

for the cut is not caused by any sudden or unexpected event but by the failure of the monsoon for 6 years in succession, causing the water in the reservoirs to fall to very low levels.

A fortnight ago, the cut was raised to 66f, per cent. While a tremendous loss of production and a great fall in employment are involved, the repercussions which it will have on many other fields are almost immeasurable. The fall in yarn production, for example, will badly affect the handloom weavers. More fundamental is the effect that will be produced on plans for development of textile and other industries. The reduction in profits will make it impossible for corporate savings to reach the level which they must, if the private sector's plans are to be fulfilled. Besides, it will not be possible to achieve the maximum utilisation of existing capacity which is one of the most urgent needs of our economy today. It is essential, therefore, that such disastrous situations be guarded against by careful planning.

It had been mentioned in these columns that the Madras Hydro-Electric System, with contemplated extension of the steam generating plants at Madras and Madura, would provide a more balanced system, compared to Bombay, and would be able to maintain a steady flow of power in spite of fluctuations in rainfall. A repetition of the situation which necessitated the recent cut in the Pykara-Mettur-Papanasam system, which are all fed from the same rainfall belt, will be averted when Mettur is connected to Madras and the contemplated steam power is generated at Madura. In view of the continued shortage of rainfall during last several years, it now seems necessary to consider a bigger thermal station somewhere in the system. But in view of high cost of coal delivered in Madras, the proposition may not be economical, until deposits of lignite are adequately developed,

**Rural Electrification**

THE electric power schemes of the Damodar Valley will provide energy mainly to industry and transport. Since there will be, broadly speaking, a ready market for the energy produced under the various schemes, the Corporation may not care to pay sufficient attention to the question of rural electrification. Under the Act, how-

ever, the Corporation is expected to promote the general well-being of the people of the valley and it would not be fulfilling its purpose if it did not devote some attention to this aspect of the problem.

It is true that under the provisions of the Act, the DVC cannot supply energy at a pressure below 30,000 volts. But it is given the power to impose conditions, on the bodies to which energy is supplied, with regard to retail rates and other matters in order to encourage the use of electricity. With the help of these powers and others, more general in nature, the DVC can take electricity to the village, as its model the TVA did in the USA.

*Technicians for Backward Areas*

PROGRAMMES of development on hand in the Community Projects in comparatively

backward areas, in hilly districts and remote tribal areas, are being somewhat handicapped because technical staff is not available in adequate number'. The Community Projects Administration has appealed to patriotic citizens in all parts of the country to come forward and help in tiding over this shortage which might otherwise cripple the progress of community work in backward areas.

Technical staff trained in minor irrigation works, building of roads and houses and agriculture and veterinary services should communicate with the Administrator, Community Projects Administration, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, with a statement of their technical qualifications and other relevant particulars. Persons selected will be paid the normal remuneration attached to the posts for which they are selected.

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