

request for purposes of the solution of the differences between the two countries. If that fails unfortunately, then we will see what we can do.

Shri Tangamani: One more question

Mr Speaker: I have allowed a number of questions

Water-Logging

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- *260. { **Shri Ram Krishan.**
Shri Prakash V. Shastri:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Barrow:
Shri Kamal Singh.

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) the extent and nature of the water-logging problem in India,

(b) whether it is limited to Punjab or there are areas in other States also which have been affected by water-logging,

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to tackle this problem on an all-India basis and give it priority,

(d) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated for this purpose, and

(e) the details thereof?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): (a) and (b)

(i) *Nature of problem*

Water-logging refers to the phenomenon of undue rise of sub-soil water level, which, in consequence, becomes harmful to crops and foundations of buildings. It has to be distinguished from stagnation of rain water over plain areas caused by inadequate surface drainage. But, areas affected by congestion of drainage, whether on surface or sub-surface, are commonly referred to as 'water-logged'.

In the Punjab, the problem is rise of sub-soil water level as well as surface drainage congestion. In States like West Bengal and Bihar, the problem of surface drainage congestion is much

more acute than that of rise of sub-soil water.

(ii) *Extent of the problem*

No regular statistics have been maintained regarding the water-logged areas and the rate at which they are increasing. According to the available figures, the Punjab, West Bengal, and UP are the worst-affected States, followed by Mysore, Bombay and parts of Orissa. Below are given figures of the affected areas in these States.

State	Area water-logged (acres in thousands)
Punjab	3270 (Water table between 0 to 5 deep)
U P	1889
West Bengal	2451
Bombay	80
Orissa	17
Mysore	29

(c) to (e) The problem chiefly concerns the State Governments which are responsible for formulation and execution of schemes to improve surface drainage and to lower the sub-soil water level in the affected tracts. A number of schemes for improvement of surface drainage have been taken up by the Governments of the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. At the last meeting of the Central Flood Control Board held in December, 1958, it was decided that more attention should be paid to anti-water-logging measures. The areas affected will have to be surveyed and after detailed investigations, suitable schemes will be formulated by the State Governments to deal with the problem of drainage.

Shri Ram Krishan: In the statement I find that the most effective State is Punjab. In view of this fact, may I know the nature of the help to be given to Punjab for anti-water-logging measures?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: There are 32 schemes relating to major works and some in regard to minor works are at present under investigation, and some of them are being

worked upon; and whatever help could be rendered by the Centre has been given to them.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether any financial help has been given for this purpose so far?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: Rs. 87 lakhs were spent last year, and the question as to what amount should be given is under correspondence between the two Governments.

Shri D. C. Sharma: In the statement it is said that more attention should be paid to anti-water-logging measures. May I know what those anti-water-logging measures are, and the nature of the "more attention" that is going to be paid to them?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: There are certain schemes which are to be executed for purposes of preventing water-logging in future, and those schemes are so many that I cannot mention all of them. There is a very big list here.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि दिल्ली, जो कि एक केन्द्र प्रशासित क्षेत्र है, उसमें जो वाटर-लाग्ड एरिया है, उसके सम्बन्ध में आप क्या कर रहे हैं ?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: Arrangements are being made for removing water-logging and there is a scheme which is about to be taken up shortly.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know what amount has been sanctioned for U.P. by the Centre in this connection?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: I cannot say what the exact amount is at this moment, but some money has been given to U.P. also. With them also there will be future correspondence.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): May I give a little information on this question?

Mr. Speaker: Both the hon. Ministers come from U.P. Why should the

hon. Members feel that U.P. is being left down?

Shri Vajpayee: U.P. has been neglected.

श्री स्वायी : चिराग तले ग्रंथेरा ।

Shri Braj Raj Singh: So many Ministers come from U.P. That is why U.P. is being neglected.

Shri A. P. Jain: A few schemes for combating water-logging in the Western districts of U.P. have been included in the State Plan for 1959-60. The Centre has made allocation which was asked for by the State Government, and I think it is about Rs. 20 lakhs.

Guna-Ujjain Rail Link

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*262. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**
Shri Khadiwala:
Shri K. B. Malviya:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 827 on the 2nd September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether consultations with the Planning Commission about taking up of the construction of Guna-Ujjain Rail link have since concluded;

(b) if so, whether any firm and final decision has been arrived at; and

(c) if so, the nature of the decision?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Hon. Members may kindly await the presentation of the Railway Budget due day after tomorrow.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister will refer to this in the Railway Budget.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What is the specific answer? He must say 'Yes' or 'No'. Why should we have to refer to the Railway Budget which is going to be presented two days later?