

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 24, 1966/Chaitra 3,  
1888 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Congress of the International Com-  
mission on Irrigation and Drainage

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- \*742. Shri Subodh Hansda:  
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
Shri Himatsingka:  
Shri Narayan Reddy:  
Shri Lahtan Chaudhry:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:  
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:  
Shri D. N. Tiwary:  
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:  
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
Shri Heda:  
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:  
Shri Kindar Lal:  
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
Shri Tula Ram:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri D. D. Puri:  
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the  
Sixth Congress of the International  
Commission on Irrigation and drain-  
age was held in January, 1966;

(b) if so, how many countries parti-  
cipated in the conference; and

(c) the subjects discussed and the  
decisions arrived at?

The Minister of State in the Minis-  
try Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L.  
Rao): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 34 countries.

(c) The following subjects were  
discussed:—

- (i) Reclamation of saline lands un-  
der irrigation;  
(ii) Sediment in irrigation and  
drainage channels;  
(iii) Development of deltaic areas;  
(iv) Integrated operation of reser-  
voirs for irrigation, flood  
control and other purposes.

No decisions are taken at such In-  
ternational Congresses; but the ex-  
perience of member countries is ex-  
changed by contribution of papers  
and discussions which are of great  
value to participants.

Shri Subodh Hansda: I would like  
to know whether there is any formal  
membership for this organisation; if  
so, how many member countries did  
not attend the conference and whether  
Government have any information  
why they did not attend the confer-  
ence.

Dr. K. L. Rao: There are 58 coun-  
tries which are members of this inter-  
national body out of which only 34  
attended. The Government is not  
concerned as to who attended and who  
did not attend.

Shri Subodh Hansda: I would like  
to know whether the question of ex-  
change of experts on deputation to the  
problems—countries, that is, those

who have got this problem of drainage and irrigation, was also discussed and whether any resolution was adopted in that conference to give effect to all the resolutions for sending experts to the problem countries.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** As I said in the main answer, no resolutions are passed at these international congresses. All that is done is that papers are discussed. For example, there were nearly 90 papers which were discussed. The experience of each country is exchanged. Beyond that no resolutions are passed.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** What are the conditions to become a member of this commission? Was there any financial implication in it?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** There is no financial implication; the only thing is that that country must have irrigation and that must be admitted by the international body.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:** Could we have any idea as to what benefit that we, being a member-country and as a result of this conference, derived from this conference?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** India has the unique distinction of being the founder-member of this organisation. It is the only international organisation which has got its headquarters in India. Naturally, these problems are of the greatest importance because India is a country with the largest amount of irrigation system in the world. Therefore the experience of other countries is extremely valuable to us. The problems discussed, like saline lands, have been of immense use to us.

**श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सिचाई और ड्रेनेज के सम्बन्ध में भारत के प्रति घिमडल ने कौन सी समस्याएं इस सम्मेलन में प्रस्तुत कीं और उन पर दूसरे सदस्य देशों की क्या प्रतिक्रिया थी ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** In these meetings the discussions are confined only to these four problems which I have mentioned. Irrigation and drainage as such were not discussed.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** What was the Indian delegation's contribution to the conference and what was the reaction of the other countries?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** That is what I am submitting. The discussions pertain to these four subjects only; other subjects are not discussed. One was the problem of salinity, how to reclaim or bring back saline lands which in India are as much as 15 million acres. Quite a lot of useful suggestions were made by other countries as to how to recover these saline lands and we are going to try that in this country.

**Shri P. C. Borooh:** May I know whether the process of bottom panning for the rivers of sorrow, like the Brahmaputra, was one of the subjects discussed in the conference; if so, whether those decisions have been implemented and with what results?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** It is not a subject that was discussed.

**Shri D. N. Tiwary:** May I know whether the irrigation of desert land or sandy land was discussed and whether the opinion expressed there is profitable to the Government of India?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I am afraid that that is not one of the subjects that was discussed.

**श्री राम हरक्ष यादव :** इर्रीगेशन मिनिस्टर ने इस कानफरेंस का स्वागत करते हुए कहा था कि बड़े अफसोस की बात है कि हमारे मुल्क में कुल मजदूरी के एक बटे पाँचवें हिस्से में ही आबापाशी होती है और बाकी के लिए जन्होंने बताया था कि हमारे पास पोटेशियल है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इर्रीगेशन मिनिस्ट्री ने इस तरफ कोई कदम उठाया है कि बाकी मजदूरी की आबापाशी का बुकम्बल इन्तिजाम जल्द से जल्द हो सके ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** It is true that in India we have got irrigation of only 23 per cent at present while the potential of our resources is such that we

can irrigate 50 per cent of our saline land. It will be the endeavour of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power to procure irrigation at as early a date as possible.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** अभी मंत्री जी ने बताया कि जिस जमीन में सैलिनिटी है उस जमीन के सम्बन्ध में विचार हुआ। जहां इरीगेशन होता है और जिस जमीन में सैलिनिटी रहती है वह सैलिनिटी इरीगेशन से जाती नहीं है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इतने वैज्ञानिकों के इकट्ठा होने पर कौन सा वैज्ञानिक तरीका निकाला जा रहा है कि जहां सिंचाई का इन्तिजाम हो वहां सैलाइननेस जमीन निकल जाये ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** Quite a useful information was obtained as a result of the discussion on the reclamation of saline lands.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** May I know the composition of the Indian Delegation and the precise nature of participation and contribution of Indian experts in this Congress?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** There were 286 delegates from all over India belonging to various States.

**श्री श्रीकांत लाल बेरवा :** श्रीमान् मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्मेलन में राजस्थान की रेगिस्तानी भूमि के बारे में भी क्या कोई विचार हुआ या कोई सजेशन उन्होंने दिये ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I wish it was considered. That was not considered.

**श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय :** जैसा कि अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है सिंचाई और जल निकासी के बारे में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय आयोग की कांग्रेस हुई। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस सम्मेलन में उन देशों के मुतालिक किसी अल्पकालीन या दीर्घकालीन योजना पर विचार हुआ जहां पर सिंचाई और जल निकासी की समस्या बहुत ही जटिल है ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** As I submitted, the Congress always discusses only some specialised problems—four problems were discussed—and this was not one of them.

**श्री शिव नारायण :** लाखों मन पानी हर साल नदियों के द्वारा बह कर समुद्र में चला जाता है और गरमी में मुल्क प्यासा मरता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस कांग्रेस में उस पानी को स्टोर करने के बारे में भी कोई डिसकशन आने किया ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** It is quite true that in India quite a large number of rivers there are and a lot of water goes wastefully to the sea. It will be our endeavour to utilise the water from the area from which the hon. Member comes.

**Shri Bado:** May I know whether in this Congress only irrigation of ideas was done or whether the question of funds for developing countries—that is the main problem in India—was also discussed?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** No, Sir. That was not discussed.

#### Electrification of Villages

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- \*743. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**  
**Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:**  
**Shri Dhuleshwar Meens:**  
**Shri Maheswar Naik:**  
**Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:**

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

(a) the number of villages electrified so far in each State/Union Territory and those expected to be electrified by the end of the Third Plan;

(b) the percentage of the total number of villages in each State/territory these electrified villages constitute; and