

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 1, 1986/Chaitra 11, 1908  
(SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Nathpa Jhakri Project

\*493. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in completion of Nathpa Jhakri Project; and

(b) the time by which it will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Techno-economic approval for the Nathpa Jhakri Project (1020 MW) was accorded by the Central Electricity Authority in 1980. However, Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board based on certain further optimisation studies is preparing a revised report for a capacity of 1500 MW in consultation with CEA. Government of Himachal Pradesh has applied for clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, for the forest land required for the project. The project would be considered for an investment decision after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(b) The time schedule for completion can be finalised only after the investment decision, and the funding pattern are determined.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA :

The hon. Minister has been pleased to tell this House that the techno-economic approval for the Nathpa Jhakri Project was accorded by the Central Electricity Authority in the year, 1980. May I know from the hon. Minister as to when the idea of this Project was first mooted ? The approval has been accorded by the Central Electricity Authority about six years back. Then why this delay ?

Is it also not a fact that the then Minister of State for Energy Mr. Vikram Mahajan had actually laid the foundation stone of this Project and the name of Shri Sanjay Gandhi is also associated with this Project known as Sanjay Gandhi Vidyut Project ?

If so, was the foundation stone laid without the clearance of the forest ?

[Translation]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Why do they lay foundation stones 10 times for a project ?

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : During your regime, even more irregularities were committed.

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as the Sanjay Vidyut Project is concerned, it is a different project at different site for about 100 MW capacity which is already progressing. That has nothing to do with Nathpa Jhakri Project which is a major project. It was conceived by the Himachal Government in 1974 at a cost of about Rs. 254 crores then and for about 1,020 MW capacity.

It was the State Government project initially. But then it so happened that they kept on getting clearances and revising the project. They themselves said in 1979 that it will cost Rs. 533.88 crores,

Then in 1984 they said "Now it will cost Rs. 1,139 crores" and, therefore, they said that it was not possible for the State Government to find these funds and requested the Central Government to see that the Project is taken up by the Central Government through its agency, the NHPC. We are, therefore, now examining it as a combined NHPC plus Himachal Government Project and that is how the thing is being worked out and today's cost would come to about Rs. 2,000 crores. It is not possible for any State Government to find such large funds.

**SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA :** Will the hon. Minister for Energy kindly state whether it is a fact that the Himachal Pradesh Government had entered into an agreement with the Government of Haryana for the completion of this project and there was full agreement regarding the cost to be shared and also the share of energy? If so, does the agreement still stand?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** There was originally an agreement between the Governments of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh that they will make this project as a combined project because the major share of the power will be used not by the Himachal Pradesh Government—their needs are very small—but they will be selling it to Haryana and to the Northern Grid. But, later on, when Haryana Government expressed its inability to put any funds into this project and when the Himachal Government found that they also could not put their funds, Haryana Government withdrew from it and the Himachal Pradesh Government put the entire project for central assistance and asked the Central Government to come in.

[Translation]

**SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI :** During the course of his reply the hon. Minister has stated that Rs. 2,000 crores will be spent on Nathpa Jhakri Project. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what would be the share of Himachal Pradesh as the royalty and in the power as per the agreement that is being signed between the Central Government and the Government of Himachal Pradesh? What

would be the quantum of money or power per M.W. to be given to Himachal Pradesh with a view to improve its economic condition? As you have said, an agreement was reached with Haryana for Nathpa Jhakri Project, but both Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have now agreed that the two State Governments are not capable to execute this project. I would like to know as to why don't you provide funds to Himachal Pradesh and Haryana so as to enable them to derive benefit from the power that would be generated?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** There is a common formula that the State where such a project is located is entitled to get 12 per cent electricity free of cost from the project. Now it is upto them whether to utilise their entire quota for their own consumption or to utilise only 2 per cent and to sell out the balance 10 per cent to earn income. Initially, it was decided that they would execute the entire project themselves and would sell power to others to earn income. It would have been a nice thing, had they been able to do so, but there goes a saying that if....

**MR. SPEAKER :** If the sky falls, we shall catch the larks.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Where from the funds will be mobilised?

**SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI :** How much provision has been made for this in the Plan?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Himachal Pradesh Government has not made any provision in their budget. We have made a provision of Rs. 90 crores in the budget for Nathpa Jhakri Project.

[English]

#### Non-conventional Energy Model Units

\*494. **SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are setting up non-conventional energy model units in different parts of the country with different climatic and ecological backgrounds and conditions, including Solar Energy units and Biomass units;