

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 21st December, 1999/30th Agrahayana, 1921 (Saka)
The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*321. *The questioner (Shri Brahma Kumar Bhatt) was absent. For answer, vide page... infra]*

Khuga Dam Project in Manipur

*322. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money so far spent in the construction of Khuga Dam Project in Manipur;

(b) the amount of compensation paid to acquire land;

(c) the progress of the work;

(d) the expected date of completion; and

(e) whether Government intend to send a Central Team there and if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) An amount of Rs. 106.65 crore has been spent on the construction of Khuga Dam Project in Manipur upto March, 1999.

The latest estimated cost of land and resettlement & rehabilitation component of the project is Rs. 9.40 crore out of which and amount of Rs. 4.83 crore has been spent upto March, 1999.

The progress of various components of the project as on March, 1999 is as given below:—

Component	Physical progress
1. Head Works	74%
2. Main & branch canal	78%
3. Distribution system upto Chak outlet	67%
4. Water courses	Nil

Manipur State Government is implementing the project and as per the present assessment it is scheduled to be completed by 2002. Government of India has so far provided Central Loan Assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes to the tune of Rs. 24.05 crore.

The project is being monitored by the Central Water Commission. Monitoring team visits the project in regular intervals. Central Government do not intend to send a separate team to the project site for monitoring the project.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Sir, the Khuga Dam project in Manipur was started in 1982-83, with an approved estimated cost of Rs. 160 crores. Out of this amount, Rs. 110.65 crores have been spent. With regard to the balance amount of more than Rs. 50 crores, the Government of India allotted it, but linking it with the NABARD loan. In the year 1997-98, Rs. 20 crores, in the year 1998-99, 20 crores and for the current year, i.e., 1999-2000, Rs. 7-8 crores have been reflected as the NABARD loan. But the State Government, even now, is unable to take the loan portion of NABARD, as the terms and conditions are not fulfilled and it is not suited to the project programme.

My first supplementary is, whether the Government is aware of the fact and whether it will enable the State Government to take the loan portion of NABARD so that the project is completed. If not, what steps are contemplated by the Government to remove the bottlenecks in delinking the loan portion with NABARD so that the project is completed?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, actually the State Government is executing the project and the Central Government is giving assistance. The work is going on. It has been monitored by the Central Water Commission and the last monitoring was done on 5th November, this year. So, the Government is assuring that the work will be completed in two years' time.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Sir, my second supplementary is, the Government of India is releasing the funds under the accelerated irrigation benefit programme on a 3:1 basis. This year, a sum of Rs. 9.52 crores is to be given by the Government of India but till now, Rs. 4.625 crores, that is, fifty per cent of it been released. When will the balance be released, under the accelerated irrigation benefit programme?

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the Government is taking all necessary steps to resolve the issues and remove the bottlenecks in the way of smooth implementation of the projects. Sir, one of the major issues that was raised by the Narmada Bachao Andolan is rehabilitation. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question is only about the Khuga Dam project and nothing else. Now, Mr. Chavan.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the reply it has been clearly stated ...*(Interrupted)*... They have clearly stated the amount spent so far. I would like to know as to what was the original estimated amount when the work was started ...*(Interruptions)*... What is the present cost of the project? Sir, with regard to water courses, the physical progress shown in the reply is nil. Unless the water courses are completed, I do not think water can be given to the agriculturists even if the head-works are completed. The main question that I want to put to the hon. Minister is as to what is the amount of Central Assistance provided by the Government of India so far under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes and as to what is the total assistance proposed to be given by the Government of India under this Programme. In the answer, they have merely stated that the first instalment has been released. Taking into consideration the accounts which have been submitted by the State Government, what is the total enhanced amount which is going

to be made available for the completion of this Project and what will be the mode of releasing the same?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, when this project was started in 1980, the total estimated cost was only Rs. 15 crores. But, now it has gone up to Rs. 160 crores. The amount spent by the Government of India on this Project up till now is Rs. 106.5 crores. Sir, the second instalment is going to be released very soon. The amount of second instalment from our side is Rs. 9.25 crores. We expect that this Project will be ready in two years' time.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: What is the total amount going to be released? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. C.P. THAKUR: It is Rs. 9.25 crores.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are having Dr. C.P. Thakur as our Water Resources Minister. Sir, as he knows, every year North Bihar suffers due to heavy floods for almost four months after the monsoon. Does the hon. Minister think that something can be done so that this area is not flooded by the river which flows down from Nepal? I would request the hon. Minister to explain if something can be done in this regard.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, actually today I have convened a meeting of MPs from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. I have invited their suggestions and on the basis of those suggestions. I will take up this issue of floods in North Bihar which the hon. Member has raised. We are also corresponding with the Government of Nepal. In this connection, we are going to open an office in Nepal very soon because floods in North Bihar cannot be controlled without the cooperation of the Government of Nepal. So, we are moving in that direction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has enlarged the question ...*(Interruptions)*... The question only relates to Khuga Dam ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Janardhana Poojary, you put your question relating to Khuga Dam in Manipur ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, in 1994-95 the NABARD had made a provision of Rs. 2,000 crores for minor as well as medium irrigation projects. It was raised to Rs. 3,500 crores in the

last budget of NABARD for the entire country. Sir, The State Governments are sending proposals for a number of projects. I would mention the case of Karnataka just as an example. Sir, in the year 1994-95, a provision of Rs. 143 crores was made ...*(Interruptions)*... I am just giving an example. Sir, in the year 1999-2000, it has come down to Rs. 8 crores only. Even though the amount for minor irrigation projects has been raised this year ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question about Khuga Dam in Manipur? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, my question is very simple. I would like to know whether there is any machinery to monitor the implementation of these projects whether they are in Manipur or any other State. Why is the provision being reduced? Even though the State Governments are sending their proposals, the Central Government, particularly, the NABARD, is taking a lot of time in clearing those projects. Why?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, actually, this is not my subject.

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDO: Sir, the delay has become a routine practice for implementing agencies in our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to fix the responsibility on any one for the delay in implementing this particular project, which should have been completed ten years ago, and at a much lower cost. They delay has caused a heavy expenditure to the national exchequer.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, the hon. President, in his address to both the Houses of Parliament, indicated that all the delayed projects should be reviewed and an attempt should be made to see that they are completed. With regard to this particular project in Manipur, you are aware of the problems which are faced by the Government of Manipur, and some delay has been caused because of that also.

Development of Tourism in Kanyakumari

*323. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the State of Tamil Nadu for development of tourism in Kanyakumari;