

due publicity through the radio and newspapers. State Governments have been requested to see that, if in any part of the State, the prices come below the procurement level, they have to step in. If the State Governments are unable to do so, the Government of India will step in. With the help of the Food Corporation of India, which is a big organisation with the necessary staff, etc., we can step in in any part of the country for the purchase of foodgrains. I can assure this hon. House that there is no such fear and we should not create unnecessarily a wrong impression that we have failed. If any complaints are received that in any part of the country something is happening which is against the interests of the farmers, we are prepared to take remedial measures.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOA-HAIN : Yesterday that was the main allegation. May I know whether he is going to make any enquiry into this allegation or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : If he receives any complaint, he will make an enquiry.

Exploitation of underground water resources

*63. SHRI NIRANJAN SING TALIB :

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN :
SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU :

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

(a) what special steps Government propose to take to exploit the underground water resources in the country especially in areas which are deficit in water; and

(b) what is the estimated expenditure on such schemes during the year 1976-77 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The steps taken to exploit the underground water resources in the country

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Niranjana Singh Talib.

especially in areas which are deficit in, waters include :—

- (i) Stepping up the State Plan allocations for the programme.
- (ii) Supplementing State Plan resources available for ground water development by mobilising credit from institutional agencies like Land Development Banks, Commercial Banks, Central Cooperative Banks, Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation, World Bank etc.
- (iii) Giving due attention to ground water development under special Central programmes like SFDA, DPAP, ITDP.
- (iv) Intensifying the pace of ground water investigations and giving priority for investigations in chronically drought affected areas.
- (v) Undertaking projects for comprehensive resource evaluation in limited representative basins including chronically drought affected areas, with a view to evolving extending methodology and norms for evaluation, planning and implementation of ground water schemes*.
- (vi) Strengthening of the Groundwater Organisations in the States as well as at the Centre for handling expanding programme of ground water development.
- (vii) Introducing improvements in design of ground water structures (wells and tubewells).
- (viii) Accelerating rural electrification programme in order to provide cheap electric power for pumping groundwater.

(b) Total expenditure on minor irrigation programme (of which ground water development is a major component will be of the order of Rs. 149.04 crores during 1976-77. Besides, it is expected that an additional amount of Rs. 278.13 crores will be mobilised from institutional resources during the year. The special Central sector programmes like DPAP, SFDA, ITDP are expected to contribute an additional amount of about Rs. 30 crores.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN : Sir, the hon. Minister has given a long list of the steps taken by the Government. These steps are enumerated in the statement but the fact remains that this branch of the irrigation programme is not given due attention. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if a survey or assessment has been made with regard to the potential of the ground water in this country and what percentage of that potential has been exploited so far.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : The object of this organisation is to carry out surveys, experimental drilling and all that to assess the underground water resources. We have succeeded not only in finding water in sedimentary areas but we have also started operations in the hard rock areas of Hyderabad and Telangana, these areas which are perennially drought-prone areas. We are working in those areas and the results are very encouraging.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN : I wanted to know the percentage of underground water exploited so far. Anyway, the amount now earmarked for the minor irrigation programme during the year 1976-77 is Rs. 109.04 crores. I would like to know from this amount for minor irrigation programme how much out of it will be spent on the development of the underground water scheme, because it needs more attention.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has said : A major portion of it. He cannot give the percentage.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : During the Fifth Five Year Plan the State sector Plan outlay for minor irrigation is Rs. 772 crores and we hope that the institution investments would be Rs. 1,462 crores and the area that will benefit from these schemes is 6 million hectares.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you satisfied?

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN : I wanted to know during the current financial year. He has said about the Fifth or the Sixth Plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would you reply ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : For the current financial year I could not give him figures for different States. For the whole

of India for the year 1975-76 it is Rs. 335-72 crores.

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU : Sir, according to the part (b) of the statement the total expenditure in the current year would be of the order of Rs. 457 crores for minor irrigation, loans from banks and for certain other schemes. May I know from the hon. Minister the total expenditure to be incurred in Himachal Pradesh out of this Rs. 457 crores.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : For Himachal Pradesh, for the year 1975-76 the anticipated expenditure on ground water development of that order of Rs. 12 lakhs.

SHRI BHAIKRAM CHANDRA MOHANTI : May I know whether the commercial banks in rural areas are giving loans to small farmers and cultivators for utilising the underground water resources ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : Yes, Sir, especially in the SFDA, in the drought-prone areas and in the Command Development Area Projects the commercial banks are giving loans liberally to farmers and they are also getting a subsidy from these agencies.

SHRI MAQSUD ALI KHAN : As I know, in the Uttar Karnataka area and in the Telangana area these underground water surveys have been taken up and a number of bore holes have been made there. On each bore hole a sum of about Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000 has been spent. Now the Panchayats and the Taluka Board are ready to take over these bore holes and they are ready to supply these waters to the villages. Will the Government take this into consideration and hand over these bore holes to the Panchayats and Taluka Boards ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : As I said, these are purely exploratory bore holes and if the Panchayats are prepared to take over and pay the actual expenses, we will be very happy to hand them over.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : According to the statement there are a number of schemes envisaged for exploiting underground water. My question is, in this country, for the last two to three thousand years, in every village, we have got a pond and we used to have such ponds

in the villages. These ponds are in a state of disrepair and some of them have been brought under cultivation. Would the Minister look into the matter and make a survey district-wise to find out as to how many such ponds are there and whether they can be repaired so that with much less expenditure and with location already found out, we can have storage of water and help raise the underground water table, which has been experimented in Tanjore? The second part of my question is, how much money is allocated for the State of Gujarat under this scheme?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : Yes, Sir. And she has talked about the surface water, not underground water.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : What about Gujarat? I asked, what is the amount allocated for the State of Gujarat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second part you can reply.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: For Gujarat, anticipated outlay is about Rs. 23 crores during (the year 1976-77).

श्री जगदीश जोशी : माननीय मन्त्री जी क्या बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस देश के कितने जिले ऐसे हैं कि जो कानिक स्केयर-निटी के जिले हैं और जिन में आपने इस प्रकार की जांच के प्रयोग किये हैं? क्या यह भी सच है कि आप ने मध्य प्रदेश के कानिक स्केयरमिटी एफेक्टेड रीवां संभाग में किसी भी प्रकार की अंडर ग्राउन्ड वाटर की जांच नहीं की है और मध्य प्रदेश राज्य के लिए इस दिशा में कितना रुपया इयर मार्क किया गया है यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : सारे देश में जो 74 ड्राउट प्रोन एरियाज ऐसे हैं कि जो इस प्रोजेक्ट के तहत हैं। इन एरियाज में हम लगभग 160 करोड़ रुपया खर्च करने वाले हैं। स्टेट वाइज फीगर्स इस समय में नहीं दे सकता।

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA . Sir, the question is > What special steps Government proposes to take? The reply

indicates the steps taken. I want to know from the Minister whether any other special steps have been taken already. I also want to know whether there are any special steps to be taken regarding drought-affected areas and for rural electrification.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN . Sir, the special steps taken have been given in the statement which I have laid already. Regarding the individual States where these schemes are being carried out, the position is that in Rajasthan we have completed two projects and six such projects are on hand in different States. We have asked for proposals from different State Governments to strengthen the ground water Boards in the States and their proposals are awaited. We hope that, with the strengthening of the State Boards, the work will be expedited further.

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : I would like to know from the Minister if the Government is aware that the greatest bottleneck in the exploitation of the underground water resources is the lack of rig machines and a large number of such tube-wells which have to be sunk, are not being sunk because of the paucity of rig machines. What steps have the Government taken to provide rig machines for exploiting the underground water resources and which? are the States which have formed underground water resources corporations?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : It is true that we are short of certain types of rigs with very hard points—tungsten points and diamond points—and those rigs which would drill through hard rock. We are rather short of these rigs. But we have collaboration with countries like Canada, and others which are giving those rigs to us, and that is why in the Hyderabad area we have been able to take up operations—Known as 'hard rock operations'; and there, we have drilled through solid, hard rock in order to find water. As far as the other conventional rigs are concerned, the country is self-sufficient, there is no dearth of such rigs. And we can make such rigs in the country. As I said, we have asked the various State Governments to submit proposals for strengthening their Underground Water Board organisations. We have received reports from nine States: we are awaiting reports from others and we hope

that all the States will strengthen their organisations.

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : How many States have formed corporations ?—that was my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has got information from only nine States. He does not know how many corporations have been constituted.

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU : The hon. Minister while replying said that against a total expenditure of Rs. 457 crores proposed this year, the allocation for a backward State like Himachal Pradesh is only Rs. 10 lakhs. May I know the reason for such a low allocation of fund for Himachal Pradesh ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : The nature of the State. Himachal Pradesh, as the hon. Member knows, is a very hilly and mountainous area, and the scope for drilling tubewells there is limited.

SHRI SARDAR AMIAD AIT : The hon. Minister referred to the drought-prone area programme with regard to the exploitation and effective use of the under ground water resources. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that Central assistance for this drought-prone area scheme has been diverted to certain other uses in various States. If any such information has come to his Ministry, what steps has he taken lest there should be further diversion of funds ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : As far as we are aware, there has been no such diversion of funds, and I would be grateful to the hon. Member if he can point out any specific cases.

DR. V. B. SINGH : I start on the premise that extension of irrigation is a part of the planning process, and planning process implies that what is scarce has to be used in the most economical way and what is abundant has to be used affluently. Labour is surplus in the whole region, including India, but capital is scarce. And when the hon. Minister speaks about the expenditure, it seems that some nawab of the 18th century is giving doles to these States, to this State or to that State. According to expert opinion, underground water resources are the richest in one region only in the whole world, and that is

in the north of the Ganges. So, why not tap this region to its maximum and raise the production of foodgrains ? Why not tap these resources which are cheaper to work so that our scarce capital is better utilised, our foodgrain targets are earlier realised and the foreign exchange that we are incurring in importing food is minimised.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : We are aware that running parallel to the Hima-layas north of the Ganges, there is an abundance of water. We are sparing no efforts to utilise that water to the maximum extent. We are utilising the surplus water by putting up big dams, by creating command area development projects and by instituting a programme of massive drilling of tubewells right from Amritsar to Orissa. There is no dearth of that. But there is no reason why areas which are drought-prone and areas which have been unfortunate should be left out. We are not leaving them out.

DR. V. B. SINGH : What is the order of priority ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, he has answered.

SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN : I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action the Government proposes to take to exploit the underground water resources in the drought-affected areas in Tamil Nadu?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : Sir, we have certain districts which have been declared as drought-prone area and an agency has been established, and that agency is giving subsidies to the farmers to sink tubewells, to build tanks and to harness all the underground water resources wherever they are available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Eradication of Malaria from the Indian Sub-continent

•64. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU: SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN : SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gian Chand Totu.