

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 5th March, 1973 the 14th
Phalgun, 1894 (Saka).

• The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

देश में कृषि योग्य भूमि

* 268. डा० भाई महावीर :†

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा :

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर :

श्री प्रेम मनोहर :

श्री डी० के० पटेल :

श्री दत्तोपन्त ठेंगड़ी :

क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने
की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों तथा देश के
अन्य भागों में ऐसी कृषि योग्य भूमि का
क्षेत्रफल कितना है जिसके लिए सिंचाई
की सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं और कृषि योग्य
कितनी भूमि को वर्षा पर निर्भर रहना
पड़ता है; और

(ख) वर्तमान पंचवर्षीय योजना
के अन्तर्गत कितनी अतिरिक्त भूमि के
लिए सिंचाई की सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कर
दी जायेंगी और शेष भूमि कब तक
सिंचाई के अन्तर्गत लाई जायेगी ?

X [CULTIVABLE LAND IN THE COUNTRY

* 268. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA: SHRI
N. K. SHEJWALKAR: SHRI
PREM MANOHAR: SHRI D. K.
PATEL: SHRI D. THENGARI:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION

†The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Dr. Bhai Mahavir.

[] English Translation.

AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of cultivable land in the
Union Territories and other parts of the
country for which irrigation facilities are
available and the acreage of arable land which
has to depend on rainfall; and

(b) the acreage of additional land for
which irrigation facilities will be made
available by the end of the current Five Year
Plan and the time by when the remaining land
would be brought under irrigation?]

सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्रालय में
उपमंत्री (श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा) :
(क) और (ख) विवरण सभा पटल
पर रखा जाता है ?

विवरण

(क) और (ख) देश में कुल फसली
क्षेत्र 164 मिलियन हेक्टेयर (410 मिलियन
एकड़) है, जिसमें से चौथी योजना के अन्त
तक, 44 मिलियन हेक्टेयर (110 मिलियन
एकड़) को सिंचाई सुविधाएं प्राप्त हो जाएंगी।
सिंचित सुविधाओं के साथ क्षेत्र, इस प्रकार
फसली क्षेत्र का लगभग 27 प्रतिशत होगा।
चौथी योजना के अन्तिम वर्ष के दौरान
सिंचाई शक्यता में योग करने का लक्ष्य लगभग
2 मिलियन हेक्टेयर (5 मिलियन एकड़)
है।

इस समय यह अनुमान लगाया गया है
कि अन्ततः फसली क्षेत्र का लगभग 50 प्रति-
शत क्षेत्र सिंचित किया जा सकता है। इसमें
20 से 30 वर्ष तक और लग सकते हैं।
इस समय अनुमानित, फसली क्षेत्र के आधे को
सिंचाई शक्यता में, आगे और अन्वेषण तथा
अतः बेसिन स्थानान्तरण द्वारा 10 से 15
प्रतिशत तक और जोड़ा जा सकता है ताकि
अन्ततः लक्ष्य, देश के कृषिगत क्षेत्र के दो
तिहाई भाग को जल प्रदाय करना हो सके।

ऐसा कुल फसली क्षेत्र जिसे सिंचाई सुविधाएं प्राप्त नहीं हैं तथा जिसे वर्षा पर ही निर्भर करना पड़ता है चौथी योजना के अन्त तक 120 मिलियन हेक्टेयर (300 मिलियन एकड़) तथा जब सिंचाई कार्यक्रम पूर्ण हो जाएगा, फसली क्षेत्र का कुल एक तिहाई भाग होगा।

[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA); (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The total cropped area in the country is 164 million ha. (410 million acres) of which about 44 million ha. (110 million acres) will have irrigation facilities by the end of Fourth Plan. The percentage of crop area with irrigation facilities will thus be about 27 per cent. The acreage that is targetted for addition to irrigation potential during the last year of the Fourth Plan is about 2 million ha. (5 million acres).

It is presently assessed that ultimately about 50 per cent of the cropped land can be irrigated. This may take another 20 to 25 years. Further investigations and inter-basin transfers may add 10 to 15 per cent to the irrigation potential now assessed at half the cropped area, so that the ultimate aim should be to supply water to about two thirds of the country's cultivable lands.

The cropped area that has no irrigation facilities and has to depend on rainfall will be 120 million ha. (300 million acres) at the end of the Fourth Plan and about one third of the cropped area when the irrigation programme is completed.]

डा० भाई महावीर : श्रीमन्, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जितनी सिंचाई की सुविधा योजनाओं के दौरान में बढ़ाने का विचार था उसमें कितनी कमी रही है और उस कमी के कारणों का कोई अध्ययन सरकार की

[] English Translation.

और से किया गया है या नहीं, विशेष रूप से कौनसी कमी इस कारण रही है कि समय पर जो छोटी नहरें बननी चाहिए थीं वे नहीं बनीं, कितनी कमी इस कारण रही है कि उन छोटी नहरों का पानी जिन खेतों पहुंचना चाहिए था उसके लिए उपयुक्त व्यवस्था नहीं हुई और कौन सी कमी किसी और कारण से रही ?

DR. K. L. RAO: So far as the irrigation sector is concerned, there has not been much of shortfall. Rather, the difficulty has been more in utilisation of the potential that has been created. 'This year—1972-73—for example, the shortfall has been 0.2 million hectares. That is to say, we wanted to add 1.1 million hectares or so. "We are expecting about 0.9 million-hectares. And the reason for this shortfall is more due to the lack of funds in some of the States where the shortfall is occurring. Otherwise, generally, in the irrigation sector the progress is quite good.

DR. BHAJI MAHAVIR; Sir, the Plan and the statement that has been placed before us do visualise that at the most we would be able to provide irrigational facilities to our land to the extent of 50 per cent only and that also will take 25 years at least. Now, my question is: Does our Government consider it a satisfactory state of affairs that we should hope only when there is no definite commitment that we will provide this 50 per cent irrigation by a definite target date? It may take another 20—25 years which means it may take 50 years also and, after 50 years too we may remain in a situation where our agriculture is, at least, to the extent of 50 per cent vulnerable and dependent on the whims and caprices of the monsoons. May I know if this is a satisfactory state of affairs and, if not, particularly in view of the recent drought which we have suffered, whether the Government has any plans to set the matters right and ensure reliable irrigation facilities to the bulk of our agricultural land?

DR. K. L. RAO: I am glad that the hon. Member has seen the point that irrigation must be improved. The main fact is this: In the last 20 years, during the Plans, we have added at the rate of one million hectares every year. Now we propose to add, in the future, two million hectares, that is, we want to double it up. That is, we have added 20 million hectares in the last 20 years and in the next 20 years we want to make it 40 million hectares, making it twice the present rate of progress. And with that, I think, one should feel quite satisfied as consistent with our financial resources. We have spent, under the fourth Plan, to the extent of Rs. 950 odd crores. And in the next Plan we should extend to twice the area, i.e., about two million hectares every year. Having regard to the financial conditions, I think it is a good programme to aim at about twice the rate, i.e. about 2 million hectares every year. I think this is a good programme.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Sir I am not convinced that the answer meets my question. I have asked whether he considers it to be a satisfactory state of affairs that it may take about 25 years to provide 50 per cent of our land with irrigational facilities. What the hon. Minister has said is about the rate of progress uptill now and that beyond this date it may be more than the rate of progress made now. It only shows that the rate of our progress has been most deplorable up till now and it will be a little less deplorable after 25 years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered your question.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: He has talked about financial constraints. I would like to know from him -if the Bills for import of foodgrains and relief for famine are...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a new question. No third question can be asked.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: I am only asking him to clarify...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Minister, have you anything to add?

DR. K. L. RAO: I gave you some statistics. Two million hectares every year is indeed a very creditable achievement. I think it is extremely good and compares favourably with any other country in the world. I think one should be greatly satisfied if within the next 25 years 50 per cent of our land is brought under irrigation. One should feel highly satisfied.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Your complacency is creditable, Dr. Rao.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please, he has answered your question. Yes, Mr. Man Singh Varma,

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा :माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में यह बताया है कि 410 मिलियन एकड़ में से केवल 110 मिलियन एकड़ जमीन में इरिगेशन हो पाता है। इस प्रकार जैसा कि इस वक्तव्या में बताया गया है 25 वर्षों में से केवल 27 पर सेंट इरिगेटिड लैंड बना पाये हैं। इधर आकर के दो वर्षों में और विशेष तौर से इस वर्ष जो बिजली की कमी हो रही है उसको देखते हुए पिछले चार पांच वर्षों में जो बिजली के कुएं बनाये गये थे उनको पूरी बिजली मिल नहीं पा रही है और इससे आपका जो परसेंटज है वह कम होने वाला है। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो हमारा पुराना तरीका देशी कुएं बनाने का था उन देशी कुओं को अधिक से अधिक तादाद में बनाने में प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए क्या बजट में कोई इस प्रकार का प्राविजन किया गया है। इसके साथ साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि इरिगेशन के लिए जो रुपया खर्चा गया है उसमें से कितना खर्च हुआ और कितना बचा हुआ है।

DR. K. L. RAO: Sir, we always attach great importance to irrigation

by shallow wells and tube wells. This is the subject dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture. Irrigation by wells is dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture and I will request the hon. Member to get the information from them.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the hon. Minister whether they have drawn up a Water Resources Development Plan covering rivers, rivulets, underground water etc. with a view to bringing the land under irrigation? Would he tell us about the plan of the National Water Grid and whether water could be utilized from the Brahmaputra, Narmada and also Ganga rivers?

DR. K. L. RAO: The Water Resources Plan drawn up both for surface water and underground water is under continuous review because as we do more and more investigations more possibilities come to light and that is why in the statement I have submitted that about 50 per cent of the area can be irrigated by both underground and surface waters. It is quite likely that further investigations will give us more and more water for irrigating more land.

In regard to national water grid, the hon. Member is very correct in pointing out its importance. We are all agreed that by transfer of water from one river to another we may get more water and it can improve our irrigation possibility from 50 to 66 2/3 per cent. We are trying to add to the area under irrigation by the national water grid. At the moment the national water grid is still under finalisation. We have got to have investigations and the investigations will take five to seven years before we can say anything about the possibility or the extent to which we can make use of the national water grid for having additional irrigated area. We are very particular that the national water grid should help the drought and other areas where there is no water and water has to be brought from a distance.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: My question is before the First Plan in 1951 what was the percentage of irrigated land in our country and after that how much has been added during these 25 years?

DR. K. L. RAO: At the time of our independence we were irrigating about 10 to 12 per cent of our area /and now it has been doubled; it is 25 per cent today.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: I did not follow.

DR. K. L. RAO: Before independence we were irrigating only half the area we are doing now. For all the centuries before independence our percentage of irrigation was only 10 to 12 but now we have 25 per cent which means we have doubled it.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: In view of the utter necessity for production of more food and for development of those States which have got below 10 per cent of irrigation facilities, is it not a fact that the delays caused in solving disputes overwaters of rivers like Krishna, Godavari, Narmada etc. are ridiculously long and it seems that the Government is apathetic and drifting and not taking a rational and logical view which should solve the disputes so that such problems will not occur again and again? I do not want a reply from the Minister that the matter is under consideration but I want to know what positive steps are being taken for instance in regard to Krishna and Godavari because in my State some 25 projects are awaiting clearance because of this. If those States are not going to take a decision the Central Government should take it up in their own hands and give a decision so that this ridiculous and harmful position could be avoided.

DR. K. L. RAO: It is true that three rivers are before the tribunal and what the hon. Member has said is correct. We have found by experience that a lot of delay occurs by referring such disputes to a tribunal. Godavari has not even started but on Narmada fortunately the Chief Ministers have agreed to abide by the

Prime Minister's award which we expect shortly. As regards Krishna I understand that the judgment will be given some time towards the end of this year. I quite agree with the hon. Member that these things should not be allowed to stand in the way of the development of the country. In the case of Godavari I hope that it would be possible for us to settle out of court so that we need not have to wait. There are quite a number of very good projects in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh areas of the Godavari basin and I am very unhappy that these projects which would have served the drought-hit areas are not being taken up.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What are you doing about it? That is the question.

DR. K. L. RAO: I only hope.....

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Don't hope. You have been hoping all along.

DR. K. L. RAO: that the Chief Ministers concerned would try and come to an understanding and we will be taking positive steps.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Lock them up in a room and ask them to come out with an agreement.

SHRI TRILOKI SINGH: The all-India average for increase in the facilities for irrigation seems to be 100 per cent during the last twenty-five years. May I know from the hon. Minister if he is aware of the fact that in the case of UP, which has got the largest number of rivers in India, the increase has not been more than 20 per cent during the last twenty-five years of the irrigated area?

DR. K. L. RAO: The percentage quoted by the hon. Member is not correct. Also, U.P. has got a very high water potential and it should be possible for us to provide a larger percentage of irrigation facilities than what we have done- At the time of independence, the percentage of irrigation in U.P. was 22 per cent. We

have now got about 40 per cent irrigation in U.P. In view of the fact that it has got a very high degree of water potential, much more than many other States, we are very anxious that it should be taken up at a higher level. I only hope that the completion of the Sharda and Gandak projects will be accelerated. These projects will push up the percentage of irrigation. We shall keep a vigil over the development of irrigation in U.P.

*269. [Transferred to the Uth March, 1973].

IDLE CAPACITY IN FERTILIZER PLANTS

*270. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH

MUSAFIR: SHRI J. S. TILAK: SHRI KRISHAN KANT: SHRI CHANDRA'SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer plants in the country are working below capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve their working?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The overall capacity utilisation for the fertilizer industry during the first ten months of 1972-73 (i.e. for the period April 1972 to January 1973) was about 72 per cent. While some of the plants set up in recent years and on more modern processes and technology, like those at Kota, Baroda, Kanpur and Gorakhpur have shown

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurumukh Singh Musafir.