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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE.

Thursday, 10th September, 1953.

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS IN PUNJAB

*1181. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the
Minister of Food and Agriculture be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of
Punjab have submitted a list of minor
irrigation projects in their State for
the year 1953-54 to the Central Gov-
ernment; and

(b) if so, what action the Central
Government have taken in the matter?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P.
S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) All the schemes which were
eligible for financial assistance under
the G.M.F. have been sanctioned.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know,
Sir, if while sanctioning these amounts,
the Punjab Government makes any
distinction between the so-called
backward areas and the so-called for-
ward areas?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We presume,
Sir, that all the relevant considerations
are always borne in mind by the State
Governments. We do not propose to
go into other considerations and the
allocations. We take the recommenda-
tions as they stand.

Shri Bansal: Is the hon. Minister
aware that he is absolutely wrong in
his presumption and that a number of
backward areas are not being given
any treatment whatsoever?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not see
why my friend differs from my state-
ment. We do not go into the back-
wardness or otherwise. It is for the
State Government to take into consi-
deration the various needs of the
different areas in the State, and we
take the schemes as they come to us,
and then sanction them.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether
the State Governments are required to
submit their schemes of minor irriga-
tion, or was it a special case for the
Punjab?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Every State
submits its schemes.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know
whether the Government is aware
that injustice has been done to certain
areas of Madhya Pradesh with regard
to minor irrigation works, and if so,
whether the Centre has any control
over the States or not?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it relate
to Punjab?

Shrimati A. Kale: The hon. Minister
said that they only take into account
the relevant considerations. I find that
in the minor irrigation works in
Madhya Pradesh, there has been in-
justice.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Member
is aware that when the question re-
lates to the application of general
principles to a particular State, I am
not going to allow details to be asked
for other States.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, whether any of these minor irrigation works come within the purview of the community projects?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Where?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: In Punjab.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I cannot say. They could come. There is no prohibition.

Shri C. D. Pande: The hon. Minister has just said that all the schemes, even minor irrigation schemes, have to be submitted to the Central Government. Am I to understand that even where the States have to make their own resources available, they have to submit the schemes to the Central Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir. These are all mostly cases of loans which we give. In very few instances we give any subsidy. There are various items under the grow more food scheme and rules have been framed. So far as all these schemes are concerned, they are mostly through loans from Central Government for minor irrigation in the States.

Shri Bansal: May I know if the Government of India will call for any statement from the Punjab Government about the schemes submitted by them for the backward districts and the action taken by the Punjab Government in regard to the same?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid all these complaints must be addressed to the Punjab Government, and in the case of Madhya Pradesh—as referred to by Shrimati Kale—to the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: If the application for minor irrigation projects can come only through the State Government, cannot the Members of this House also have a say in this matter?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think so. The Members of this House may criticize the action taken by either the State Governments or the Central

Government, but so far as we are concerned, we cannot go into their choice of any scheme and allege discrimination.

DOUBLE LINE BETWEEN ANAND AND BARODA STATIONS

*1182. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to construct a double railway line between Anand and Baroda Stations?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways, and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): The proposal is still under examination.

Shri Dabhi: May I know when the consideration is likely to be completed?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: It is difficult to say when we will be able to take a final decision on the matter, but this matter is being reviewed especially in view of the recent development of Kandla port and we hope that a lot of traffic which is now being run on this line will be diverted towards Kandla.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that except for this 22 miles between Anand and Baroda, the whole 306 miles between Ahmedabad and Baroda is a double line?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is the information given by the hon. Member. The hon. Member knows it. I am not going to allow that to be asked in the House. Hon. Members must give arguments for linking up this small gap by saying that the rest of the route—270 miles or so—is all double line. It is not a question for answer.

Shri Dabhi: Sir, another question....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nothing more. I must choose between small questions of relative importance. I won't allow more questions so far as the 22 miles are concerned.

Shri Dabhi: I want another question to be put.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No; hon. Members must pick and choose. Next question.