

**Central Flood Control Board**

\*1289. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the River Commissions have made any recommendations to the Central Flood Control Board for the demarcation of zones;

(b) whether the Central Flood Control Board has approved these recommendations and made any recommendations to Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to it?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [see Appendix III, annexure No. 131.]

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know why there was no separate Flood Control Board for the Mahanadi system of rivers?

**Shri Hathi:** There is no separate Board for each river. There are boards for each State and the Orissa State has a State Flood Control Board.

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know when the Naraj and the Tikarapada projects formed part of the Mahanadi Flood Control scheme and why these schemes have not been taken up in the near future?

**Shri Hathi:** These flood control schemes are prepared by the State Flood Control Boards and submitted to the Central Flood Control Board. These schemes have not yet been received by the Central Flood Control Board.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by Mr. Mehta, Flood Control Engineer that all these bunds and dams are the causes of floods in the country? In view of that statement may I know whether any com-

prehensive and co-ordinated policy of scientific control of the rivers has been evolved?

**Shri Hathi:** It is not exactly the bunds and the dams cause this but it is really trespassing on the river beds by artificial construction such as bridges and by buildings and that is why the Central Flood Control Board has thought of demarcating flood zones—the areas of river beds in which construction should not be permitted.

**Shri Sanganna:** Very recently there was a meeting of the State Chief Ministers and the representatives of the Government of India. May I know what are the matters discussed at that meeting?

**Shri Hathi:** This meeting was of the Central Flood Control Board where all the Ministers in charge and the Chief Ministers of the States having charge of flood control met. The agenda was a big agenda with about 15 to 20 items which were taken up.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** In view of the statement by the hon. Minister that there is a programme for seeing that there should be no construction and other things in river beds, what is the machinery that will help in evolving this policy with the State Governments because so far as constructions are concerned it is the total responsibility of the State Governments?

**Shri Hathi:** This point was considered at the meeting of the Central Flood Control Board where the Ministers of the different States were present and it was accepted by the States present there. It was really suggested that legislation will have to be passed and that will be done by the State Governments.

**Dr. Sushila Nayar:** In view of the fact that during the last severe floods in the Punjab some of the roads had to be cut to make the flood waters flow and some of the railway lines were also in the way of the flood waters and this led to severe damage

by increasing the intensity of the floods, may I know what the Government of India is doing to co-ordinate the work of the various Ministries so that such things are not done in future and adequate remedies can be taken for whatever has already been wrongly constructed?

**Shri Hathi:** There is a Committee for the Rail and Road bridges which includes the representatives of the Transport Ministry and the representatives of the Railway Ministry and the Central Water and Power Commission. They discuss all these questions relating to the roads and bridges which hinder the movement of the rivers.

**Dr. Sushila Nayar:** May I know if the Government has made any survey to determine which are those roads and railways are interfering with the natural flow of water and increasing the floods so that the public may be spared the ravages of the floods in these regions through preventive remedial action?

**Shri Hathi:** The function of the committee is to look into that question and that is being done.

#### Electricity for Lift Irrigation

\*1290. **Shri Venkatasubbaiah:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land cultivated under lift irrigation in various States; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to supply electricity to the life irrigated areas to have more production with less cost?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

**Shri Venkatasubbaiah:** In view of the fact that a large number of areas are being brought under irrigation in the Andhra and for that electricity is needed, may I know whether any definite allotments have been made

under the Second Five Year Plan to the Andhra Government to go on with the rural electrification scheme in Andhra?

**Mr. Speaker:** Why was not that question put specifically instead of putting a supplementary?

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** The answer to part (b) is that information has to be collected. Where is the necessity for collection of facts? The information asked for is the steps Government propose to take to supply electricity to the lift irrigated areas to have more production with less cost. Here, there is no necessity of asking for information from the States.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is in general. It is the steps that are being taken wherever lift irrigation is possible. That is a category by itself.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** You may be recollecting that a few days ago in Punjab and some other parts of the country power is not being supplied to the lift irrigated area. May I know whether any step has been taken to see that the power is supplied easily in the lift irrigated areas?

**Shri Hathi:** I may submit that this question really falls within the purview of the State Governments. Part (a) of the question relates to the extent of land cultivated under lift irrigation. Naturally, that information the Central Government has not got. It has to be obtained from the State Governments. With regard to the second part also it is the State Governments who supply electricity to the lift irrigated areas. That is also a function of the State Governments and information has to be collected as to what steps the State Governments are taking.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether Government considered the supply of electricity at a cheaper rate than at the present rate?

**Shri Hathi:** The tariff for different purposes has been fixed. Concessions are being given for agricultural purposes.