

Power Famine in Southern Grid due to delay in Execution of Iddikki Project

*469. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there will be power famine in the Southern Grid due to the delay in the execution of the Iddikki Project ; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government with a view to avoiding this breakdown and also break down in the other development programme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). It has been assessed that there would be a power deficit of about 600 MW in the Southern Region by the end of the Fourth Plan even with the scheduled commissioning of two units of 130 MW each of the Iddikki Project. Delays in the progress of Iddikki Project have been due mainly to labour disputes, inability of contractors to complete the works according to schedule, death of a contractor due to an accident at site of Kulamau Dam and the consequential delay in making alternative arrangements for carrying out the work. Steps are being taken to ensure that the first power unit at Iddikki is commissioned according to the revised schedule *i. e.* by the second half of 1973. Additional equipment has been procured to accelerate the progress of civil works. Labour disputes are being settled and critical items of work have been taken up departmentally. Because of constraint of financial resources, it has not been possible so far to sanction more schemes of power generation in the Southern Region for benefits during the Fourth Plan. Efforts are being made to ensure that projects already sanctioned are commissioned to give the scheduled benefits in the Fourth Plan. Action is being taken for the investigation of new scheme for benefits in the early part of the Fifth Plan for reducing the deficit in the Southern Region to the maximum extent possible.

Decline in Cashewnuts Exports

*470. SHRI P. GOPALAN :
SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of cashewnuts is decreasing ;

(b) whether Government have looked into the reasons for the same ;

(c) if so, the findings thereof ;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to increase the export of cashewnuts ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (e). The provisional exports figures for the period April to October, 1970 as compared to the corresponding period of 1969 indicate a marginal decline. This is primarily due to lesser off takes by some of the major importing countries.

Efforts are being made to develop new markets by sponsoring sales and taking other promotional measures.

Power Shortage in Northern Region

*471. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the acute power shortage and drastic cuts in power supplies in the Northern Region the industries and the farmers are facing great difficulties in maintaining the tempo of production and industrial development programmes have suffered a serious setback ;

(b) whether acute power shortage is also being faced by other regions in the country ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps contemplated by Government to meet the power shortage ?