

a Government whose head has got no faith in family planning. Probably only due to this the hon. Prime Minister does not look serious when such an important issue is being discussed in the House. Sir, a Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha which provided that the political parties while distributing tickets or making important appointments will see to it that the candidate has faith in family planning and does not have more than 2 children. I would like to know from the Government whether it is serious in this regard and whether the provisions will be implemented from retrospective offset?

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is very serious in tackling the population problem. This Committee was formed under his Chairmanship in the NDC. The Committee consists of all the Chief Ministers of this country.

About the Constitution 79th (Amendment) Bill which was introduced in Rajya Sabha, it was referred to the Select Committee and now it is before the Standing Committee.

[Translation]

Water Resources

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*282. SHRI BHEEM SINGH
PATEL:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to chart a comprehensive master plan for the integrated development of water resources in drought prone areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing practice of harnessing water resources through major and micro dams is not working properly due to the cost factor; and

(d) if so, the alternative cost effective methods being considered by the Government as irrigation sources?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). The State Governments have been advised to establish multi-disciplinary units for preparation of master plans for water resources development at sub-basin level in drought prone areas. They have also been requested to set up a Committee in their respective States for drawing up guidelines for integrated water development.

(c) Irrigation projects, including major and micro dams, are taken up only after ascertaining their techno-economic viability.

(d) Other methods of surface water as well as ground water development are also taken up as complementary to and not as alternatives to dams.

[Translation]

SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was regarding formulation of a master plan for the integrated development of water resources in drought prone areas. In the reply, it is stated that the State Governments have been advised to establish multi-disciplinary units for preparation of master plans for water resources' development. They have also been advised to set up such committees in their respec-

tive States. However, no major irrigation schemes have been formulated for hills and drought prone areas of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The responsibility rests with the State Governments, that's why guidelines have been issued to them.

SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL: The Committee has already been constituted. I would like to know the recommendations made by the Committee regarding the drought prone areas?

[English]

SHRI P.K. THUNSON: Sir, as per the recommendations of the National Water Policy, a National Board Meeting was held on 30th July, 1991 and there, it was suggested that the States should be advised to draw the Master Plans for drought prone basins. Accordingly, the State Governments have been advised. So far, we have heard only from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Karnataka. They have drawn up some Master Plans in their respective basins. But the rest of the States have not yet reported. As you have rightly pointed out water being the State Subject, we can just advise them and give guidance only.

[Translation]

SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has not been stated whether any action plan has been formulated after the submission of the report by the State Government? In the previous session the hon. Minister had informed that due to resource crunch major irrigation projects could not be completed. Since submission of the report the strategy adopted for execution of works is

faulty. In my constituency 50 per cent of the fund reserved for Ban Sagar Project has been swindled away. This project was started in 1978 and was to be completed within 5 years at a cost of Rs. 125 crore. However, a period of 15 years has elapsed and Rs. 600 crore have already been spent. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will disallow your question.

[Translation]

SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL: 5,000 labourers are engaged in this project which has an annual outlay of Rs. 4 crore. I would like to know whether a Parliamentary Committee will be set up to check massive corruption prevalent there and to oversee that the works are executed on time?

SHRI P. K. THUNSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, issue of corruption will be inquired into by the State Government.

[English]

DR. B.G. JAWALI: My question pertains to part (c) of the main question "whether the existing practice of harnessing water resources through major and micro dams is not working properly due to the cost factor." And in the answer it is not said, "Yes" or "No". The projects were started 20 years ago. He says that they are ascertaining their techno-economic viability only. It means that it has been ascertained. If it is so, can the State Government intervene and find out what is the cause which is delaying this project where the cost is certainly increasing so to say on projects costing about Rs. 100 crores they have already spent about Rs. 1000 crores and still they are not com-

pleted. Can the Central Government intervene and see that something could be done?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I could quite understand the concern of the hon. Member. The cost escalation aspect due to time factor is very serious. At the time of working out a project or formulating a project, the economic viability is worked out; and after that, from time to time, the review meetings between the State Governments and the Ministry of Water Resources—the Central Government also helps wherever it is necessary—take place; and there the cost escalation aspect is taken care of.

MR. SPEAKER: The question was on cost effective method. Is it possible to find some cost effective method?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: What I meant in the review meetings is exactly that, because techno-economic cost effectiveness is reviewed from time to time. Once the calculations are made and a project is cleared, after that nothing much has to be done except reviews are taking place and more effective measures are taken so that there is no time lag and there is no slackness in performance from the administration or the implementing authorities.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: In drought prone areas water level is continuously receding due to scanty rains. I would like to know whether the Government is taking any steps to raise the water level.

[English]

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: In the drought prone area, the water level is not

very satisfactory; but it differs from place to place; but it is not as serious as the hon. Member thinks because the exploitation of ground water in the drought prone area has been made upto the level of 31 per cent only at the moment. So, there is enough scope for further exploitation of ground water. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I think you should check your statement with the experts.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I have a list with me. I can read it out.

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: My question relates to part (d) of the main question. What are the alternative cost effective methods being considered by the Government as irrigation sources? Since water resources are the main catalyst for the development of any society, we can develop our main products of the country, increase employment and improve economic conditions of the nation.

Secondly, a national policy on water envisages effective water management and conservation is necessary for better water management. Unfortunately, the water level in this country is going down year by year, but no concrete steps have been taken so far.

I request the hon. Minister to kindly let me know whether the Government is considering to give the status of industry to the irrigation projects, that too to multi-purpose irrigation projects. We are short of power also and in the Eighth Plan we are contemplating to produce 30,000 MW...

MR. SPEAKER: Irrigation will be very costly then!

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: No, Sir, my question is different.

For example, In Andhra Pradesh, Polavaram multi-purpose project is there which is contemplated for power production, irrigation and navigation. Nearly 70.lakh hectares of land has been contemplated by that project. You can charge water tax on the water supplied to the land.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question please. I am sorry, I have given you the opportunity and you are misusing it.

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: In view of the Government having new economic policies, why cannot they have a look into this new philosophy to give industrial status to irrigation?

MR. SPEAKER: The short question is: Are you going to treat it as an industry?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: In fact, in pursuance of new economic policy we have a policy where NRIs can also invest in irrigation projects. If I am right the hon. Member wants to know as to how many major and medium projects are being taken up.

I would like to give him the statistics that in the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan, we had in hand 158 major and 226 medium irrigation projects; and projects for extension and renovation were 29.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, may I make it simple? Are you going to give the same facilities which you are going to give to the industry to the irrigation also? That is all.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: This is a suggestion, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I think probably you are giving more facilities to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water level has receded in rural areas mainly as a result of installation of tubewells for irrigation. In the past a irrigation scheme for North and South India was formulated by the former Minister of irrigation Dr. K.L. Rao. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether that scheme is simply gathering dust or some action is being taken on it because water level will continue to recede till the canals are constructed.

[*English*]

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Though it is not directly concerned with this question, I would like to state that basin studies are going on in Himalayan Water Basin and the Daccan Area Water Basin. To a great extent the studies have been done, but the problem is, the agency which does the study, needs clearance from the respective States. We have taken meetings with respective States, but some of the States are not prepared to allow this study. Therefore, for this part, that is the basin connecting from drought area basin to surplus area basin, the studies are going on and we are pursuing with the respective State Governments to allow them to do these studies.

In addition to that, the Himalayan Water Basin...

MR. SPEAKER: You have replied very well.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Thank you, Sir.