

different problem. They have got High Court and its Benches at Gwalior, Indore and Jabalpur but there is neither a High Court nor a Bench at Bhopal—the capital of the State. Their suggestion in this regard is already with us. Therefore, we have to decide in principle whether High Courts should essentially be located in the State capitals and what should be the distance. The distance between Indore and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh is very short. However, the request of the State Government is pending and it is receiving consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : All the people have the same problem.

(Interruptions)

[English]

Clearance to Puyankutty Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala

*124. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Puyankutty Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala was cleared by the Central Electricity Authority in 1984.

(b) whether the Planning Commission has accorded investment approval for this scheme;

(c) if not, when it is likely to be approved;

(d) whether any foreign assistance is being sought for this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the likely time by which this project will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The Puyankutty hydel project of 240 MW estimated to cost Rs. 250 crores, was cleared by the Central Electricity Authority in 1984.

(b) and (c), The project can be considered for approval by the Planning Commission on the basis of an adequate allocation by the State Government in their Plan within the approved outlay.

(d) A decision regarding external assistance can be taken only after the project is sanctioned by the Planning Commission and clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act has been obtained by the State Government.

(e) Does not arise.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Sir, the estimated cost of the project is Rs. 250 crores. The Minister is aware that if the implementation of the project is delayed, the cost will escalate and we have a number of examples for the cost increasing two-fold or three-fold on the one hand, and at the same time the plan targets are not achieved because the projects are not implemented on time. In this case you have already mentioned that the Central Electricity Authority has cleared the project and again the Department of Environment has cleared the project. In that case I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what are the actual impediments standing in the way of the implementation of the project. Also I would like him to tell this House when the implementation of this project can be started.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As I said, it is a State project. So, the State has to provide for adequate funds. As I have stated, Rs. 250 crores will be required at 1982-83 prices. For that at present they have made a provision of a meagre sum of Rs. 10 lakhs. For the whole of the Seventh Five-Year Plan they are providing for 1986-87 Rs. 1.5 crores. In the Seventh Five-Year Plan at this rate they will need to provide at least Rs. 150 crores. Unless that is done by the State Government for a project of Rs. 250 crores, no further progress is possible.

Then, another factor is the clearance of the Forest Department. That also has to be obtained by the State Government from their own Forest Department. Unless these two things

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : It is not from their own Forest Department. They have to obtain clearance from you. It is the Central Government which has to clear it under the Central Forest Act.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes, but the State Forest Department has to recommend the major proposal saying, 'Yes, it is according to the requirement of the Central Forest Act.' But the facts have to be supplied by the State. So, unless these two things are complied with, clearance from the Planning Commission will not be final and unless the final clearance is given, no further progress is possible,

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated that one of the reasons is clearance under the Forest Act. Actually clearance is to be given by the Central Government. If my understanding is correct the State Government has already approached the Central Government for clearance under the Forest Protection Act. I hope the Minister will assist in the matter.

With regard to the finance aspect, you know, of all the State Governments, Kerala Government is facing the financial crisis the most and the State Government is really not having any funds for this scheme. That is why, we are approaching the Central Government. Power generation is not only a State subject. If we generate power, we are giving it to other States also. It is not for the State of Kerala only. Therefore, I would request investment from the Central sector also in this project. If the Centre is not having adequate funds now, I would like to know from the Minister, why don't you consider getting foreign assistance for implementing this project ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is all. No more elaboration.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : As you have already got financial assistance for other projects whether in view of the paucity of fund, the project will be taken up for foreign assistance ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The question of foreign assistance or bilateral aid will arise only after the final clearance by the Planning Commission. Only then, we can pose this project to any foreign assistance.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : What about scarcity of fund ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : All these things are required to be gone through, for getting clearance from the Planning Commission.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL : Sir, may I know from the Minister, is it a fact that Kerala is going to face power crisis within three years ? We have got no coal area and we are far away from the coal area. Only some hydro electric projects are there. If Puyankutty hydro electric project is also not allowed to come up, then the power crisis would be inevitable. For this project, there will be no eviction of people from that area because it is a forest area. Only a clearance from the Forest Department is required, which may be done by the Government.

As Prof. Kurien mentioned, the Canadian Government, the World Bank and some foreign agencies are prepared to finance this project and the Central Government can consider getting finance from outside. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, will he take steps to speed up the scheme so that future power crisis in Kerala is averted.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : At present, the problem is political power crisis.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL : Then, the unemployment problem is also there. Unless we get surplus electricity, our State's future will be spoiled and people will remain unemployed. How much time will the Minister take for implementing the scheme ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As I said, there are already some projects for which we are having World Bank assistance and the Canadian assistance, such as Idukki project and the Lower Periyar project. It is not that we are not ready to accept foreign assistance for implementing the project. But whenever the State Government makes a proposal, certain criteria have to be followed. This is not a Central project. If it is a Central project, things would have been different. When the State Government makes a proposal for a project, they have to fulfil certain requirements of making some basic provision of their own funds. If you do not do that at all and just make a proposal and

put Rs. 10 lakhs, how do you expect the Planning Commission or anybody to clear the project? Even for foreign assistance, the basic requirements are to be fulfilled. This is the main question.

Code of Conduct for Political Parties

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*125. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission has evolved a model code of conduct for the guidance of political parties and candidates participating in elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has evolved a 'Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates' on the basis of a consensus reached with all the political parties.

(b) A statement showing the Code is given below.

(c) The Government welcome the code and feel that it will have a great impact on elections and, the electoral process in the country.

Statement

Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA, 1984

I. General Conduct.

(1) No party or candidate shall indulge in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic.

(2) Criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work. Parties and candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties. Criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or on distortion shall be avoided.

(3) There shall be no appeal to caste or communal, feelings for securing votes. Mosques, Churches, Temples or other places of worship shall not be used as forum for election propaganda.

(4) All parties and candidates shall avoid scrupulously all activities which are "corrupt practices" and offences under the election law, such as the bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, personation of voters, canvassing within 100 metres of a polling station, holding public meetings during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll, and the transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling station.

(5) The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed home life shall be respected, however much the political parties or candidates may resent his political opinions or activities. Organising demonstrations or picketing before the houses of individuals by way of protesting against their opinions or activities shall not be resorted to under any circumstances.

(6) No political party or candidate shall permit its or his followers to make use of any individual's land, building, compound wall etc, without his permission for erecting flag-staffs, suspending banners, pasting notices, writing slogans etc.

(7) Political parties and candidates shall ensure that their supporters do not create obstructions in or break up meetings and processions organised by the other parties. Workers or sympathisers of one political party shall not create disturbances at public meetings organised by another political party by putting questions orally or in writing or by distributing leaflets of their own party. Processions shall not be taken