

has been left to them to charge up to a maximum of 50 per cent, and they can also charge at a lower rate ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : Sir, the conditions vary from port to port. Very recently the Madras Port had raised its port charges by 40 per cent, and it synchronised with the period relating to devaluation of the rupee. Therefore, Sir, so far as Madras is concerned, the enhanced rates of surcharge may be somewhat less. So, they differ from port to port. Madras, Bombay and Calcutta are under separate statutes, each has a separate Port Trust Act and the other ports, *viz.* Visakhapatnam, Goa, Cochin and Kandla, come under the Major Ports Act. Some of our ports are governed by different statutes under whose powers they make their proposals and submit the same to the Government.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that they do not propose to touch the stevedore charges. Will it not affect our foreign exchange income?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : That is a matter which has to be separately examined. We are remotely connected with that question.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN; But we get these dues in rupees. That is one thing. I want to know another thing. There may be other circumstances on the basis of which Madras has increased the dues. But on account of devaluation there is positive loss. So that this loss is made up, is it proposed to increase the port dues ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : The proposal is that so far as Madras is concerned, in addition to the recent enhancement, to the extent the gap has to be filled additional charges will come. So far as Bombay and Calcutta are concerned, to the extent the present losses are likely to occur consequent on devaluation, the rates will go up. So they would vary in some respects from port to port.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : But they are getting foreign exchange . . .

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : So long as freight rates are in terms of foreign exchange, the realisation in terms of rupee will now have to be safeguarded.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know from the hon'ble Minister whether he shares this view that different Acts for different ports create difficulties in day-to-day administration and running of the ports, and, therefore, it is necessary that Calcutta, Madras and Bombay ports be also governed by the Major Port Trust Act which was enacted very recently ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : That is a general question of general approach whether all the ports should, as soon as possible, come under one statute. That is the general policy. But for certain special reasons we have to proceed on the basis of the existing pattern, for some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will now go to the first question.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I am sorry I was not present when this short notice question No. 11 was called. I had gone to the Lok Sabha. I thought that my colleague would be here but something must have happened to him. I have not got any information. He is generally punctual in coming here.

#### IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH<sup>1</sup> AND MAHARASHTRA

11. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is considerable amount of confusion and misunderstanding in the minds of the people of the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra regarding the irrigation facilities available and sanctioned in the two States;

(b) if so, whether Government will be pleased to clarify the position as to the availability of sown area, percentage of area now irrigated and the potentiality of further irrigation in the two States; and

(c) what is the policy of the Government in sanctioning irrigation works in view of the chronic food shortage in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See below.)

(c) Emphasis is being laid, in the Fourth Plan, on the speedy completion of the continuing schemes to achieve early benefits.

While sanctioning new projects, preference would be given to medium projects and for projects serving scarcity areas.

#### STATEMENT

##### *Irrigation facilities in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra*

The sown area, percentage of irrigated area to sown area, and the potential for

further irrigation in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are given below:—

The ultimate potential is based on preliminary rough studies carried out by various agencies such as the State Public Works (or Irrigation) Department, the Central Water and Power Commission, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (in respect of minor irrigation works) and the techno-economic surveys carried out by the National Council of Applied Economic Research. The figures of ultimate potential are subject to change depending upon the detailed investigations for major and medium projects and further detailed investigations for ground water resources.

Sown area (Million acres)	Percentage of Irrigation		Ultimate Potential	Balanced potential to be ex- ploited
	At the end of Third Plan	On completion of projects taken up to end of Third Plan		
Andhra Pradesh 29.1	33	42.6	75 to 80 percent	32.4 to 37.4 percent
Maharashtra 46.5	9.6	14.8	23 to 26 percent	8.2 to 11.2 percent

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: From the statement I find that in Andhra Pradesh the sown area is 29.1 million acres while at the end of the Third Plan the percentage of irrigation will be 33. On the completion of projects taken up to end of Third Plan it will be 42.6 per cent, and the ultimate potential is 75 to 80 per cent. For Maharashtra it is 46.5 million acres as sown area and the ultimate capacity is shown as 23 to 26 per cent. That means in our Andhra Pradesh only 24 per cent, of the total land area can be irrigated while in Maharashtra only 11 or slightly more than 11 per cent, can be irrigated. May I know, Sir, the reason for this disparity?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Because of the condition of soil in that particular area.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: I do not understand how soil condition decides this.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The statement gives the irrigation potential in the respective States. So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the potential is higher than the potential in Maharashtra because of physio-geographical conditions.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: May I know, Sir, what is the percentage of irrigation in States like Madras, Punjab and U.P. compared to these two States?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: So far as Madras is concerned, the sown area is 18.04 lakh acres, ultimate potential of major and medium irrigation is 3.86 lakh acres and of minor it is 8.19 lakh acres.

Total irrigation potential is 12.05 lakh acres. The irrigation potential to sown area is 68.4 per cent.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: There is confusion practically in all the States on account of water disputes between State and State. May I know, Sir, from the Government whether they have evolved any formula which will put an end to these quarrels because there is water dispute between Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, between Mysore and Maharashtra and between Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, almost all the States, and also dispute about the utilisation of irrigation facilities? May I know, Sir, whether the Government are trying to solve these problems State-to-State or they are going to evolve an all India formula to put an end to these disputes?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, the supplementary put by the hon'ble Member does not arise out of this question. But I am prepared to answer. I have repeated on several occasions that so far as the disputes are concerned, a large number of them have been settled. But there are still five or six disputes pending. It has been the effort of the Government of India to bring the States together for the settlement of these disputes. Take, for instance, the dispute of Narmada. Only recently I had a joint meeting with the Chief Ministers of the States concerned, and after a discussion of 3-4 hours and according to the wishes of the Chief Ministers, further consideration of this matter has been postponed to let them have a talk among themselves. Thereafter this matter will be considered by us. In the same way so far as dispute regarding Krishna and Godavari is concerned, I am also making an effort for an amicable settlement. I have already met the Chief Ministers of the States concerned, and now I propose to hold, as early as possible, a joint meeting where these matters can be discussed in the same way. Efforts are being made to bring about a settlement.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May I ask the hon'ble Minister how long does he expect the people of Gujarat to be patient? Since he mentioned the Narmada scheme, the Narmada scheme was inaugurated just before the last-general election |

at the hands of the late Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and they were promised that the scheme would be implemented fast. Sir, we have come to the next general election and yet it is a question of one Minister talking to another Minister. What is happening to the people? Why do you dangle a carrot before the donkey, the people of this country, when you do not mean to fulfil your pledge? May I know, Sir, if the hon'ble Minister is really serious about it?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: We are very serious about it. That is why the effort is being made.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: May I know, Sir, how many irrigation projects have been sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra separately during the Third Five Year Plan and what is the estimated cost of these irrigation projects?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: If the hon'ble Member wants, I can lay a statement on the Table. This is a long statement. Both these informations I can give.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Unfortunately we could not listen to the reply to part (a) of the question put by Mr. Kumaran. It is true that there is a lot of misunderstanding but the Minister may be aware that Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mysore and Madhya Pradesh are the States where the irrigation percentage is less than 10. Though the national percentage of irrigation is 23, these are the four States where the percentage is only less than 10. There is a lot of misunderstanding, there is no doubt, and the misunderstanding has been prevailing and it is being increased because of the delay on the part of the Central Government to decide the pending issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: My question is, if we look at the statement we find that in Andhra the percentage is 33 and in Maharashtra 9.6. Similar is the case with Mysore, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. May I therefore, know from the Minister, in order to get rid of this confusion that prevails, whether he will decide these pending

disputes as early as possible without further delay and if it is not possible to resolve these disputes amicably, will the Government take a decision to refer these matters to arbitration ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I think there is some confusion when the hon'ble Member is comparing the figures of the two States. As I have already pointed out, so far as the potential of irrigated area to sown area is concerned, it is much higher in Andhra than in Maharashtra. Because the percentage of irrigation facilities provided is lower in Maharashtra it cannot be concluded that the Government have been paying less attention to the State of Maharashtra. It is true that a good deal of work has to be done not only in Maharashtra but in many other parts of the country, in order to improve the irrigation facilities and we are anxious how early we can provide these facilities for speeding up the production programme. The hon. Member, however, should not feel that one State is being preferred to another. We are doing our best to see that equal treatment is given to all to secure maximum production! throughout the country.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Even under the most equitable system of distribution of river waters, may I know whether it will be possible to raise the irrigation potential of other States to the level of Andhra, whether it is Mysore or Maharashtra or any other State ? Does it not depend on natural terrain and other conditions ? Instead of simply complaining that Andhra has 26 per cent, and we have only 10 per. cent. I would like to know whether it is at all possible for Maharashtra to be raised to the level of Andhra in respect of percentage of irrigation ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a question. You are giving a reply.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Where does this comparison lead us to ? I want to know whether it is possible to increase the level of other States to that of Andhra.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Our objective is to increase the irrigation to the maximum potential in every State.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Is it not the view of the Irrigation Ministry that the present intensity of the inter-State tug of war would be considerably minimised if the food zones are abolished ?

(No reply)

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : In view of the fact that the Ministry has a bitter experience regarding major irrigation projects, may I know whether the Minister intends to set up an all-India Irrigation Commission as an independent body ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: There is no such proposal at present.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: In the matter of having the water resources especially underground water in other places, the availability of power is an essential factor. May I know what is the *per capita* generation of power in Andhra and Maharashtra and other States?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have not got those figures now.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: What is the investment on irrigation during the three Plans State-wise and is it not a fact that the minimum has been spent in U.P. ? If that is compared, is it not a fact that Maharashtra is in an advantageous position than many of the States in the country ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I will lay a statement on the Table.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : While I welcome the efforts of the Irrigation Minister to settle this matter by negotiations, may I request him to fix a target date within which the negotiation should conclude ? Otherwise, these matters should be entrusted to a Tribunal that may be constituted.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The dispute is so delicate that it will be desirable to leave the matter to the good sense of the Chief Ministers concerned. I have no doubt that with patience it may be possible for us to reach a settlement.

MISS MARY NIDU : May I know whether the geographical areas of U.P.

and Maharashtra are not more or less the same? How do they compare with each other in relation to irrigation potentiality?

DR. K. L. RAO: It is true that the geographical areas of Maharashtra and U.P. are about the same but the irrigation potential of U.P., is about 70 to 75 per cent, whereas in Maharashtra it is 23 to 26 per cent

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY : With reference to irrigation facilities and interstate water disputes, a very important suggestion has been thrown to the Government of India by no less a person than Dr. C. P. Ramaswamy Ayyar with reference to the inter-linking of the great rivers of India which would considerably lessen the difficulties in which the various States are placed. Is the Government thinking of implementing the suggestion of Dr. C. P. Ramaswamy Ayyar in this connection ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: That is a very big problem. Perhaps a time may come when we may think of inter-linking the rivers of India but that is not possible at present.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Having known our Chief Ministers and their present state of mind or posture, what is the guarantee that they will come to an agreement ? Is it not a fact that because of the divergence among the Chief Ministers the Minister is not in a position to find a solution and whether in view of these facts, is the Minister prepared to leave this matter, after hearing the Chief Ministers or participating in their discussions, to certain other impartial bodies to give an award in the matter if it came to that ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: No doubt, in so far as these matters are concerned, all the Chief Ministers are imbued with the spirit of doing their best for getting the maximum production of food in the country. That is the objective before us.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The Mysore Chief Minister wanted to start a movement.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I am sure (they *will* keep these objectives

in view so that we can make maximum effort to increase production.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the advisability of diverting the surplus waters of the Brahmaputra to the other river systems has been examined by the Government ? The surplus waters of the Brahmaputra, which are huge indeed, cause large-scale devastation in the State from which the Minister comes. Those waters could be diverted to other parts of the country and thus the irrigation potential of the country can be augmented.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The hon'ble Member is perfectly correct that there is tremendous potentiality so far as the Brahmaputra is concerned. We will be only too glad to divert the waters from the Brahmaputra to the Ganges both for irrigation and other purposes but that is not possible at present but we shall keep that in view. In future, if it is possible, certainly action will be taken.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### MINISTRY OF LAW (DEPARTMENT OF COMPANY AFFAIRS) RESOLUTION

THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI G. S. PATHAK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Law (Department of Company Affairs) Resolution No. 7/1/66-CL-V, dated the 5th September, 1966 containing Government's decision on the recommendations made in the Report of the Monopolies Inquiry Commission. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-7028/66.]

##### ANNUAL REPORT (1966) OF THE REGISTRAR OF NEWS PAPERS FOR INDIAN—PART I

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN CHARGE, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Tenth Annual Report of the Registrar of Newspapers for India, 1966—Part I. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-7035/66.J