

ved to be something different from the provision made in the agreement that was arrived at?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing from the question that has to be answered now.

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is quite different.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: I have one submission to make. This is under the Indus Waters Treaty. A number of things come under that vast agreement.

Mr. Speaker: I am not concerned with all that. This question only says that they were refused permission to go by road.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a fact that Pakistan has charged India saying that India has refused to make the promised supply of water to Pakistan since this Indo-Pakistan conflict; if so, may I know how far this allegation is correct and whether our Government, in view of the fact that Rajasthan is starved of water, would consider the proposal not to part with water to Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: The second part of the question is a suggestion and the first part is not relevant to the original question.

Priority for Irrigation over Power

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*455. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Shri Himatsingka;

Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether irrigation is proposed to be given priority over power production to meet food situation;

(b) whether any detailed programme has been chalked out for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the scope and extent thereof?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power: (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): Detailed programmes are being drawn up in each case as it arises.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what are the guide lines operating in these broad programmes which the Government is going to draw and whether they will differ from State to State?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is quite so; each depends on the particular occasion. For example, in Bhakra, what we are doing is, we are releasing water according to irrigation requirements up to 10th December after which the rabi crops do not require water and thereafter regulation will be according to power requirements.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the Government is going to have an overall view of the agricultural needs of the whole country with reference to each State or it is going to evolve a thumb-nail formula which may meet the requirements of one State and may not meet the requirements of another State?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I have not followed the hon. Member's question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I want to know whether the Government is considering the needs of each State for irrigation and power separately or it is going to apply some uniform formula to some States in India; if so, what are those States?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The general principle that is being adopted this year, a year of scanty rainfall, is that water will first be utilized for irrigation and then for power.

श्री रामेश्वर टांटिया : बीकानेर और शेखावटी जिले में बहुत जमीन ऐसी है जो कि सिंचाई की व्यवस्था के बिना खाली पड़ी है। क्या सरकार वहाँ बिजली का रेट कम करके उस जमीन में खेती की व्यवस्था करेगी जिससे कि ज्यादा धान पैदा हो ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I submitted all this in reply to the question. This is being done this year due to acute scarcity conditions. If any particular representation is made, Government will consider it.

श्री रत्नेश्वर ठाटिया : श्रीमान्, मैंने पूछा

सम्पन्न सहस्रकृष्य : फसलने रुजेशन दिया है, उसके ऊपर गौर करेंगे ।

Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad: While sympathy for irrigation is always being mentioned, is it not a fact that a cut of Rs. 200 crores has been applied only in the field of irrigation from the cut in original Plan of Rs. 1,000 crores? If so, how do the Government reconcile between the two-expression of sympathy and actual cutting of the money allotted to the irrigation sector?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Perhaps the hon. Member is referring to the Fourth Plan proposals. They are not completely ready yet. I have also heard what the hon. Member has stated. I hope the House will insist that the cut is restored.

Shri Liladhar Kotaki: May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any single major irrigation project in the State of Assam? Out of the four medium schemes that were provided in the Third Plan work has been started only in one. That being the position, what does the Government propose to do to provide irrigation facilities in the State of Assam?

Dr. K. L. Rao: In the State of Assam the irrigation projects are all of medium type. They will all be completed in the Fourth Plan.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: The hon. Minister has just now stated that irrigation is given priority over power. Since we are having Tarapore and Rana Pratapsagar atomic power stations and various other thermal stations, may I know why the Narmada valley project has not been

taken up so far for irrigation purposes?

Dr. K. L. Rao: As I have said, the priority in respect of release of water is only for this year because of the acute conditions of scarcity. What the hon. Member has said about delay is entirely correct. I think there has been delay in these matters. In the case of the Narmada River development agreement has not been arrived at. As soon as it is done I am sure that project will be taken up.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know if it is a fact that there are various lucrative projects which are capable of producing electricity and, at the same time, having capacity to irrigate large acres of land, like the Upper Indravathi, which has the capacity to produce 600 MW of electricity and irrigate three lakh acres of land and that no technical clearance is being given for political reasons?

Dr. K. L. Rao: There are no political reasons in these matters. All these projects are cleared on the basis of technical reasons only.

Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: May I know whether there is any idea to bring under developed States on par with developed States and, if so, in what way it is likely to be achieved?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is very difficult to answer this question. It is always our endeavour to see that regional imbalances are removed. It is very difficult to say within what period it will be achieved.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: We hear that there is an intensive agricultural production programme costing Rs. 36 crores for this year. Out of this Rs. 36 crores what is the allotment for irrigation, as far as intensive agricultural production programme is concerned?

Dr. K. L. Rao: This is meant for the Ministry of Agriculture. The grants are not given to the Ministry of Irrigation.

श्री बिशनचन्द्र सेठ : मैं यह दरियाफ्त करना चाहता हूँ कि जो एलेक्ट्रिसिटी हमारे देश में बन रही है उसका डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन इंडस्ट्रीज में मौलिक रूप से प्राज ज्यादा जरूरी मानते हैं या एग्रिकल्चर में ? क्योंकि आजकल हमारे देश में भोज्य पदार्थों की शार्टेज है तो ऐसी स्थिति में यह नितान्त आवश्यक है कि सारी शक्ति एग्रिकल्चर में लगनी चाहिए, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें गवर्नमेंट की क्या प्रोपीनियन है ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Agriculture is always given preference, as for example, this year so many States have made a cut in power distribution, but the cut does not apply to agricultural operations.

Representation from M.Ps. of Madhya Pradesh

*456. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a detailed memorandum or representation from the M.Ps. of Madhya Pradesh, wherein requests and suggestions have been made for greater and accelerated assistance by the Centre for the speedy implementation of certain projects in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether it has been considered; and

(c) with what result?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Subject to limitation of resources that can be made available for the purpose, the views expressed in the memorandum, as well as other relevant consideration will be taken into account in finalising the recommendations for the Fourth Plan of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Does Government propose to give greater and accelerated assistance to important

projects in Madhya Pradesh—Chambal Valley Reclamation, Tawa Multi-purpose Project, Narmada Valley Project, which is still in embryo, and others—mentioned in the memorandum and does Government propose to have a meeting of the Members of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh as requested by the MPs in the representation?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Some of the projects, like the Tawa Project, have been given special assistance outside the Plan.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Because of the refugees.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Additional assistance has been provided. Tawa is one of the projects which the hon. Member referred to.

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether Government proposes to have a meeting with Members of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Certainly, we welcome discussing with Members of Parliament.

Shri P. K. Deo: Has similar consideration been extended to other MPs also?

Mr. Speaker: I do not know.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has the Minister's attention been drawn to a statement of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission—I do not remember the exact words, but they were words to the effect—that the Plan is floundering and limping because the leaders of Government suffer from lack of economic commonsense and, if so, what steps are Government taking to make up the deficiency in economic commonsense?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Government has seen no such reports.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No; I will pass it on to you. Take it up with the Deputy Chairman then.