

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON. You are speaking about the difficulties regarding electricity, but here are two factories where there is no problem of electricity. Why is it they are falling?

MR CMAIRMAN. Next question

*713 [The questioner (Shri H. S. Narasiah) absent. For answer, vide col. 41-42 infra]

SILTING OF KOSI CANAL

*714 SHRI SURAJ PRASAD
SHRI BHOLA PRASAD †
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that silt in the Kosi canal has increased rendering it ineffective for irrigation purposes,

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Bihar is not in a position to get it desilted due to financial and technical reasons, and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to render financial and technical assistance for desilting the canal?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR K L RAO) (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) It is true that difficulties are experienced due to siltation problems in the Kosi canal but this has not rendered the canal ineffective for irrigation purposes.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, Desilting of the canal as and when necessary is done by the State Government. Also, a silt ejector has been constructed to exclude a portion of the silt entering the Main Canal

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhola Prasad

The technical advice of Central Water and Power Research Station is available to the State Government in addition to their own technical organisations. No financial assistance from the Centre has been sought for this purpose.

श्री भोला प्रसाद अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जा कासी नहर है उसमें मिल्ड काफी जमा हो गया है और उसमें इस वर्ष 1970-71 और 1971-72 में पानी का जितना बहाव होता था और जितनी मिचाई होती थी उसकी क्षमता में कितनी कमी हो गयी है और उसकी वजह से फसल के लिए जा पानी मिल सकता था वह नहीं मिल पाया है तो सरकार क्या कोई हिमाय सरकार के पास है ?

DR K L RAO. It is true that in the Kosi canal there has been silting up all these years. Since last year we have constructed an ejector and as a result the performance of the canal is much better at the moment. Last year the discharge was much less in this canal, but this year nearly 40 per cent silt has been ejected. We find that there is a much better flow in the canal now than in the earlier period.

श्री भोला प्रसाद मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न है कि कासी नहर में मिल्ड जमा हो जाने के कारण जो पानी कम आता है और नहर के पानी का पूरा उपयोग नहीं हो पा रहा है पूरे तौर पर और उसमें केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से काफी रकम भी लगायी गयी है तो उसकी सफाई के लिए सारी जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार के ऊपर ही छोड़ देना क्या उचित है, जब कि राज्य सरकार उसकी सफाई कराने में असमर्थ है ? क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार उसकी सफाई कराना अपनी जिम्मेदारी नहीं समझती ?

DR. K. L. RAO. It is true, I have submitted already, that the western Kosi canal is a difficult problem because the Kosi river is the only river which carries the largest amount of silt. It is as much as 0.35 per cent whereas in the case of Sutlej, for example, it is only half of that. Therefore, silting up has become a regular problem. As I have submitted already, we have

built one ejector which has been very useful. We are going to build another ejector and a pond basin and by this I hope it will be possible for us to keep this canal free of silt, so that water may flow more freely. Regarding the financing of this, so far State Government has not requested specifically for any of these works. They do not cost much. They cost only a few lakhs of rupees and, if any particular assistance is required, definitely the Central Government will see to it, because the Kosi canal is one of those projects which we want to use for irrigation in the country.

DR. V. B. SINGH: I would like to know whether the Government is aware of the study made by the famous French economist Professor Deniel Thorner, of the Kosi project which suggests that it is being used only by a few big landlords having more than hundreds acres of land and the sand is going into the fields of the smaller farmers. In view of this, will it not be proper to evaluate it and have a cost-benefit analysis of the Kosi project undertaken by his Ministry?

DR. K. L. RAO: I am not aware of any study like that; I will be very thankful to get a copy of the study and I will go through it. But I can say that the Kosi Canal is not making any distinction between the small farmer and the big farmer. The silt, when it flows through the canal along with the waters, does not wait to see whether he is a small farmer or not. It is obvious.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Then it becomes a non-socialist.

DR. K. L. RAO: The only point that I want to submit is that we are making efforts. In fact, I am constituting a Committee of Indian experts immediately to go into this question because all these days there has not been much of an utilisation of the Kosi waters. It is for irrigating 14 lakhs of acres; that is intended for that. Only seven lakhs have been irrigated. The people are picking up more water and

using more water. We feel it very necessary to go into this question of silt control and we hope to do that in the course of one or two years.

DR. V. B. SINGH: My specific question has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was the Frenchman's question.

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the experience gathered in respect of this Kosi Canal is being applied in the case of the Farakka Canal which is under construction?

DR. K. L. RAO: In the case of the Kosi Canal, as I submitted earlier, it is the only river in the country which carries a very large amount of silt. The only other parallel is that of the Yellow River of China. Therefore, we have got these difficulties. In the case of the Farakka Canal, the silt even if carried in Ganga is deposited higher up and the amount of water in Farakka and Ganga is so much that it is diluted and therefore no problem is expected to arise in connection with sillage of Farakka canal.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : May I know from the hon. Minister what particularly is the technical advice of the Central Water and Power Commission's Research Station in this particular aspect? It is said in the reply that only a portion of this silt is being excluded. But what is the whole scheme for removing the total silt and how is it going to be implemented?

DR. K. L. RAO: It is going to be experimented at the Poona Research Station. We are thinking of constructing the second silt ejector. As I have already said, 40 per cent of the silt is being removed this year. We are going to put up another ejector in the pond basin. With these two, we hope that it will be possible to remove the silt. All this will be experimented at the Poona

Station. And we are appointing a Committee shortly in which the Director of the Research Station will be a member. And I hope that it will be possible for us to control the silt in this canal in future years.

श्री ओझसप्रकाश त्यागी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच है कि गवर्नमेंट ने कोसी नदी से जो हर बार बाढ़ वहाँ पर आती है, उसके बचाव के लिए इस कैनल की रचना की थी। इस कैनल के बनने से कोसी की जो बाढ़ है उसका कितना कंट्रोल हुआ है और जो सिल्ट इसमें आ रहा है, क्या उस सिल्ट को रोकने के लिए आपने स्मालर प्रोजेक्ट्स कुछ तैयार किये हैं ताकि खेतों की जो सिल्ट है वह इस नहर में न आ सके ?

DR. K. L. RAO: The silt in the canal is not out of flood control. It is intended purely for irrigation and power. Power generation is in the first reach. The only effective measure that we can take, as I said earlier is construction of another silt ejector, a very efficient device, which is found very useful in many other projects. We would like to construct another.

SHRI TRILOKI SINGH: Sir, may I know whether it is a fact that as a result of the failure of the authorities to desilt the canal, the power station in the Kosi Canal has not been functioning for some time past and, if so, what is the loss of power as a result of the non-functioning of the power station and what steps are the Government going to take to see that power station restarts functioning?

DR. K. L. RAO: It is true that this is a small power station with only two units of 5 MW each. Even so it has been very valuable to us. It is true that this has been affected by silt in the last two years. One of the instructions that we have given to the Canal authorities is that they should close this canal whenever the silt is very high in the main river during the flood time. If that is done the silt will not come in so much. With that precaution it should be possible for us to run the power house through most of the year.

SHRI B. K. KAUL: May I know, Sir, if the hon'ble Minister is fully aware of the fact that the country is under continuous attack by devastating famine, and is it not a fact that due to callous inefficiency and criminal negligence of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power this attack of famine is not being repulsed ruthlessly?

DR. K. L. RAO Sir, there is no famine in the Kosi area. This is one of the areas in the country where there is heavy rainfall. It is not like Ajmer from where the hon'ble Member comes.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Is it a fact that silt is a nuisance and a source of trouble in the canal? But if it is removed it can be a fertilising agent for the fields? If so, will the Government give some thought to the proposal of encouraging small peasants of the neighbouring areas to remove that silt, take it to their fields and use it for the purpose of fertilising their fields? So it would save cost and it would enable the adjoining lands to become more fertile?

DR. K. L. RAO: What the hon'ble Member says is correct. In most rivers like Bhagmati and so on it is possible. But unfortunately, in the case of Kosi it is pure sand that we get and it is the most undesirable one no farmer wants the silt of Kosi.

SURVEY OF RAILWAY LINE FROM TELlicherry TO MYSORE via COORG

* 715. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether surveys have been conducted for the construction of railway lines from Tellicherry to Mysore via Coorg and also from Cochin to Kayankulam via Alleppy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure for each line; and

(c) when these lines are proposed to be constructed?