

रहने के साथक नहीं है। इसलिये घाप उसको आने नहीं रखे। मेरा केवल इतना खवाल है कि अगर बिजली मंत्री जी बीच में न हटे होते, लगातार बिजली बने रहते, तो क्या यह घाफसर उस के बाद से यहा नहीं रह पाता और हट गया होता ?

Shri Morarji Desai: I have said that already he would not have continued. I want to say another thing because we must be correct about the facts. When the Minister's approval to write off in the case of Mr Gupta was given Mr J P Singh was not concerned, he was not in the Board at that time.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Who was the Minister at that time?

Mr. Speaker: Whoever it is it is a separate question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: He should not bring in the name of 'the Governor', I do not like that.

श्री जार्ज करमैन्डी : 21 जनवरी के बाद एक महीना दस दिन के लिये जे० पी० सिंह को एक्सटेंशन दिया गया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कारण बनलाया गया एक्सटेंशन देने का और कितने समय के लिये वह एक्सटेंशन दिया गया था ? एक महीना दस दिन के बाद वह क्यों रक्खा गया ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : एक महीना दस दिन का एक्सटेंशन किसी काम के ऐडजस्टमेंट के लिये दिया गया था। पहले तीन साल का एक्सटेंशन नहीं था। पहले 55 साल की पैमान की मर्यादा थी। उसको 58 साल तक बढ़ाया गया। अगर हमने हमने एक नियम रक्खा था कि अगर 55 साल पर किसी को रिटायर करना चाहें तो हम कारण दिये और ऐसा कर सकते हैं। इस हिसाब से वह रिटायर हो जाते।

डा० राज मनोहर लोहिया : अब क्यों बीजियर बतला रहे हो ? खुद कह रहे हो कि वह हट जाते।

12.00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Idikki Hydro Electric Project

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24. **Shri Umanath:**
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri P. Gopalan:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri E. K. Nayanar:
Shri K. M. Abraham:
Shrimati Susela Gopalan:
Shri Viswanatha Menon:
Shri P. C. Adichan:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the agreement with Canada on Idikki Hydro Electric Project has not yet been signed,

(b) if so the reasons for the delay, and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had promised the Kerala M.P.s in April that agreement would be signed within two months?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The finalisation of the agreement has taken more time than anticipated. The agreement is under negotiation with the Canadian authorities and it is hoped that the matter will be finalised soon.

Shri Umanath: This project is the second largest single project in this country. Concerning the delay in the finalisation of the agreement, the *Mathrubhumi* says that in October, 1986 the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi wrote to have written a letter to the Minister of Irrigation and Power then in which she deals with the delay about reaching an agreement. *Inter alia* in that letter she says that "inter-ministerial differences seem to be holding up the decision, I understand that between your Ministry on the one hand and the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry on the other there are differences regarding the phasing of the project; these are

also differences between your Ministry and the Industry Ministry regarding the import of some generators as against placing orders in the country with the Heavy Electricals, Bhopal. She goes on to add that it was important that these differences are resolved quickly. From this letter it is clear that the delay is due to inter-ministerial differences. Is it a fact that these differences were there and they were responsible for the delay? If so, have these differences been resolved? What is the final position?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is true that we have got to consider indigenous manufacture and how far they could be used in this big project. Therefore, differing views were held and so there were discussions. In connection with this, certain negotiations were necessary with the Canadian authorities. That is where the matter now rests.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether after the recent visit of the Canadian representatives or engineers, it was decided by the Government that two generators might be imported from Canada and one, manufactured here itself? Is it a fact that the Canadian representatives had turned that down and said: "either you import all the three from Canada or you manufacture all the three here itself? If so, what does the Government propose to do? This is a crucial decision pending for the last so many years.

Dr. K. L. Rao: Actually there are six generators. It was our intention to manufacture as many as possible locally. There has been a certain amount of discussion as to what extent we should go in the matter of supply from indigenous sources. I am afraid I cannot say anything further than that at the present stage, because the negotiations are with the Canadian authorities, whether they can supply what we want.

Shri Umanath: Sir, a specific question was put to him: whether the differences were resolved. If they

have not been resolved, let the Minister say it is not resolved, because I have quoted from the Prime Minister's letter. He admits that such a thing was there, I wanted a definite answer: whether the inter-ministerial differences were resolved or not. Let him say yes or no.

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is obvious that if they had been resolved, then, they would have got a straight answer to the question. All that I can say is that the matter is of such importance that the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister has himself taken up the question of negotiations in this regard.

Shri Umanath: Sir, on a point of order I am not asking about the negotiations with Canada. I was asking whether the inter-ministerial differences we have been resolved. He has not answered that point.

Mr. Speaker: He has answered it very clearly. He said he would have given a straight answer if they had been resolved. (Interruption). Please sit down. I have understood it very clearly. He has said very clearly that if these differences of opinion had been resolved he would have given a straight answer. Therefore, it is not resolved. **Mr. P. Gopalan**

Shri P. Gopalan: May I know whether the Ministry of Irrigation and Power has proposed the constitution of a Control Board for the Idikki project and, if so, what are the functions and scope of this Control Board? Furthermore, I would like to know whether the Kerala State Government have viewed with disfavour the constitution of such a Board and whether the Irrigation and Power Ministry has threatened the Kerala State Government that if this proposal is not accepted, the Central Government would withdraw the financial assistance which has been promised to the setting up of this project.

Dr. K. L. Rao: Regarding the Control Board, it is the general policy of the Government of India to set up

Control Boards wherever a project costs heavily, that is, something more than Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 25 crores. There are quite a large number of Control Boards in this country, and therefore, it is in accordance with that policy that it was proposed to have a Control Board for the Idilku project, because its cost is something of the order of Rs. 68 crores. So, naturally, we are anxious to have the Control Board for this project.

The Previous Kerala Government, during President's rule, objected to this and they said that it was not necessary, but the present government is having the matter examined, they have not said anything on the subject, they are still saying they are considering the matter.

With regard to the question about threat to stop financial assistance, well, it is a matter of one's attitude, I may say that there is no such thing which has arisen in this matter.

Shri P. Gopalan: Sir I want your protection.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Vasudevan Nair.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: You were kind enough to interpret the Minister's answer and say that he gave a very clear answer. But I would like you or the Minister to tell us what is the present decision, what is the present position—whether the differences have been resolved or not. (Inter-ruption)

Mr. Speaker: Please put your question.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: That is one thing. My question is different. The Minister was kind enough and good enough to call a conference of Kerala MPs in April last, there were many experts there present, and they told us that unless a firm agreement is reached within two months between Canada and India, the schedule that they have already laid down for the whole project would be upset. Two months are over, and the Minister was telling us that the agreement will be signed soon. I would like to

know what is the meaning of the word "soon", and when the agreement will be signed, and whether because of this delay the schedule will be upset or not.

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is true that we have got to place orders for the machines early. We are expecting those machines to come in this fourth Plan itself. It is also true that we cannot afford to delay any longer the placing of the orders either indigenously or on the Canadian authorities. The matter is so important that the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister himself is handling this subject and he will be carrying on the negotiations in this respect.

Shri Umanath: What about the first part of his question? You have said definitely that it is resolved. It is resolved, what is the decision?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I was only trying to make the hon. members understand the difficult situation. The question is being tackled in all seriousness. It is true at one stage we thought it will be finished in 2 months, but it has taken more time. I only hope that the action will be taken early.

Mr. Speaker: It is clear that he is not able to say anything categorically about it.

Shri Umanath: Sir, I quoted the Prime Minister's letter saying that these inter-ministerial differences are the major cause of delay. You said that he has answered that it is resolved. My understanding was different, but I abided by what you said. So, if it is resolved, what is the decision of the Government? We are not asking about negotiations with Canada, but about inter-ministerial conflict. Let him say whether it is resolved or not.

Mr. Speaker: If he can answer it, I shall be happy.

Shri Umanath: Just as you discipline us, you must discipline the ministers also. Either he says that it is not in public interest to disclose it or

that he wants notice. He cannot take up the position of not answering the question.

Dr. K. L. Rao: I have already submitted that if the difference is resolved, then I would have given a straight answer. More than that what am I to say?

Mr. Speaker: You understood him wrongly. I repeated that if the differences were resolved, he would have given a categorical answer.

श्री मोक्ष प्रसाद : मंत्री महोदय ने सलतबयाना को है। पहले उन्होंने कहा कि मतभेद दूर हो गये हैं, लेकिन अब वह कहते हैं कि मतभेद है।

Mr. Speaker: The Kerala members are careful and they can take care of themselves. I do not think you need to come to their assistance from a far off place.

Shri K. M. Nayanar: Our Irrigation and Power Minister is in a very difficult position. He knows Kerala is facing shortage of power. If the Idikki project is not commissioned by 1970 industries will be closed there.

Mr. Speaker: He need not explain all this.

Shri K. M. Nayanar: That shows the importance of the Idikki project. A recent survey of the power demand in Kerala shows that at the end of the third plan period, the demand was estimated at 3,65,000 KW. Against this, the total installed capacity was only 2,46,000 KW. About the Control Board, the Law Ministry is objecting to the suggestion of the Irrigation and Power Ministry. At the same time, the opinion of Kerala and Canadian engineers is that the purchase of the three units from Canada seems to be inescapable. May I know whether it is a fact that even if Canadian loan agreement is finalised, the project will require free foreign exchange for purchase from other countries, if so, what is the extent of foreign exchange required, for the purchase of

what it is required, from which country it will be purchased and what is the arrangement for this made by the Government? Secondly, I would also like to have a reply from the hon. Minister in regard to the difference of opinion over the Control Board between the Law Ministry and the Irrigation and Power Ministry.

Dr. K. L. Rao: I am very glad to state that Idikki Project is one of our best projects in the country. The power production there should be considerably cheap and when completed Kerala will be very much more prosperous than at present. With regard to the question of foreign exchange required for this project, if the Canadian agreement is finalised there will be no necessity for any further foreign exchange from any other source because the foreign exchange provided by Canada will be sufficient. About the Control Board, as I have already submitted, it is only in order to expedite matters and there is nothing wrong in the Control Board. As I have already submitted the present Government have said that they will take some time to discuss it, find out the position and then let us know. The Control Board is a small affair. It has nothing to do with the main question of the Idikki Project.

Shri K. M. Abraham: Is it a fact that by this unnecessary delay the time schedule for Idikki Project will be upset by one year or even more?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I have submitted already that the first unit is expected to be commissioned in 1970-71 and we are still aiming at that. Whatever action that may be taken, it shall be our endeavour to see that the first unit is commissioned in time during the Fourth Plan period.

Shri Viswanatha Menon: Is it a fact that according to the Kerala State Electricity Board's forecast of load development, Kerala will be facing a power shortage in 1970 unless this project is commissioned by then, if so, may I know what this Government propose to do to avert this calamity?

Dr. K. L. Rao: If the first unit of the Idikki Project comes up in time as we are expecting now, then there will be no power shortage. That is why we are saying that the Idikki Project must be expedited and we will have the first unit in the Fourth Plan.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: In view of the fact that the Canadian Government has turned down the specific demand of the Government of India that one of the three units should be allowed to be fabricated in the Heavy Electricals, Bhopal, on the basis of the blue-print and spare parts supplied by Canada, may I know what is the purpose of the Deputy Prime Minister negotiating with Canada on an issue which has already been turned down by them? Is it only to delay matters or get the entire project dropped so that the entire money spent on the project would be lost to the Government of Kerala?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The idea of the Deputy Prime Minister's intervention is to expedite the project and to ensure that the negotiations are finalised. There are some considerations which still require clarification, which still require some finalisation, and that is where the Deputy Prime Minister is trying to take up the matter.

Shri A. Sreedharan: A couple of months back, when the discussion on this project took place in this House the starting of work on Idikki Project and the prospects for it were brighter. After two months the trembling mountain of the Irrigation Ministry has delivered a mouse. They have said that the matter is being taken up by the Deputy Prime Minister. I would like to know whether during the last two months the Government of India have again approached the Government of Kerala for finalisation of the agreement; if so, what is the reaction of the representatives of the Government of Kerala?

Dr. K. L. Rao: There is continuous correspondence between the Govern-

ment of India and the various Ministries who are connected with this unit.

Shri B. Viswambharan: As far as I know, there is no control board in any of the projects in the State sector; there are control boards only in inter-State projects. May I know whether there is any control board in any of the projects in the State sector and, if so, in which State project? If there is no control board in any State project, why is the Government of India insisting upon a control board for this Idikki Project, which is purely in the State sector?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I submitted already that the idea of the control board is to expedite the sanctions and construction of the project. In that connection, we have got a large number of control boards in this country for various projects. For the power projects alone we have got a control board in Delhi. The Delhi Thermal Station has a control board. With regard to the Idikki project, we are advising the Government of Kerala and they are also considering the matter. There is nothing particular about it. I can also submit that the Canadian agreement specifically states that sufficient steps have to be taken to ensure that the money is properly spent. So the Government of India has to ensure that the money is properly spent. This will be one of the methods by which it can be achieved.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Simplification of Tax Structure

*964. **Smt. Tarakeshwari Sinha:**

Shri F. K. Deo:

Shri G. C. Naik:

Shri K. P. Singh Deo:

Shri A. Dipsa:

Shri Madhu Limaye:

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:

Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Shri S. M. Joshi:

Shri George Fernandes:

Shri S. K. Damani:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri Ram Gopal Shrivastava: