

डा० सुशीला नायर: साधू समाज से मीघा तो कोई पत्र-व्यवहार नहीं हुआ है। लेकिन कहीं कहीं पर प्रचार करने वाले, कीर्तन वाले साधू स्वामी हैं तथा दूसरे लोग हैं जो बहुत अच्छी तरह से इस विषय में प्रचार करते हैं और समझाते हैं।

### Irrigation Projects

\*551. **Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the execution of irrigation and drainage projects is held up in certain States because of inadequate allotment of cement by the Central Water and Power Commission;

(b) if so, to what extent the demands of the various States have been met; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet their full requirements?

**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) The Central Water and Power Commission sponsors allotment of cement to Irrigation and Power projects which cost more than Rs. one crore and the Ministry of Industry makes the bulk allocation against that demand. No work on any of the projects has been held up due to inadequate allotment of cement. However due to shortage of cement, demands of I&P projects could not be met in full and this affected the speed of construction of Projects.

(b) Demands of the State Governments for Irrigation and Power projects during the current quarter (October-December, 1964) were of the order of 6.70 lakh tonnes, against which about 4.08 lakh tonnes could be allotted. Allocation for the first quarter of 1965 has since been made which is 4.05 lakh tonnes against the

demand of 8.81 lakh tonnes received from the State Governments and project authorities.

(c) Efforts are being made to have the bulk allotment made for Irrigation and Power projects enhanced.

**Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:** May I know whether complaints have been received from the States, particularly from UP, that the supply allotted for irrigation and power projects by the Central Water and Power Commission is substantially less than the orders placed on them and that even those supplies are not available with the supplies which is greatly hampering and delaying the execution of the works?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** It is quite true that on account of the shortage of cement in the country only 60 to 70 per cent of the demand is allotted. I have received quite a number of complaints and I am aware that in particular in UP projects like the Ramganga are suffering for want of cement.

**Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:** When these projects are sanctioned, what does planning come to if supplies even for Government projects are not available at the time they are needed?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** The question is bound up with the targetted planning for cement. The original target of cement in the Third Plan was about 15 million tonnes at the end of the Third Plan. Unfortunately, it has fallen short by about 2 million tonnes and it is reflected again in these projects.

**Shri Narasimha Reddy:** May I know whether the delay in execution of some at least of these irrigation projects, at any rate, in Andhra, is due not to any inadequacy of cement but due to a plentiful supply of political chicanery consequent on group politics as, for instance, the Bahuda Project in Chittoor District which is a fully sanctioned project and for which Rs. 36 lakhs were allotted by the Central Government?

**Mr. Speaker:** Here we have to deal with inadequacy of cement.

**Shri Nambiar:** It is political chicanery supply.

**Shri Ranga:** May I know, when Government claims to be giving the highest possible priority for the development of irrigation as well as drainage projects, why is it Government have not thought it advisable, if necessary, to import some cement and give priority for these projects so that all these projects can be executed as per their own programme?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** As it is, the major irrigation and power projects get one-sixth of the total production in the country. There are so many other demands and due to many other considerations of foreign exchange and so on, we are not getting cement at the moment.

**Shri Ranga:** Has any effort been made by the Ministry concerned to ask for priority in the supply of cement?

**Mr. Speaker:** He says, there is the shortage of foreign exchange.

**Shri Ranga:** It depends upon the pressure this Ministry puts on the Finance Minister.

श्री तुलसी दास जाधव : सरकार को तो इन कामों के लिए सिमेंट मिलता नहीं है लेकिन ब्लैक मार्किट में जितना आप चाहें मिल जाता है । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ सिमेंट कहीं से आता है ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I would not say that

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** In view of the fact that there is shortage of cement, will the Government explain how it is that licences issued for installation of cement factories all over India have been cancelled to a very great extent and new licences are not being given for this? Why is this obstruction taking place?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** This is a question, for the Ministry of Industry. I am afraid I do not know that.

**Shri A. P. Sharma:** There is the shortage of food in this country and irrigation is the most important necessity to increase the food production. What special scheme has Government in view to provide minimum irrigation facilities in those areas in Bihar particularly in the district of Shahabad where the food crop can be trebled and the area can be made surplus in food production?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** So far as irrigation and power projects are concerned, we try to give priority in the cement allocation to those projects which are nearing completion and which are showing good progress and so on. Apart from that, I am afraid, I will not be able to say anything about it.

**Shri Nath Pai:** Does the hon. Minister realise, when he replied that because there is paucity of foreign exchange and they cannot import cement,—the reply which was whispered in his ears by his senior colleague was that it was begging the question—that because there is no cement, irrigation projects are not executed and because they are not completed, the food production targets are not reached and because the targets are not reached, we start importing foodgrains and so on? Would he try to give a better reply instead of just trying to run away from it?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** No project is being stopped or held up.....

**Shri Nath Pai:** Earlier he said that 60 to 70 per cent of the demand is allotted.....

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** All that is happening is that the construction of the projects is getting affected.....

**Shri Ranga:** What he says now contradicts what he had earlier admitted.

**Shri Nath Pai:** He said only 60 to 70 per cent of the demand is allotted.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** What I was trying to say was that no project is held up. What is being done is that we are try-

ing to distribute cement that is available in as judicious a manner as possible and we are trying to see that the projects which are in advanced stages of production, in advanced stages of completion, are accelerated and those projects which have not started or which are in the beginning stage, are given less importance.....

**Shri Ranga:** Therefore, it is being delayed.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** One has got to do all these things when one is faced with scarcity and when there are many other demands like Defence and so on, I suppose.

**Shri Nath Pai:** How does he reconcile with his earlier reply?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not for me to comment.....

**Shri Ranga:** That means, his Ministry is not effective in getting priority.

**Mr. Speaker:** I cannot offer any comments on that.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know the reasons for the delay in the preparation of the master plan for tackling the colossal problem of erosion and floods in Assam, and whether this delay is due to shortage of cement also?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** The main question relates only to cement. The hon. Member is talking about erosion and flood control in Assam. That is a separate question.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not relevant here.

#### Power Rates in New Delhi

\*552. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Delhi Municipal Committee has raised the rate of power supply with retrospective effect; and

(b) whether it has severely affected the consumers at large?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Shri P. S. Naskar):** (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) No, Sir.

#### STATEMENT

The New Delhi Municipal Committee holds Electric Licence under the Indian Electricity Act and purchases electrical energy from the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking for distribution of the same in its area. Electricity is distributed by the New Delhi Municipal Committee to the following five categories of consumers:—

1. Light and fans (Domestic and Commercial)
2. Power/domestic
3. Power/commercial
4. Road lighting
5. Bulk supply to large consumers.

There has been no change in the rate in so far as the first four categories are concerned except for the levy of one paise per unit imposed by the Delhi Municipal Corporation on electricity with effect from 1-7-1959. In so far as category (5) is concerned, the rate of electricity supply has to vary as per DESU's rate. This year also the DESU intimated the provisional rate of 9.25 paise per unit for the year 1964-65 as against 8 paise per unit for 1963-64 and accordingly the New Delhi Municipal Committee had to revise its bulk supply rate with effect from 1st April, 1964 subject to further adjustment on finalisation. The revision of the rate of this category of consumers has always to be made with retrospective effect because the actual cost of supply which is worked out by the DESU cannot be finalized till the accounts of that year are closed and audited.

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : इस विवरण के अनुसार प्रथम चार श्रेणियों पर तो सिर्फ 1 न०