

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: The exorbitant fare is also pickpocketing.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: It is a shocking state of affairs if 50 per cent of the people are travelling without tickets.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the difficulty is, with the existing rules, with the existing system, we are quite helpless. We have the GRP and we have no control over the GRP. We have the Railway Protection Force and the Railway Protection Force has very limited powers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This divided responsibility is there. You are quite right.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Have you got any powers?

MR. CHAIRMAN: As for Mr. Kalmadi, next time he will protect his pocket well.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can only say that we are trying to improve the situation. We have inherited a lot of legacies and we are trying to do away with these legacies.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sad to listen to the hon. Minister that he is helpless in the existing system. He is helpless against the State Governments, he is helpless against the Ministry of Home Affairs. Now, Sir, part of the trouble he has himself stated, is that he has no control over the Government Railway Police. My humble submission is this. Recently the Government in its wisdom have enacted the Central Industrial Protection Force Act and given the force a statutory basis. Now, is it possible to combine the functions of the Government Railway Police and the Railway Protection Force which serve under diluted control or joint control, as you said, and create a statutory force which would be solely responsible for the protection of railway property and

the passengers travelling on the railways and would be under the sole control of the hon. Minister?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, probably this will require an amendment of the present Constitution. We are looking into the matter. But at the present moment, we are trying to give some more powers to the Railway Protection Force, power to protect the railway personnel, power to investigate crimes committed within the jurisdiction of the railways and submit reports to Magistrates, power to take action against encroachment of railway land and property, power to take action against unauthorised hawkers, vendors, etc., trading at railway stations and in trains. These are the few things regarding which we have approached the Law Department and the Law Department is looking into it. And if they agree we will go to the Cabinet, and then I think things will improve. But it will not be the ideal thing. The ideal thing is what you suggest and that we are trying to achieve.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A combined force under one unified command with one DIG in charge. Question No. 125. (Interruptions) The train must move.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: None of the additional powers that the hon. Minister cited relates to the protection of the person of the passenger. They are all related to the protection of the property of the railways. Can't you give some powers as far as crimes against passengers are concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what I have suggested and he has agreed. Question No. 125.

Irrigation projects pending completion in Andhra Pradesh

*125. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects in Andhra Pradesh which are pending completion;

(b) what is the total outlay on these projects and the Central assistance for these projects outside the Plan allocation;

(c) whether the Central assistance and loans are sought by the State Government for the early completion of these projects including the Polavaram and Yeleru multipurpose projects;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether these projects including the Polavaram and Yeleru projects could be taken up by the Central Government as national projects for their completion in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) 9 Major and 30 medium projects which have spilled over into Sixth Plan from the earlier plans in Andhra Pradesh, are pending completion. The list of projects is given in the Statement appended. (See below).

(b) The total estimated cost of these projects is Rs. 1669.64 crores and an expenditure of Rs. 783.89 crores was incurred upto March 1980. The total outlay provided for these projects in the Sixth Plan is Rs. 654.29 crores. Of this, Rs. 359.75 crores is anticipated to have been incurred upto March, 1983.

No Central assistance outside the State Plan allocation is provided to Andhra Pradesh during 1983-84.

(c) and (d) No formal request for Central assistance and loan has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 1983-84.

(e) Irrigation is a State subject and irrigation projects are funded by the States Government themselves within the framework of their overall developmental plans. Central assistance to States is provided in the form of block loans and grants which is not related to any sector of development or Project.

Statement

Names of Pre-Sixth Plan major and medium Irrigation Projects under execution in Andhra Pradesh

I. Major Irrigation Projects:

1. Nagarjunasagar
2. Sriramsagar Stage-I
3. Godavari Barrage (Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage)
4. Vamsadhara Stage-I & II
5. T. B. P. H. L. C. Stage-II
6. Somasila Stage-I & II
7. Improvement to Nizamsagar
8. Singur Project
9. Samalkota Summer Storage Reservoir.

II. Medium Irrigation Projects:

1. Vottigodda
2. Thandava Reservoir
3. Kanpur Canal Scheme
4. Gandipalam Canal
5. Pulivandela Canal
6. Gajuladinne
7. Guntur Channel
8. Swarna
9. Ukachettivagu
10. Raiwada
11. Kanam
12. Vengelaraya Sagaram
13. Malluruvagu
14. Vottivagu
15. Mukkaramidi
16. Boggulavagu
17. Pedderu Stage-I
18. Vengalaraya L. I. Shemes
19. Krishnapuram
20. Jhanjhavathi
21. Paddamkalam
22. Madduvalasa
23. Cheyyeru Project
24. Yerrakalva Reservoir
25. Peddavagu
26. Taliperu
27. Gundalvagu

28. Satanala
29. Jalleru
30. Maddigedda

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very important question and if these projects are completed, it will benefit not only Andhra Pradesh but the whole country because these are irrigation projects. The Minister has stated that there are 9 major and 30 medium irrigation projects pending in Andhra Pradesh. I would like to know from the Minister whether these projects are pending for the last 20 to 30 years. Why is the Government so slow in completing these projects all these years? As a matter of fact, it is the Centre which has failed to supply in time either the financial help or the material, and that has caused the delay in the completion of these projects in time. I would like to know from the Minister whether the State Government—successive State Governments and even the present Telugu Desam Government—has appealed to the Central Government to come to its assistance of these projects so that these projects may be completed in time. Recently the hon. Minister had been to Andhra Pradesh and he had met the State Irrigation Minister there. He might have discussed with him about the projects that require financial assistance from the Centre. At the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the important projects that are pending with the Centre for financial help. For example, there is the Vamsadhara project. Time and again representations have been made to the Central Minister, and I also personally met the Minister and I submitted a memorandum to him that the project should be completed in time. It needs urgent assistance from the Centre. At the same time, it needs a meeting of Mr. Mirdha with the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister.

I have requested the Minister to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa in this regard. At the same time...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us have the first question answered.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: I am asking a connected question. The historic agreement between the new Government of Andhra Pradesh headed by the Chief Minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao and the Tamil Nadu Government headed by Mr. M. G. Ramachandran on the Krishna waters diversion, will provide water to Madras city for drinking and at same time, it will facilitate irrigation of vast lands in Rayalaseema, which is a drought-affected area. The Central Government, of course, had agreed in principle long ago, but so far they have got taken any steps to give assistance to the States. Now both Chief Ministers have taken this historic decision and I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government is going to give sufficient assistance, financial assistance to this project...so that it may be completed in time to save the lives of thousands of people of Madras and at the same time to give relief to the people of Rayalaseema who are suffering from drought conditions. Recently there was a news item that the Prime Minister is going to visit Madras in this connection and Mr. M. G. Ramachandran has invited Shri N. T. Rama Rao to discuss all these things. I would like to know what steps the Government is going to take to give financial assistance to this project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a question of money. How much are you going to give?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I have said before in my statement which I think is worth repeating. I have said that irrigation is a State subject and irrigation projects are

funded by the State Governments themselves within the framework of their overall development plans. If this basic fact had been kept in mind by the hon. Member most of his questions would not have arisen. I would again say that the Central Government is not responsible for delay in completion of any of their projects and the State Government has spread their resources, financial managerial and technical, much too thin and that is the reason why there is so much spill over from Plan to Plan and delay in completion of their projects.

As regards Vamsadhara Project, which the hon. Member mentioned—he has been meeting me in this connection also—there is a dispute between the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Government of Orissa as regards the scope of this project. The two Governments had come to an agreement regarding the submersion of land in Orissa. In view of the revised scheme which the Andhra Pradesh Government has formulated because of floods in 1980 the Orissa Government has still to give consent. I would like the Chief Ministers of both the States to take it up among themselves so that some honourable and satisfactory settlement is arrived at.

As regards the scheme for providing water to Madras from the Krishna river, we all know that scheme....

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is coming. How much are you prepared to give?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: We are waiting for the project report to come and our procedures for allocation are well known and if the scheme fits into these procedures, we will do it.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: My next supplementary.

श्री सभापति : आपका एक सप्लीमेंटरी ही इतना लम्बा था, जल्दी करिये तीन मिनट बचे है ।

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: It is my right. So far as medium irrigation projects are concerned, the hon. Minister has given a list of 30 projects. In this connection I would like to know from the Minister whether any proposal or report on minor and medium irrigation schemes has been submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Government to the Central Government for the purpose of including them in the pipe-line for World Bank assistance. Does the Central Government propose to consider the above projects for purposes of getting World Bank assistance with the concurrence of the State Government and whether the European Economic Community has also been approached for aid and if so whether the Andhra Pradesh minor and medium irrigation projects have been cleared by the European Economic Community for their assistance? I would like to know the details in this regard and also whether the Central Government will impress upon the World Bank and other world agencies to give aid to these projects in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: From time to time the State Governments send projects which we, after discussing with them, put in the pipe-line for World Bank assistance. There are some such projects from Andhra Pradesh and other States as well and they are being scrutinised from this point of view. The European Economic Community has shown interest in some project and we are discussing with them to find out if any assistance from them can be made available to any project so far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned.

SHRI KRISHNA MOHAN BHAMIDIPATI: The hon. Minister has made it very clear that irrigation project is a State subject. I wish to draw his attention that a gigantic steel plant is coming up in Vizag. He knows that the steel plant requires water. There is a proposal to take water from the Yeleru reservoir to the Vizag steel plant. Will the Central Government render all possible assistance to the

State Government for the early completion of the Yeleru project so that water from that reservoir could be drawn and made available to the steel plant at Vizag?

My colleague has stated that an accord has been reached for sharing the waters of Krishna in order to provide drinking water to Tamil Nadu. And, Sir, the foundation-stones were laid by the two Chief Ministers at two different points. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether the foundation stones were laid after obtaining the clearance from the Government of India.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Well, Sir, as I said earlier, we have not received even the project report and, so, the question of clearance by the Central Government does not arise. We are awaiting their proposals and we will process them in the usual course.

As regards the Elluru project, it is meant for giving water to the Visakhapatnam steel plant. Well, if they want any assistance, the best Ministry to be approached is the Ministry of Steel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. The Question Hour is over now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Opening of fair price shops

*123. **SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to expand the public distribution system in far-flung areas of the country;

(b) what is the number of fair price shops and mobile shops opened in remote areas of each State and Union Territory so far under the Revised 20-Point Programme;

(c) what are the commodities being supplied through these shops in these areas; and

(d) what precautions have been taken for ensuring regular supply of commodities in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) to (d) Implementation of the Public Distribution system within their respective territories is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Under the New 20-Point Programme, instructions have already been sent to the Governments of all States and Union Territories to expand the public distribution system, including the setting up of mobile shops in the far-flung areas. In this connection, emphasis is to be given to the coverage of such areas as had hitherto been under-served or unserved like rural, hilly and tribal areas. The implementation of the programme is regularly reviewed, and the reports received from the various States and Union Territories show that action is progressively being taken by them in this regard. Based on the reports received from them, a statement is attached, which gives the State-wise figures of the total number of fair-price shops opened in the urban and rural areas as also mobile shops set up so far. (See below).

As regards the commodities which are supplied under the Public Distribution System, this differs from State to State and sometimes even within each State. The essential commodities at present recommended and supplied by the Central Government to the States/Union Territories for issue through the public distribution system are wheat, rice, sugar, imported edible oils and kerosene, apart from soft coke and controlled cloth. In addition, the State Governments have been given the option to include in the public distribution such other items of mass consumption as they deem fit, by arranging supplies on