

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.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know whether the Government proposes to carry electricity through wooden poles instead of iron poles so as to supply electricity at a lesser cost to the people?

Shri Hathi: That is a question under the consideration of the Ministry and this has been discussed at the last Seminar of Power Engineers

Shri Nagi Reddy: What was the decision taken?

Shri Hathi: They have thought that it could be done provided the bamboos are chemically treated and that experiment is going on.

Shri Nagi Reddy: After the experiment has been made, is any step being taken regarding that?

Shri Hathi: They are only taking up the experiments

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: In reply to part (a) of the question the hon Minister said that the information with regard to the extent of land cultivated under lift irrigation in various States is being collected from the States. May I know whether the central Ministry of Irrigation and Power has no idea as to the extent of total land under lift irrigation?

Shri Hathi: No, we have not got the figures of area of land under lift irrigation. We have the figures of area of land under irrigation as a whole, and not the breakup of lift irrigation and flow irrigation.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know ...

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question. Any number of supplementaries can be put on any question

Shri B. S. Murthy: This is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: Then why did the hon Member not put a question himself? Hon. Members find importance in questions that others have brought before the House. I have noticed that the hon. Member does not put a

single question by himself. What is the good of this?

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I point out, Sir, that there are hundreds of questions in my name? I am very sorry to say that the remark is not warranted, because my questions are there if only you kindly refer to them.

Shri Bimal Ghose: We ask supplementaries that arise out of the questions that have been tabled.

Mr. Speaker: I am equally interested in this hon. Member as in other hon. Members. What I notice is hon. Members do not themselves table questions which they consider important. Whenever they find that a particular subject is important, let them table a question and thereby clinch the issue. Of course, I find a few questions tabled by Shri Murthy. But he puts a lot of supplementaries not equal to the number of questions tabled by himself. Why does not he table an equal number of questions? When a Member puts the main question I always give him a few more supplementaries than when he merely intervenes on questions by others. I feel that Shri Murthy is anxious to get many things done for his State, but this is not the way. Has he any supplementary to be put on this question?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I thank you for this compliment, Sir, I shall not put any supplementary to this question.

Loan from U.S.A.

*1292. **Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.A. has decided to give a loan to the Government of India for the construction of new railway lines in the under developed areas of the country;

(b) if so, what is the amount set apart for the purpose; and

(c) what are the areas proposed to be chosen for the construction of new lines, State-wise?