

RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 17th December, 1973/the
26th Agrahayana, 1895 (Saka)*

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Utilisation of Narmada Water

*731. SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

SHRI DEBANANDA
AMAT†:

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

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

(a) how often Narmada river, has
been in spate during the last five years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to
dam Narmada waters at Punasa and
Nowgaon with a view to its proper uti-
lisation; and

(c) the latest position in regard to the
maximum utilisation of Narmada water?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION
AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a)
In the past five years, high floods occur-
red in the Narmada in 1970 and 1973.

(b) and (c) The Government of
Madhya Pradesh have proposals to build
the Narmadasagar Dam at Punasa for
irrigation and hydro-power generation.
The Government of Gujarat have pro-
posals to build the Navagam Dam for
irrigation, hydro-power generation and
flood control. It will be possible to fina-
lise and undertake these and other pro-
jects for utilisation of Narmada waters
after the disputes regarding the utilis-
ation of Narmada waters are settled.

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT: In case
the Navagam dam is put up in Gujarat

†The question was actually asked on
the floor of the House by Shri Deba-
nanda Amat.

and the recommendations of the Khosla
Commission are implemented, is it a fact
that 5 lakh acres of land will be irrigat-
ed in Gujarat and another 1 lakh acres
will be irrigated in Rajasthan which is
facing drought?

SHRI K. C. PANT: As I said, it will
be possible to finalise and undertake
work on these projects—the Navagam
project included—after the disputes are
settled.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The de-
cision now rests with the Prime Minister
and it is quite some time, may be quite
some years, that the decision has not
been given. It cannot be a political deci-
sion. It has to be a pragmatic
decision. In view of the fact that the
decision which has to be taken has to
depend on facts and not on political
matters, why does not the Government
refer this to an Inter-State Council
which could take responsibility to take
all facts into consideration and finally
dispose of the matter? In the meantime,
because the Narmada is not being dam-
med there is perpetual flood and in
some areas there is perpetual drought.
The Government could save that.

SHRI K. C. PANT: As a matter of
fact, this dispute had been referred to a
Tribunal and the Tribunal, at one stage,
had taken up a legal point on which it
had expressed an opinion, as to whether
Rajasthan could get a share of the
waters or not by virtue of it not being
a basin State. Thereafter, the four
Chief Ministers agreed among themselves
to refer two points, viz., height of the
dam and allocation and distribution of
the waters, to the Prime Minister. The
shares of Maharashtra and Rajasthan
were decided upon amongst the Chief
Ministers themselves. So, this is how
the matter was referred to the Prime

Minister. There is no question of politics in this. Both the States have their points of view. Both have Congress Governments and so is the case at the Centre. . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I did not say that. It will not be a political decision. It has to be a decision based on facts.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I agree it has to be based on facts. These are matters in which the people of the States concerned are interested and the people in the rest of the country are also interested. It is not just a matter for the two States. Most of our big rivers are inter-State rivers and others are interested in the decision on the Narmada waters. The two Chief Ministers have been holding discussions with the Centre. And they came here a few days ago. They would both be coming here; we will have talks with them to see how far their points of view can be reconciled, how far the gap can be narrowed down. This process is going on and I hope that it will be possible soon to reach a point when the Prime Minister can give her decision.

SHRI T. K. PATEL: May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that by delaying the construction of the Narmada Project Dam we are losing Rs. 15 crores every year?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I am not very sure about the amount of money, but certainly a dam would give certain benefits which would be lost if it is not constructed.

डा० भाई महावीर : श्रीमन्, अभी मेरे मित्र श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र ने कहा कि इस बांध के न

बनने के कारण परपेचुअल ड्राउट और परपेचुअल फ्लड की समस्याएं देश के सामने बनी हुई हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब डेढ़-दो वर्ष पहले यह मामला प्रधान के सिपुर्द कर दिया गया तो तब से अब तक अनिर्णय की स्थिति रहने का कारण क्या है? क्या यह सच है कि एक तरफ परपेचुअल ड्राउट और परपेचुअल फ्लड है तो दूसरी तरफ परपेचुअल इन्डिजीजन है गवर्नमेंट का और क्या आप बता सकेंगे कि किनना लास हो रहा है प्रति वर्ष इस कारण से? जब देश में सूखा पड़ रहा है और अरबों रुपए का अनाज बाहर से मंगाना पड़ता है तो इस मामले में जल्दी निर्णय करने के लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं? चारों चीफ मिनिस्टर आपकी पार्टी के हैं, फिर भी आप जल्दी निर्णय क्यों नहीं करते?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : हमारी पार्टी के न भी होते तब भी कोशिश यही करते कि इसका फैसला जल्दी हो जाय और इसी कोशिश में लगे हैं कि फैसला जल्दी हो जाय।

डा० भाई महावीर : श्रीमन्, 10-12 वर्ष से अनिर्णय की स्थिति है।

SHRI C. D. PANDE: In view of the fact that this is a complicated question and the Government is not likely to give a decision very soon—because experience has shown that on such issues where the other States are involved and local emotions are involved the Government does not take any decision; for instance there are the questions of Maharashtra and Mysore dispute, the Fazilka and Chandigarh point—may I know what are the reasons why the Government of India is not allowing Madhya Pradesh, where the Narmada is an important part, to have smaller schemes like the Punasa Project, Bargi Project, etc.? These would not affect the bigger schemes which even if taken up would take ten to fifteen

years. Why don't you agree to the proposal of the Madhya Pradesh to construct smaller dams so that they may be completed in two or three years?

SHRI K. C. FANT: It is not just a question of the motions of the people but the real interests of the State, the real interests of the region and the national interest. The Madhya Pradesh Government has taken up some of the smaller schemes; for instance the Tawa Project has been taken up on the Narmada and there would possibly be other projects which the State has taken up. But these would be small projects.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: This project is not important only from one point of view, it is more so from the point of view of electric power of which we have a very short supply. Does not the Government think that this question has narrowed down only to the height of the dam? So, is it not possible for the Government to see to it that this particular question which has narrowed down to a particular point is solved as quickly as possible?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Yes, Sir. As I said, we are trying to narrow down these differences and ultimately the Prime Minister will have to decide on some figure for the height of the dam and the share of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The share of Maharashtra and Rajasthan has already been decided upon by both the Chief Ministers. Power will be generated by this project. This is one of the considerations in deciding the height of the dam. There are, as you know, various other considerations and it is not a simple matter; it is a complex matter in which all these things have to be taken into consideration.

†Transfer of shares of Orissa Concrete Products Ltd. to a businessman

*584. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM :

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA :†

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a company by the name of Orissa Concrete Products Ltd. in Bhubaneswar set up by a technocrat entrepreneur under the Pilot Project scheme of the Orissa Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the shares of the Company were transferred to a private businessman unconnected with the Project and in violation of the objects of the scheme and the articles of association of the Company;

(c) whether the entrepreneur had made a representation to the Central Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Central Government have asked the Orissa Government for the details of the case for finding out the legal implications of the transaction; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) M/s. Orissa Concrete Products Ltd. was incorporated as a private limited company on 23rd September, 1959. The subscribers to the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the company were the Governor of Orissa, his nominee

†Transferred from the 10th December, 1973.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Awadheshwar Prasad Sinha.