

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I want to...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: The total comes to Rs. 195.38 crores.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: ...make one addition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One of you please.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Only one additional clarification I want to give. Sir, what he has said is correct. We are doing a fairly big exercise. Though I also did not understand what hon. Member, Shri Prashant, was asking, still,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear me. He is interested in the issue price of foodgrains. Will the issue price of foodgrains be reduced? This is his question.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, the issue price of foodgrains depends on the procurement price and other charges. We are going into this question now. As my friend has said, we are doing an exercise in the Food Corporation of India. Some of the things which my colleague has pointed out are at the stage of consideration. We wish to reduce much of what is controllable and non-controllable; whether we can reduce the issue price or not, we cannot say today. We will be able to say anything on this only after this exercise is completed. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Dihang and Subansiri Projects of Assam

*166. **SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total cost estimated by the Brahmaputra Board for the Dihang and Subansiri projects;

(b) by when the construction work of the projects is likely to be started; and

(c) the total amount of funds allocated for the projects during the Seventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The total cost estimated by the Brahmaputra Board for the Dihang and Subansiri projects is Rs. 10875 crores.

(b) The question of construction would arise only after completion of the examination of the projects for techno-economic feasibility, forests and environment clearance, resolution of inter-State issues and approval by the Planning Commission.

(c) No funds have been allotted for the projects during the Seventh Five Year Plan period.

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister gives a very gloomy picture of the future of these projects as well as of the Brahmaputra Board itself. The Brahmaputra Board itself, in its assessment of the damage caused by floods in the Brahmaputra, has said that taking into account both direct and indirect losses, the per annum loss is Rs. 2,000 crores. Therefore, my question is, what measures the Government would take, till the completion of these projects, to save the State and save the national wealth of Rs. 2,000 crores per annum from being swept away by the Brahmaputra?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that we have to do everything that is possible to avoid this national loss. The project reports in respect of these two projects are under technical examination by the Central Water and Power Commission. There are a lot of procedures to be gone through under the provisions of the Brahmaputra Board Act, without which construction work on any dam or any project cannot be taken up.

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, if these projects do not become a reality, what alternative steps the Government would take to control

the 70 per cent of water and silt carried by the Dihang and the Subansiri into the Brahmaputra and thereby control the Brahmaputra floods?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, I have said on more than one occasion in this House. In 1980, this Act was passed. Earlier, the work of control of floods and prevention of erosion was being done by three Boards. The Act was passed in 1980 and the Board was constituted in 1982. Since 1982 till now, if I can give the figures, besides the work done by the State Government themselves, in order to control floods the Brahmaputra Board itself has spent about Rs 18.7 crores in the Sixth Plan. In the first two years, i.e. 1985-86 and 1986-87, of the Seventh Plan we have spent about Rs. 15 crores in order to take up works of flood control.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the Central Government has made separate allocations for undertaking flood control measures both in relation to Brahmaputra and the Barak? I would like to know whether he is also aware that the AGP Government, due to its tradition of following step-motherly attitude towards Barak Valley, has diverted out of the total allocation of Rs. 25 crores an amount of Rs. 12.35 crores towards the Brahmaputra floods control measures. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government is going to construct the Tipaimukh project for the flood control work.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, these sorts of complaints about diversion of funds by the Government of Assam, including the funds for the Barak project, are very often made. And I should say that the Assam Government has even been receiving loan assistance from the Government of India. By the end of

Sixth Plan they received Rs. 112 crores and for the Seventh Plan the outlay approved for this purpose is Rs. 70 crores of which Rs. 15 crores was released during 1985-86. This is besides what we have been spending through the Brahmaputra Board for the works of flood control. So far as the work at Barak projects is concerned, attention of the Government of Assam is equally needed, prevention of floods control in this Barak Valley is also important and if there is any diversion of funds, the Government will enquire into the matter.

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, Barak is part of Assam and the AGP Government has come only in the last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Vikal.

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि अंतर्राज्यीय विवादों के हल हो जाने पर वे इस पर विचार करेंगे। यह उन्होंने कहा और दूसरे मंत्री जी ने कहा सातवीं योजना में स्वीकृति न लेने की वजह से ही यह हुआ। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ बाढ़ से तटवर्ती इलाके को भारी हानि हो रही है और यह ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड काफी समय से बना हुआ है। उसके सुझाव उनके सामने हैं तो वे अंतर्राज्यीय विवाद क्या हैं जो इसमें हायल हैं और दूसरे सातवीं योजना में इस योजना को विचाराधीन रखा गया है, या नहीं ?

श्री बी० शंकरानन्द : पंचवर्षीय योजना के बारे में तो जवाब दे दिया है कि क्योंकि प्रोजेक्ट एप्रूव नहीं हुआ इसलिए...

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : आपने जवाब में कहा कि सातवीं योजना की मंजूरी के बिना इसमें रखा गया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not an expert on Assam.

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : मैं वहाँ घूमा हुआ हूँ और हम तो सारे देश के बारे में जानते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, now you are an expert.

श्री बी० शंकरानंद : आनरेबिल मेम्बर सारा भारत घूमे हुए हैं यह मैं मानता हूँ लेकिन मैं ने यह कहा कि यह दोनों प्रोजेक्ट्स असम में नहीं हैं । यह मणिपुर में हैं । सारा लैंड दूसरे स्टेट में हैं । और दूसरे स्टेट की मंजूरी के बिना कुछ नहीं हो सकता । इसलिये अन्तर्राज्यीय बात है और मैं आप को बताऊँ कि इसमें फारेस्ट एरिया 150 स्क्वेयर किलोमीटर है और 193 स्क्वेयर किलो मीटर डूबने वाला है। यह सुबानसीरी के बारे में मैं बता रहा हूँ । डिहांग के बारे में भी जो डूबने वाला एरिया है वह 490 स्क्वेयर किलो मीटर है और उसमें करीब 377 स्क्वेयर किलो मीटर फारेस्ट एरिया है । तो फारेस्ट इंवायरेन्मेंट का क्लियरेंस, इटर स्टेट डिस्प्यूट्स, फिर प्रोविजन ऑफ फंड्स और फिर प्लानिंग कमिशन की टेक्निकल कमेटी के क्लियरेंस के बाद कंस्ट्रक्शन के बारे में सोचा जा सकता है । इसके बिना कैसे कुछ कहा जा सकता है !

*167. [The Questioner (Shri K. Vasudeva Panicker) was absent. For answer, vide col. 23 infra.]

Cost-benefit analysis of the Irrigation Projects

*168. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cost-benefit analysis has been made in respect of the major and medium irrigation schemes as compared to the minor schemes; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The feasibility of major, medium and minor projects is largely dependant upon hydrological and topographical conditions and as such their cost-benefits are not comparable.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has stated that such cost benefits are not comparable. I do not agree with this contention of the Minister, because it is very easy to know how many acres can be irrigated in what time by a major, medium or minor irrigation scheme and at the same time the hydrological and topographical conditions of a particular area are also known; so the costs of major, medium and minor irrigation schemes can be compared. So I would request the Minister to tell us which of these schemes is more suitable for greater productivity in agriculture and is less cost consuming.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, I can expect the hon. Members to know the physiology, physiography and topography of India. But I do not know if every one of us knows the hydrological aspects of India. I should say that all the major projects are not situated in any particular area; so also the medium or minor projects. Besides construction of dams and building reservoirs, the projects also involve construction of various canals and field channels. An element of power is also involved in certain projects. So we cannot compare the benefit aspect of it against the cost.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: No further supplementary.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: On the basis of the cost benefit analysis of irrigation is there any priority order for all the major, minor and medium irrigation projects in the country? That is, on the basis of cost benefit analysis, a particular project is number one the other is number two like that. Is there any shelf of priorities on the basis of cost and social benefits analysis.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: It is true that the cost benefit analysis is taken into consideration in respect of a particular project. But it is not