

Draft Plan for Flood Control in Punjab

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*1062 { Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1480 on the 23rd September, 1958 and state whether the draft plan for flood control of the Rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej in the Punjab has since been examined by the High Level Committee on Floods?

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

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether the scheme has been examined by the State Control Board?

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir This is actually about the plan for the whole of the Punjab That has been examined by the State Government

Shri Ram Krishan. May I know the amount to be given by the Central Government for the construction of this work?

Shri Hathi: That has not yet been examined here, but I may say that Rs 130 lakhs have been provided in the Budget 1958-59 for flood protection work in the Punjab

Road Transport Corporations

*1063. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) which of the various States have set up or propose to set up during this year Corporations in Public Sector for road transport, and

(b) what assistance has been asked for and is being given by the Centre?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 48]

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know which of the States are opposed to setting up the corporations, the reasons for the same and Government's attitude towards that?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Broadly speaking, this has been indicated in the statement itself From it, it appears that excepting Andhra Pradesh, Bombay and the former PEPSU area, they have not set up road transport corporations in other States, and proposals are obtainable only in respect of three sectors, viz, Pathankot-Manali in the Punjab, and Bihar and Mysore States Apart from that, the other States have not come forward.

The objection appears to be that in case they set up these transport corporations, they will be subject to payment of income-tax They also say that they will have to provide additional amenities for the labour and incur additional expenditure in case these corporations are set up

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Only a part of my question has been answered I had asked what the Central Government's attitude was towards it That part of the question has not been answered

Shri Raj Bahadur: This has been made clear from time to time, both by the Planning Commission and by the Ministry of Finance who have some time back also addressed communications to the State Governments concerned, that unless and until they set up these road transport corporations, they will not be entitled to loans or grants for the purpose of expansion or the nationalisation of transport

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Is it not a fact that the UP Government, on the one hand, and the Kerala Government, on the other, have reported that on the basis of their practical experience of the departmental working, they are satisfied that the setting up of a corporation would not be useful? May I know whether all these facts have been brought to the notice

of the hon. Minister, and if so, what his reaction towards it is?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The State Governments of UP and Kerala have been insisting that they should be allowed to carry on departmentally, so far as their transport undertakings are concerned, and they say they have been carrying on well with this system. At the same time, the Central Government, and the national exchequer is deprived of the income-tax, and that is a matter which is under the serious consideration of the Ministry of Finance at present.

Shri Rami Reddy: May I know the assistance given by the Centre to the road transport corporations of Andhra Pradesh by way of loan and by way of contributions?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I may not be able to give the figure separately for Andhra Pradesh, but up till 1959-60, the total that has been placed at the disposal of the State Governments is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 389 lakhs

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that the quota that has been allotted to the various State Governments has now been reduced from Rs. 13.5 crores to Rs. 9 crores, may I know whether money will be given to the nationalised sector, although no corporation has been formed as in the case of Kerala and Madras?

Shri Raj Bahadur: According to the views and the opinions given by the Planning Commission, the setting up of corporations is almost a *sine qua non* for the grant of any such loan or assistance out of the provisions that have been made.

Shri Punnoose: Is it not a fact that the State Transport in Kerala was started as far back as 1938, and, if so, is it not rather unfair to deprive that State of that income?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a question of opinion.....

Shri Punnoose: No, it is a question of fact.

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is a question of opinion and fact. It is a question of fact, so far as the setting up of the transport system is concerned. That is obvious. That cannot be disputed by anybody. The question is whether it is unfair or not to the Kerala Government not to be allowed this financial assistance by way of loans or grants, or whether it will be unfair to the national exchequer or the Central Government to be deprived of the income-tax share that they should get out of the earnings of the State transport undertaking under the Kerala Government.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The Andhra Pradesh Government, after setting up the road transport corporations, have asked for Central assistance, and Rs. 50 lakhs have been promised in the current year. May I know the reasons for not granting that sum?

Shri Raj Bahadur: For that, I would require specific notice. So far as I am informed, I think that whatever has been allotted will be given.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: A sum of Rs 2.5 crores has been provided in the Railway Budget for the current year. May I know whether when the Railways participate in the road transport corporation they will have to consult the Ministry of Transport beforehand?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The condition precedent for the participation of the railways is that a corporation will be set up.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know what steps Government have so far taken to effect inter-State communication between States that have already established their corporations, and also States that have refused to establish such corporations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As the hon. Member is aware, transport as such, particularly by mechanically propelled vehicles, comes within entry 35 of the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution; and the executive authority in relation thereto

vests in the State Governments. Therefore, inter-State transport arrangements can be made in the first instance by mutual consent between the States concerned through the agency of the Inter-State Transport Commission, which has been vested with certain powers under the latest amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the Government of Bihar have requested for any grant, and if so, for how much, and whether the same has been sanctioned?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not have specific information on that point.

Shri Shankariya: May I know whether Government intend that the transport of goods also should be taken over by the State Governments?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In Himachal Pradesh, nationalisation of goods transport is complete. In Assam, Bombay and Kerala and also Manipur, they have partially undertaken the nationalisation of goods transport as well.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Are Government considering the question of giving further inducement, besides loan, for the formation of these corporations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The inducement is that we have made a provision in the Second Plan, and I think further inducements can be given when they fall in line with regard to the particular matter of setting up corporations.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Is it a fact the Government of India have assured the private owners that they will not nationalise goods transport before the end of the Second Five Year Plan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Before the end of the Third Five Year Plan. That is the declared policy. But the question was put to me.

Shri Thirumala Rao: How was it possible then to take over goods transport.

Mr. Speaker: Let him finish his answer.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have simply stated what is a fact, and what already exists in regard to the States which I have mentioned.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know what part out of the provision of Rs 10 crores provided by the railways has already been utilised, and whether it is a fact that the railways are now cold-shouldering the participation and spending money otherwise?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I shall not say that the railways are now cold-shouldering it. As I said, the Planning Commission have laid down that for the grant of such loans and other assistance, three parties must cooperate, namely the transport undertakings, private or public, the State Governments and the Central Government through the Railway Ministry, and this can only take place when the corporations are brought into being.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know what part out of the Rs 10 crores has so far been spent by the railways?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not think much has been spent or anything has been spent so far.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether the Central Government are going to lay down a uniform policy in regard to the setting up of these corporations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The policy is uniform. So far as the Central Government are concerned, they have declared it time and again, and as far back as 1957, in October of that year, the Planning Commission drew the attention of the State Governments as also the Railway Ministry to this. The Railway Ministry will participate in case the corporations come into being. We expect that.

Shri Tangamani: Out of this sum of Rs 23.5 crores, originally Rs. 12.6

crores were to be given to the States; now, it has been reduced to Rs. 9 crores; and Rs. 10 crores are to come through the Railway Ministry. May I know how much out of this sum of Rs. 19 crores has so far been given to the State undertakings? May I also know whether in view of the fact that it is likely to lapse, Government will modify the proposal?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The amount has been reduced from Rs. 13.5 crores to Rs. 9 crores, as has been mentioned in the statement, and as I have already stated, the amount that has been placed at the disposal of the State Governments is Rs. 389 lakhs so far, that is up till the end of 1959-60.

Mr. Speaker: Next question

Shri Assar: One question

Mr. Speaker: Is it necessary to pursue this further? I have allowed so many supplementaries already. Each hon Member wants to ask only one question.

Shri Assar: May I know whether it is a fact that the fee per mile charged by the different State transport undertakings is not uniform, and if so, whether Government propose to fix a standard uniform fare?

Mr. Speaker: The same question was put in another form earlier

Shri Raj Bahadur: The main question pertains to the setting up of corporations in the public sector, not to the fare structure, for which notice of a separate question will be needed

Shri Achar: In view of the fact that the main objection from the States is on the question of payment of income-tax, may I know whether Government will consider exempting these corporations from payment of income-tax, as these are not profit-making business concerns?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They do make profit.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में जड़ी-बूटियों

*१०६४. श्री पद्म देव . क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश प्रशासन के वन विभाग के अन्तर्गत जड़ी-बूटियों के विकास की योजना के बारे में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है , और

(ख) क्या सरकार का इस योजना को चम्बा के अतिरिक्त महासू के जंगलों के बड़े पंसारखानों में चालू करने का विचार है ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (श्री करनरकर) :

(क) चम्बा जिले की २ एकड़ भूमि में नर्सरिया स्थापित की गई है, जिन पर सितम्बर १९५८ तक १२,७४८ रुपये खर्च हो चुके हैं।

(ख) अभी नहीं।

An hon. Member: In English also

Mr. Speaker: Yes

Shri Karmarkar: (a) Nurseries have been raised over an area of 2 acres in Chamba District for which a sum of Rs 12,748 has been spent upto September, 1958

(b) Not yet

श्री पद्म देव क्या मंत्री महोदय प्रकाश डालने की कृपा करेंगे कि हिमाचल में कौन-कौन सी मैडिसिनल हर्ब्स पाई जाती है और क्या इसका सर्वे किया गया है ?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon Member want a list of the 101 herbs?

श्री पद्म देव . मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जड़ी बूटियों का सर्वे हुआ है या नहीं ?

श्री करनरकर हिमाचल प्रदेश में काफी तादाद में और काफी अच्छी किस्म की हर्ब्स पाई जाती है।