

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 2nd August, 1978/the
11th Sravana, 1900 (Saka)

The House met at Eleven of the
clock. Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation
Projects**

*361. SHRI B. SATYANARAYANA
REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government
have formulated any new scheme for
major, medium and minor irrigation
projects in the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of
such projects in each State; and

(c) by when these projects are li-
kely to be completed and what is the
irrigation potential of these projects

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRA-
TAP SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement
is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) No, Sir. Irrigation is a
State project and irrigation projects are
formulated and implemented by the
States themselves. The Central Gov-
ernment have, however, fixed a coun-
trywide target for development of an
additional irrigation potential of 17
million hectares during the Medium-
Term Plan 1978—83, 8 million hectares
from major and medium projects and
9 million hectares from minor irriga-
tion projects. Bulk of the potential
under major and medium irrigation
will come from the on-going schemes.
The detailed annual programme for
creation of additional irrigation poten-
tial including the outlays required is
being finalised in consultation with the
371 LS—1.

State Governments at the time of
Annual Plan discussions of each State.
New Schemes are being taken up for
implementation by the States depend-
ing on the availability of resources,
the relative priorities, etc. For the
current year 1978-79, the target is 2.8
million hectares—1.35 million hectares
from major and medium projects and
1.45 million ha. from minor projects.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYANA
REDDY: I would like to know from
the hon. Minister whether such areas
have been included in the backward
areas of the country.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH:
I could not follow the question.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYANA
REDDY: I would like to know whe-
ther such schemes have been formu-
lated in regard to the backward areas
of the country also.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH:
The schemes for irrigation are for-
mulated by the State Governments.
It is our directive to them that they
should also include the backward
areas.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYANA
REDDY: What I wanted to know
was how many hectares of land have
been brought under irrigation in the
backward areas of the country.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH:
That will require a definition of
'backward areas'. This is not readily
available, as to what is the figure in
regard to the backward areas.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:
It is a wrong answer. There are
backward areas in each State. No
definition is needed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not
allowed.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:
Let him apply his mind.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYANA
REDDY: In the nine districts of the

Telengana area and in the four districts of the Rayalaseema area of Andhra Pradesh, how many hectares have been brought under irrigation?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Sir, this is a general question; it does not relate to any particular State. I can give only the figures about the schemes in Andhra Pradesh as a whole. There are six major and twenty-two medium schemes which have been sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh, and the potential that will be created...

SHRI B. SATYANARAYANA REDDY: I wanted to know about the backward areas of Andhra Pradesh—Karimnagar, Mehboobnagar, Nalgonda, Medak, Warangal, Khammam, Adikabad, Nizamabad and Hyderabad Districts in Telengana and Kurnool, Anantapur, Cuddapah and Chittoor Districts in Rayalaseema—whether in regard to these districts any schemes have been taken into consideration while formulating the scheme for irrigation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put a specific question and he can give the information after collecting it.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO: From the statement laid on the Table it is seen that this year, out of 17 million hectares that will be covered by the medium-term Plan, for the current year 1978-79, the target is 2.8 million hectares—1.35 million hectares from major and medium projects and 1.45 million hectares from minor-projects. But the problem is, whenever the States come forward with their projects, they are not being easily cleared. And what is being done to clear them early?

Then, Sir, there are defined backward areas in many States, areas which are not under irrigation, and some of them are also drought-prone. Are these taken into consideration when finalising the programme for the year?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Sir, a very large number of schemes are being submitted by the State Governments and we try to clear them. But sometimes the schemes are imperfect and they have to be sent back to the State Governments for information. And the schemes have to be examined in the various departments like the Agronomy Department, the Planning Commission, the Central Water Commission and so on. So, all that takes time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you take it into consideration on a priority basis?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Priority is given, but as I have said earlier, it is up to the State Governments.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO: My question was about the drought-prone areas. Do they give special priority to the drought-prone areas?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: We have another programme under rural development for the development of the drought-prone areas.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: The Hon. Minister has mentioned about the major and minor irrigation schemes, but there is no mention of any underground water exploitation scheme. There are certain areas where there is no availability of the above-ground water. They are the drought-prone areas. Therefore, has the Government got any scheme for exploitation of the underground water in those areas where above-ground water is not available, specially the drought-prone areas?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Most of the minor irrigation schemes are to take out the underground water. There are two kinds of minor schemes: One is to take out water from the underground; the other is to utilise the surface water. Most of the schemes under the minor irrigation are for the utilisation of the underground water.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:

How much amount is to be utilised for that? There is no mention here.. Therefore, I wanted to know it.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH:

In the current year, that is, 1978-79, a provision of Rs. 225 crores has been made for the development of the minor irrigation works, and institutional finance will also be provided to the tune of Rs. 400 crores. So, in all, Rs. 625 crores will go towards its development.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

Sir, the answer has been given that irrigation is a State subject. But there are certain rivers which become the boundary line of different States, and it involves inter-State irrigation schemes. Will the Central Government consider the proposal to take up Central inter-State projects like the Ganges, Kaveri and Subarnarekha which are highly flooded every year?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH:

Sir, flood and irrigation are different subjects. As far as the inter-State rivers are concerned, we try to bring the States together and try to evolve some agreement between them. As far as floods are concerned, we have one Ganga Basin Scheme which is Centrally administered.

श्रीमती कुमुदबेन मणिशंकर जोशी :

सभापति महोदय, स्टेटमेंट में बताया गया है कि 1978 से 1983 तक आठ मिलियन हेक्टर फ्राम मेजर और नौ मिलियन हेक्टर फ्राम मीडियम और माइनर इरिगेशन स्कीम्स के अन्दर आयेंगे। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूँ कि इस पीरियड के लिए गुजरात सरकार की ओर से कोई आपके पास स्कीम आई है, और यदि आई है, तो इसके बारे में आपने कुछ सोचा है कि नहीं?

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह : गुजरात से बारह मेजर स्कीम्स हैं और 8 मीडियम स्कीम्स हैं जिन पर इस समय विचार हो रहा है।

SHRI BHAIRAB CHANDRA MA-

HANTI: Is there any policy or principle laid down by the Central Government for financing the major, medium and minor irrigation schemes? I mean to ask: What percentage is borne by the State Governments and what percentage is to be borne by the Central Government? Has any policy or principle been formulated?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH:

Sir, I am not aware of any such policy. Mostly it is the State Governments which are expected to provide the finance; the Central Government only supplements their resources.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-

KARNI: Sir, may I know from the Minister whether he is aware that the dispute between the various States on sharing of water is wasting much of our national effort by not utilising the water for producing more food? There is particularly the dispute between Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat on the one side on the sharing of the Godavari and the Krishna waters. Then there is dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on the sharing of the waters of the Cauvery. I want to know whether the Government has taken any steps to settle at least the Godavari dispute so that the drought-prone areas in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra will get adequate water supply and, if so, at what stage that dispute is. And how many major irrigation schemes from Maharashtra are pending clearance?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH:

I will reply to the last part of the question first. There are 18 major schemes from Maharashtra which are under consideration.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-

KARNI: At what stage?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH:

I said, under consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under different stages. Yes, Mr. Krishnan.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: What about disputes? 1

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: About disputes, as I have said earlier, the Union Government is still persisting in its efforts to bring about agreement between the State Governments.

SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Sir, in some States irrigation is mainly dependent upon underground water and in those States the sub-soil water level has gone so deep that it is highly impossible to reach the water level. I would like to know whether there is any proposal with the Government to nationalise the rivers and to attempt to raise the sub-soil water level in the scarcity areas.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Yes, Sir, we are emphasising the conjunctive use of water; that is, surface water is brought, at least we try to bring surface water, so as to recharge our underground water sources.

SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: What about nationalisation of the rivers?

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK: The recent construction of canals in the Ganganagar district of Rajasthan has been an eye-opener that the arid regions can be converted into green belts. May I know when we are going to take the Ganga-Jamuna complex to the South? When Dr. K. L. Rao was the Minister, this matter was under consideration—the Ganga-Cauvery link and the attempt to form an all-India river grid. I would like to know how this suggestion is going on and whether any definite programme is there and, if so, when it will be taken up.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: This question of transferring water from one river basin to another is under examination. It is a big scheme. It will take some time before we can reform some idea.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yadav. A straight question, at least today.

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK: In view of the fact that nearly one-third of the country is remaining without irrigation...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This matter is being considered.

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK: We cannot go and beg for food in other countries. The whole question is, nearly one-third of the country is waiting for irrigation. How long are we to wait? Already 30 years are over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. Mr. Yadav.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : श्रीमन् बिहार एक कृषि - प्रधान प्रांत है। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने आज तक बिहार राज्य को कृषि संबंधी मीडियम मेजर और माइनर इरिगेशन के लिए जो अनुदान सैंकशन किया है स्टेट के पैमाने पर, वह कितना रहा है और करेंट ईयर में अभी कितना है; और क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि चूंकि कृषि - प्रधान प्रांत होने के कारण वहां इरिगेशन का महत्व बहुत बढ़ जाता है अतः जो स्कीम बिहार सरकार ने भारत सरकार को मेजर और माइनर इरिगेशन के लिए इस करेंट ईयर में दिया है क्या उसको जल्द से जल्द क्लियर करेगी और अधिक से अधिक अनुदान देने की कोशिश करेगी ?

श्री भ.नु प्रताप सिंह : श्रीमन् बिहार की योजनाएं भी हमारे पास हैं, 24 बड़ी हैं और 15 मध्यम हैं, और उन को जल्दी से जल्दी क्लियर करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। कुछ काम हुआ भी है। बिहार की कठिनाई यह है कि जो इरिगेशन पोटेन्शियल पैदा भी किया गया है उसका यूटिलाइजेशन कम हो रहा है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: One point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: With regard to the Lower Damodar scheme, the West Bengal Government has said that most of the districts will be flooded if this scheme is given effect to. I want to know whether the Minister has received any representation to that effect from the West Bengal Government—to change the scheme—and whether the Government is taking any action. This is a very vital issue...

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: I have noted the suggestion and I will consider it.

High-Power Committee Appointed to Inquire into the Panchayatiraj Institutions

*362. **SHRI YOGENDRA**

SHARMA:†

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of meetings so far held by the high-powered committee appointed by the Central Government to inquire into the working of the Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(b) whether the committee has submitted its reports; and

(c) if so, what are the recommendations made therein and what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Four formal meetings.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : मान्यवर, यह प्रश्न जो हम ने किया है वह सत्ता के जनतांत्रिक विकेन्द्रीकरण के प्रश्न से संबंधित है और सत्ता

के जनतांत्रिक विकेन्द्रीकरण का प्रश्न हमारे कृषि मंत्री महोदय के मत्थे आ गया है इस के लिए हम को उन से हमदर्दी है। कृषि और सत्ता के विकेन्द्रीकरण का प्रश्न एक मंत्रालय के लिए हल करना मुश्किल है और इसी लिए मेरे प्रश्न का कोई लिखित उत्तर नहीं दिया गया और जो भी मौखिक उत्तर दिया गया है उसी के संबंध में हम को प्रश्न पूछना है।

जो कमेटी बहाल की गयी है—अशोक मेहता कमेटी, उस कमेटी ने पिछले जून महीने में जयपुर में पत्रकारों से बातचीत करते हुए यह कहा था कि जुलाई के अंत तक हम अपनी रिपोर्ट दे देंगे। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान उन के इस कथन की ओर गया है ?

साथ ही साथ उस में उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि बंगाल में जो अभी गांव पंचायतों के चुनाव हुए हैं वह पार्टी के आधार पर हुए हैं और इस के बाद उन्होंने पत्रकारों से बात करते हुए उसी सिलसिले में यह कहा कि दूसरी जगह का अनुभव है कि इन चुनावों को पार्टी के आधार पर न कर के व्यक्तिगत आधार पर कराया जाना चाहिए। हम बिहार से आते हैं और अभी बिहार में चुनाव हुए और बिहार का अनुभव है कि यदि पार्टी के आधार पर गांव पंचायतों के चुनाव नहीं होंगे या नहीं होते हैं तो एक मात्र आधार रह जाता है जाति का और सांप्रदायिकता का। जिस को हम कहते हैं ट्रेडिशनल लायलिटी का आधार रह जाता है और इसी लिये हम बिहार में देखते हैं कि बिहार में जो चुनाव हुए उन में सैकड़ों व्यक्तियों की जाने गयीं। खुद सरकारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक पुलिस को 18 बार गोली चलानी पड़ी। इस के मुकाबले में हम बंगाल में देखने है कि अपेक्षाकृत शान्ति पूर्वक चुनाव हुए।

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : तो हम चाहते हैं कि इस के बारे में क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय कोई राय इस सदन के सामने रखेंगे क्योंकि जिस कमेटी को उन्होंने बनाया है उस कमेटी

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Yogendra Sharma.