14th September 1937]

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"(*a*) Two of the three generating units have been completed and the third is in course of erection. The whole power station is expected to be completed in December 1937.

"(*b*) The districts of Salem, North Arcot, Chittoor, parts of Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Tanjore are now served by the scheme. The South Arcot and Chingleput districts will be served from about September 1938.

"(*c*) It is not intended that power should be supplied mainly for agricultural purposes. Power will be supplied for all purposes including agriculture. The power required for agricultural uses is, however, expected to be not more than a small portion of the total demand. The Electricity department does commercial work for popularizing the use of electricity and for educating the public in the matter. The department has issued pamphlets in English and Tamil which give all particulars regarding the uses to which electricity can be put. A separate pamphlet entitled 'Electricity in Agriculture' has also been issued which gives particulars about the use of electricity on farms, quantity of water required for different crops, type of pump sets, cost of pumping with electricity and how to get supply to the farms. Copies of the pamphlets can be obtained from the Chief Engineer for Electricity. No special arrangement is contemplated for the Chittoor district alone.

"(*d*) The policy of Government is that if local bodies capable of financing and managing electric supply schemes are willing to undertake them they should be preferred to private companies as licensees for distribution in local areas—mainly municipal areas. As regards rural parts, if there is no licensee to undertake retail distribution satisfactorily the Government consider individual schemes of rural distributon on their merits and execute them, when circumstances make it desirable to do so."

MR. S. GURUVULU:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister what is meant by saying that leaflets are issued?" 10-30 a.m.

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"They are published and made available to the people."

MR. S. GURUVULU:—"Are they available for sale?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"They could be obtained from the Chief Engineer for Electricity."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Free or on payment?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"They are free."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask what policy the Government propose to adopt with regard to the giving of the right of distribution to local bodies in areas which have already