

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you for the kind information of the Minister that I was going to Surat from Mumbai on 27th May, 1997 and I purchased diesel from a petrol pump. There was considerable admixing of kerosine in diesel. I got registered a complaint against the same. Not only that I called the police as well. There a punchnama was filed and the oil was tested also. There is such kind of admixing at many petrol pumps. Your camp system which is being run under your guidance, there carries a sign board that it will function from 21st July to 20th August. If you provide them such information before hand, there would be no admixing. You may come with me and we will visit many petrol pumps along the road to Mumbai and upto Gujarat and upto Pune. You check yourself, When we are able to detect them, then why your mechanism is not able to detect it? It means that [English] they are hand in gloves and because of that the people, in general, are suffering.

[Translation]

So, I would like to ask you what kind of effective machinery do you have for it with the use of which you will try to curb this admixing ? I remember Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had once said here that black-marketers should be hanged publicly. May I know whether have your taken such type of action against anybody ?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I was not a Minister, I had a petrol motor vehicle and petrol was mixed with kerosene. It is not that I don't have any information about it.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : It is a fact, is not it?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : These days I am a Minister. So, I do not know about it. I have got a Government vehicle and I don't know whether kerosene is admixed or not. But I have got information of the time when I used to be in the opposition party. There used to be a lot of admixing those days. I have also beaten some petrol pump dealers. But since the day I became a Minister my hands have rather become weak. Now I cannot wield my hands.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : You are having more strength and power now, it is not reduced.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : As my predecessor has stated and you are also stating, I will try to make a provision of rigorous punishment by making amendments in the current marketing guidelines and disciplined guide lines after studying them hard wherever there are cases of admixing.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, I need one example.

MR. SPEAKER : He has given enough examples including your personal example.

Sardar Sarovar Project

*262. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether in her recent meeting with the Prime Minister, at Mumbai Shrimati Medha Patkar of 'Narmada Bachao Andolan' has made a representation to the Prime Minister regarding Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat had also taken up this issue with the Prime Minister during his last visit to Ahmedabad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Ms. Medha Patkar of Narmada Bachao Andolan met the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Mumbai on 31.05.1997 and subsequently submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 9.6.1997 when she called on him at Delhi. In her memorandum mentioned above, she has demanded complete review of the Sardar Sarovar Project on account of problems related to resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected families, environmental concerns, economic and financial non-viability of the project and wrong projection of benefits from the Project, including drinking water supplies to Kutch and Saurashtra region.

During the Hon'ble Prime Minister's last visit to Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar on 3rd May, 1997, the Chief Minister of Gujarat has mentioned the issue of Sardar Sarovar Project and had subsequently written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th May, 1997 for his intervention by convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the four participating States to see that the construction work of the Sardar Sarovar Dam is resumed.

All the issues mentioned in the memorandum of Ms. Medha Patkar submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister have also been raised in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319/94 filed in the Supreme Court on 30th April, 1997 by the Narmada Bachao Andolan on Sardar Sarovar Projects.

The matter is, therefore, sub-judice. The Government of India is already defending the case before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and has taken a stand that the Sardar Sarovar Project should be completed in accordance with the award of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. The matter was last heard on 30th July, 1997 and the next date of the hearing has been fixed for 27th August, 1997.

During the meeting of the Chief Ministers of the party States with the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15th and 16th July, 1996 on Sardar Sarovar Project, the following was agreed to :-

"Construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam may proceed as planned, limiting the Full Reservoir level to 132.68 metres (436 feet) in the first instance. Thereafter the data for actual flow of water in the dam will be observed for a period of five years. If during any three out of these five years, the flow of water-discharge is adequate as assessed in the award, the decision regarding raising the reservoir level to 138.68 metres (455 feet) could be considered.

Construction of the dam will proceed pari-passu with the resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected persons as per terms of the Award and relief and rehabilitation Policies laid down by the States in this regard. The States shall ensure speedy and proper implementation of the relief and rehabilitation measures."

Further, during the 7th meeting of Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority, held on 13th November, 1996 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources with concerned Chief Ministers it was decided that the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam be raised upto EL 110 metres in the spillway portion during 1996-97. However, the work would commence in the first week of December, 1996. In the meantime R&R measures for the balance affected persons of Madhya Pradesh upto EL 81.5 metres would be completed within a fortnight by Gujarat. Madhya Pradesh has agreed to extend all help and cooperation in this regard. After review of the implementation of Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) measures at EL 81.5 metres, similar reviews will be undertaken for every 5 metre height of the dam jointly by the the concerned Resettlement & Rehabilitation Sub-Group and Environment sub-groups comprising representatives of States also so that the construction work could proceed pari-passu with the implementation of resettlement & rehabilitation measures in a manner that they are completed in terms of actual shifting of all Project Affected Persons (PAPs) by 31st May, 1997.

Thus, the Union Government has taken a number of initiatives to expedite the construction of Sardar Sarovar

Dam.

In view of the above, convening of meeting of concerned Chief Ministers by the Union Government, at this stage is not considered necessary.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the reply carefully. In a debate in the House during Zero Hour on 5th March, 1997, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Sharad Pawar, Shri Sharad Yadav, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, all had expressed anxiety about this project and the unsettling of article 262 of the Constitution and thereby opening a Pandora's box of Inter-State river water disputes resulting in non-utilisation of river waters. What steps have the Government taken during this period after these feelings were expressed on the floor of Lok Sabha ?

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the four States to discuss about Sardar Sarovar in July last. Shri Deve Gowda, the then Prime Minister had announced a consensus opinion which was arrived after the Committee of the Chief Ministers was held under the Chairmanship of honourable Minister of Water Resources in November last and certain decisions too were taken in it. As soon as an honourable Member pointed out that this issue is related with Gujarat, we heard others protesting on the grounds that it concerns all the four states. It is itself an indication of the complexity of the problems.

As we talk about celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our Independence, we feel sad since this proposal was conceived by Sardar Patel in 1946. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru laid its foundation in the year 1961 but not a single drop of water has been made available to anyone by this project. When we are celebrating our 50th Independence Day, the House would think over it seriously about the measures being taken to make water available to the people of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh or of the four states and support the honourable members who have expressed their concern over it.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : The whole crux of the problem is the resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected people. After the meetings held by hon. Prime Minister, the then Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda and by the hon. Minister for Water Resources, a suggestion has been made that Afflux bund has to be constructed to stop the backwater effect of the Sardar Sarovar Project because a large number of people are affected only by that water. This

Afflux *bund* system is prevailing all over the world. Its total cost is only Rs. 100 crore. Will the Government of India consider this suggestion of constructing the Afflux *bund* at a cost of Rs. 100 crore which would cost much less than rehabilitating 16,000 or 20,000 families ? Can it be put before the Supreme Court that this solution should be carved out ? Will there be any objection to this suggestion? Has Government considered this suggestion ?

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : The Government has received suggestion about the 'Afflux' dam too and we would think over it. The arbitration tribunal's award has not said anything clearly about it. The Government would consider it if all the four concerned states accord their approval for the same.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : There was a question about the Narmada Dam in the last session of the House too and the same was discussed by leaders of all the parties and they expressed their concern over it. Now the honourable Minister has also expressed his consent and concern over it. This question would not be solved by expressing concern alone. It is true that there was no provision to review the award for forty five years. When there is no provision for it, action is being undertaken to stop the construction work which is going on to raise the height of the dam by mentioning this question. My demand to the Government is that this question is not related to the four states alone, it is concerned with the whole nation, there is the question of electricity and drinking water. Drinking water has not been made available till now to our soldiers who were deputed at the Kutch border. Whether the Central Government is considering to formulate any scheme at national level to make drinking water available there ?

[English]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : I am the most affected.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is willing to accept the award but the stay order comes in-between. Even now this matter is subjudice. I believe that the next hearing is on 27th. Therefore, I would not try to influence the action of the honourable Supreme Court by saying too much.

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Sardar Sarovar Project. As you know, this Project is supposed to supply water to Barmer district also. To the

people of Barmer and Jaisalmer districts, there is no other source of water. The people of these districts are fetching water from a distance of 10 km to 15 km. When this Project was conceived, the Government of Rajasthan paid an amount of Rs. 4 crore to Rs. 5 crore during the year, 1983-84. The people of Barmer district are suffering very badly due to this litigation and controversy. As my hon. friend has said the military people are not getting water. I am talking of about 25 lakhs of people for whom this Project is the only one source of supply of water. I would like to ask the hon. Minister why in this case they have not mentioned about Barmer district in Rajasthan.

Will the hon. Minister kindly give some assurance in this regard ? About one thing, of course, he has already mentioned that he should take up this issue very seriously to the Supreme Court to get it vacated. Then, he has also assured that the height is increased only to the extent needed so that we can also get water because after a certain height, we cannot get water. Will he give us some assurance in this regard so that we can get water there ?

..(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are the four states which would be benefitted by this scheme but there is no progress in this project. Time and again one or the other State Government objects to it or sometimes the Supreme Court gives a stay order. We are equally concerned and feel sorry that work on this project is not progressing.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, here the question is either to protect ecology or to ensure the survival of the people. The people of Kutch cannot now survive any more without the water of the Narmada. In this respect, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. As stated in the reply, the stand of the Central Government is that the Sardar Sarovar Project should be completed in accordance with the Award of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. It is the stand of the Central Government. That being so, then what is the need for the Central Government to have negotiations or interaction with the *Narmada Bachao Andolan* led by Medha Patkar and Company twice on 31st May 1997 and 9th June, 1997 by which messages are going that the Central Government is interested in the stoppage of this Project ? Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister in clear terms whether the Central Government should state in the affidavit before the hon.

Supreme Court that uptill now over Rs. 5500 crore has already been spent over this project and it incurs every day a loss of Rs. 2 crore by way of interest loss and Rs. 5 crore by way of additional production loss. Therefore, to stop this loss, the *Narmada Bachao Andolan* should be asked to specify in clear terms whether they are interested in the stoppage of this project or resettlement of the oustees. From the daily huge loss, these oustees can be settled very well in big cities and posh areas. What is the reaction of the Central Government in this regard? I would request that the Government should spell out its stand in unequivocal terms in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The State Government is not involved in the "Narmada Bachao Andolan". It is not sponsored by the State Government. The democratic Governments should not feel shy about any agitation being done by an individual or an institution but I am telling you that the Government is firm to implement Justice Rama Swamy award, there is no second thought on it. The importance of State Governments would be different because they have statutory status. If the State Governments or the honorable Supreme Court intervenes in between, then the Union Government have to delay its decision, because it can not take action in the light of a stay order. Nothing goes wrong due to an agitation or by reviewing the matter sitting together or by arriving at a consensus but if the court intervenes, what can we do? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask an important question. Khargaon, from where I am elected, is the most affected district of Madhya Pradesh. The pain is felt utmost by those who are affected by it. This decision was taken in 1978. Then there was 27 M.F. water in the Narmada and this district was taking 75 percent of Narmada water. Now after completion of the survey, the quantity of water in Narmada river has come down. Today the quantity of water has come down from 27 M.F. to 22 M.F. Recently there was an earthquake in Jabalpur. Trimmers were felt on the banks of Narmada river. It is a different issue. But I want to put the Question that it was decided to raise the height of the dam upto 436 feet during the tenure of the then Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowdaji and all the Chief Ministers had given their consent over it. The Prime Minister too had taken a decision. The Madhya Pradesh Government has issued certain guidelines which says that it has been decided by the Prime Minister to raise the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam at 436 feet initially and it would be reviewed after five years of the completion of the dam.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : I would like to ask as to what are the views of the present Prime Minister over the decision taken by former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowdaji. Will the Prime Minister discuss over it with all the concerned Chief Minister again and secondly. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot prolong one question like that. I have given you a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the value of the rupee is not the same as it was in 1978. So whether the compensation amount would be reviewed? When they would ask for the money, would we give it to them? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am mentioning the decision taken at the meeting convened by the then Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowdaji, so that the honourable Members may not be confused.

"The height of the Sardar Sarovar dam was maintained initially at 436 feet i.e. at the reservoir level according to the construction plan. The monitoring of the flow water will be maintained through relevant data for a period of five years. If the flow of the water released during any of the three years of this five years period is adequate according to the decision taken by the arbitration then we would consider to take a decision to raise the reservoir level at 458 feet." . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : The people of Gujarat are not ready to accept it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : It was agreed upon I think that the Chief Minister of Gujarat or the Governor of the State and other people too were present at that time.

They all had agreed to it. The agreement is mainly between the states of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. We all should accept it. The Lok Sabha is represented by the Members of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh too. When I was in the Water Resources Ministry then the State of Madhya Pradesh used to create problems. Now I am in the Ministry of Petroleum. The Narmada River flows through Madhya Pradesh and this State creates problems. Now the gas pipeline is coming through Gujarat but again Madhya Pradesh is not permitting it to pass through Bina. How long would it continue? How long a man like me will tolerate it? I am unable to understand it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

a meeting of all the Chief Ministers was held on 15-16 July, 1996. It was mentioned in the meeting that all the affected people there are Adivasis. The discussion was held regarding their rehabilitation but these people are not getting all rehabilitation facilities. The expenditure on the 'Ahwad' rehabilitation work that is being going on in the name of Sardar Sarovar Project is the responsibility of the Maharashtra State Government. Thirty three villages of the Maharashtra Government have been affected. All the people there are tribals and their rehabilitation work is not being done properly. The persons concerned with rehabilitation work are spending the funds, received under Indira Awas Yojana and in my opinion it is not proper. Therefore, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the Government of Maharashtra is utilizing the funds meant for those people under Indira Awas Yojana.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Sir, as far as the matter of 85.1 mt. or 85.2 mt. dam is concerned, the number of displaced families is 5200 and 691 families are to be rehabilitated. Out of these, 348 families are from Maharashtra and 307 from M.P. As far as the item under which amount is being given to these displaced families is concerned, I am not aware of it. But the responsibility to rehabilitate these displaced families lies with the State Government.

[English]

Allocation to Voluntary Agencies

*263. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to the voluntary agencies during 1994, 1995 and 1996 for undertaking literacy projects;

(b) the names and addresses of such agencies;

(c) the extent to which these agencies have been successful in combating illiteracy;

(d) whether the performance of these agencies have been reviewed;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, whether the Government propose to carry out such a review; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The amount allocated to the voluntary agencies under the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Agencies in

Adult Education during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was Rs. 10 crores, in each year.

(b) The names and addresses of the voluntary agencies are given in the Statement enclosed at Annexure-I.

(c) The role of the voluntary organisations in combating illiteracy is primarily a supportive one. The main objectives of the Scheme include implementation of time-bound, area-specific, result oriented and volunteer based literacy projects in smaller areas where the Zilla Saksharata Samities are not imparting the literacy programme; to take up innovative and experimental projects, environment building activities; for organising seminars and conferences etc. and to provide training, material preparation and research support to the literacy programmes at grass-root level. Where Zilla Saksharata Samiti (ZSS) is implementing the literacy programmes the voluntary agencies are associated actively with the programme at district level.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Statement is enclosed at Annexure-II.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Annexure-I

Names and Addresses of Voluntary Agencies (State-wise)

ANDHRA PRADESH

1. State Resource Centre
Literacy House
Andhra Mahila Sabha
MS College Campus
University Road Hyderabad.
2. Andhra Pradesh Open School Society
Scert Campus
Near Lal Bahadur Stadium
Hyderabad.
3. Seva Mandir
Hindupur, District Anantpur, A.P.

ASSAM

1. Gram Swaraj Parishad
Vill. & P.O. Rangia, Distt.
Kamrup, Assam
2. State Resource Centre,
Gyan Vigyan Samiti Assam
F.C. Road Uzam Bazar Guwahati
Assam-781 001.