970, about the anti-India campaign now being waged by Pakistan in some of the Arab Capitals;

(b) if so, whether Government have collected information about the nature of campaign being waged by Pakistan; and

(c) the steps taken to counteract the campaign ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) and (b). Yes; Sir.

(c) The problem of anti-Indian propaganda by Pakistan is a continuing one, and we have constantly been taking steps to counteract their campaign. Recently the Lok Sabha on two occasions (in response to Starred Question No. 369 on 6-8-1969 and Unstarred Question No. 3214 on 4-12-1968) was informed about action taken by us to counteract the continuing Pakistani propaganda against India.

श्री बलराज मधोक : मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया है वह बिल्कुल घिसा पिटा हुआ है जो बार बार दिया जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह तथ्य नहीं है कि रजवात कांफरेंस के बाद और विशेष रूप से जहा कांफरेंस के बाद पाकिस्तान का प्रचार अरब कंट्रीज में बहुत बढ़ गया है और उस का प्रभाव भी बहुत बढ़ गया है। चूँकि पाकिस्तान की मिलिटरी जार्डन में है, सदन अरब में है, लीबिया में है इस कारण पाकिस्तान वहाँ पर अधिक प्रचार कर सकता है और कर रहा है ? इस लिये जो नई परिस्थिति पैदा हो गई है और जो पाकिस्तान का प्रचार तन्त्र बना हुआ है उस का मुकाबला करने के लिये भारत सरकार क्या पग उठा रही है ?