

(c) if so, when the work is likely to be taken in hand?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) No. Due to paucity of funds this work could not be included in the Third Five Year Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: Is it a fact that this proposal was sanctioned in the first instance?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In fact, some preliminary work was also taken up. The survey was ordered and land acquisition was also gone into, but because of paucity of funds it had to be given up for the time being.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: Will the Government reconsider the proposal?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

Major and Medium Irrigation Projects

*286. **Shri J. P. Jyotishi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects taken up during the first and the second Five Year Plans;

(b) the amount spent on them;

(c) the irrigation potential expected to be created; and

(d) how much land was actually irrigated during the year 1961-62 by these projects?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim): (a) to (d). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table.

STATEMENT

In the First Five Year Plan, 250 irrigation schemes (20 major irrigation +230 medium) were included, of which 237 (19 major+218 medium) schemes taken up for execution during the First Plan period. In the Second

Five Year Plan, 118 new schemes (30 major+158 medium) were included, of which 154 irrigation schemes (21 major+133 medium) were taken up for execution. In addition, 13 irrigation schemes, which were not taken up in the First Plan were also started in this period bringing the total number of major and medium irrigation schemes taken up in the Second Plan to 167.

By the end of the Second Plan period an outlay of Rs. 670 crores had been incurred on these schemes.

The irrigation potential created upto 1961-62 from these schemes was about 12.9 million acres. The area expected to be irrigated during 1961-62 is of the order of 9.8 million acres. Figures of actual irrigation at the end of 1961-62 are not yet available.

Shri J. P. Jyotishi: From the statement it is evident that out of 438 schemes only 404 have been executed. May I know how many of these schemes have been completed so far?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: That is already mentioned in the statement. If the House so desires, I can read it out.

Mr. Speaker: If it is contained in the statement, it need not be read.

Shri J. P. Jyotishi: What about the 40 schemes that have been left out?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: According to my calculation, the figures given by the hon. Member do not tally with mine. So, I do not know how far they are correct. I will enquire about it and inform the hon. Member of the position.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I put a question?

Mr. Speaker: He ought to have stood up before I called the next question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I did stand up, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is it a fact that some time ago—I believe in the last Lok Sabha—the Prime Minister expressed himself against gigantism, that is, gigantic projects, and in favour of small irrigation projects?

Mr. Speaker: I was right in passing on to the next question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: This question concerns both major and minor irrigation projects.

Mr. Speaker: Now he should put the question directly as to what information he wants without any adjectives or insinuations.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Because I was not in the Second Lok Sabha, I want to know if he said so and, if so, whether priorities as regards major and minor irrigation works are being modified.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: Both small and big schemes are very essential in the best interests of the country. None of them can be ignored. Each scheme has got to be examined on its merits and it is on that basis the Commission decides which scheme should be included and which should be dropped.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is a question of priority and not ignoring anything.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: In the statement it is stated that whereas the irrigation potential created upto 1961-62 is about 12.9 million acres, the area expected to be irrigated is only 9.8 million acres, leaving a shortfall of 3 million acres. May I know the reason for the shortfall?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: That was the old position. That difference is decreasing each year. If the House is prepared to listen, I can give the figures to show how much improvement has been made so far in this connection.

Suspension Bridge from Gateway of India to Uran

***288. Shri Nath Pai:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for the construction of a suspension bridge from Gateway of India to Uran;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The proposed bridge, if and when constructed, will form part of a State road project. The State Government are, therefore, primarily concerned with the proposed bridge. They have not made any proposal about this project so far.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Nath Pai: I want to put a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: He ought to have stood up immediately after the reply was given by the hon. Minister.

Shri Nath Pai: The acoustics here are sometimes highly defective and I was listening to the loudspeaker that you had been kind enough to provide. In view of the fact that the traffic difficulties of the City of Bombay are assuming dimensions which do not admit of an easy solution, may I know whether the Government of India will help the State Government in finalising this proposal and in taking it up at an early date?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as we are concerned, we have been asked in the question whether we have received a proposal from the Bombay Government. In reply I have to state that, we have not received any proposal so far.

Shri Nath Pai: My information is that the State Government will be