

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 16, 1999/Phalguna 25, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Drinking Water Projects

*281. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have called for proposals from State Governments with regard to Drinking Water Projects to be implemented with the external aid of Japan Government;

(b) if so, how many State Governments have submitted their proposals so far;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal with regard to Drinking Water Project of Kanigiri area for clearance under external aid of Japan Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which this Project is likely to be cleared for execution under external aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The Government invited project proposals from various sectors including drinking water for assistance from OECF(Japan) under the 1999-2000 OECF loan package.

The following proposals with regard to drinking water projects were received:

- (i) Rural Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation Project—Government of Punjab.

- (ii) Integrated Rural Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation in Kanigiri area of Prakasam District—Government of Andhra Pradesh.

As the Japanese Government have frozen Yen-loan programmes and grant aid for new projects after the Pokhran Tests, this project could not be considered for Japanese assistance at present. Government of Andhra Pradesh had been apprised of this situation. They have also been asked to prepare the proposal as per the guidelines so that they could be posed to the Japanese Government at an appropriate time.

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, in certain parts of Andhra Pradesh people are suffering from fluorosis disease as they are drinking fluorine contaminated water for a long time. But this Government has not done anything in this regard.

My brother and former Member of Parliament, late Shri Magunta Subbamma Reddy had envisaged a project, that is called Kanigiri Water Protected Scheme, for the benefit of 216 villages; and more than two lakh people will also be having a good health with this scheme. But unfortunately, this project has been shelved for a long time.

Time and again, the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister have mentioned in this august House that there is no adequate impact on the development and economy of this country due to the Pokhran Tests conducted by this Government. But the reply given by the hon. Minister is contradictory. However, now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is trying to arrange funds for this project through any other means so that the people in this area will be benefited; otherwise, they are having ill alth for a long time, for centuries together. I would like to know what steps the hon. Minister is taking in this regard.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal for piped water supply scheme to 216 fluoride affected village in Andhra Pradesh. But, as the Japan Government has imposed some economic measures,...(Interruptions) It is a political decision ... (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: What is the problem?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Meghe, let him complete the answer. Please do not interrupt in between.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Let the hon. Minister state the reasons also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, after the imposition of economic measures, the Government of Japan has frozen the Yen Credit arrangement to the Government of India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: What is the...*(Interruptions)*

SPEAKER: Second supplementary, please.

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Sir, my first question itself has not been answered. What is the alternative arrangement that the Government has made to provide safe drinking water to the people of that area.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already answered it. He said that because of the sanctions, the proposal could not be implemented. Is it correct, Mr. Minister?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, we are taking steps on our part also. There is a technology mission and we are having so many programmes in Andhra Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: What about funds for this particular project?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: The Government of Japan has frozen the Yen Credit financial arrangement to Government of India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Sir, for this project, I want to have a commitment from the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him be allowed to ask his supplementary, please.

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Sir, this project has been pending for a long time. Though the project has been sent as per the guidelines to the Government of India, the Government of India has not taken any action in this regard.

I would like to have a commitment from the hon. Minister whether he is going to provide funds by way of some other scheme.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: The project proposal has been reverted recently in January, 1999 but we are also

exploring the possibilities of having an alternative external assistance.

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: I want to know whether the Minister is going to confirm it before the summer season. I would like the Minister to answer to this question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, how can I assure him? We are exploring the alternative possibilities.

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Sir, this is a problem. More than two lakh people have been affected. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is unable to give the time schedule.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I, through you, would like to ask hon'ble Minister that as Central Government has sought proposals from State Governments regarding drinking water projects with the assistance of Japan, I would like to attract the attention of hon'ble Minister towards dire crisis of drinking water in Allahabad-Kaushambi-Fatehpur districts in Purvanchal of Uttar Pradesh. Even otherwise, there is no shortage of water, this district is situated in the middle of Ganga-Yamuna river. Whether hon'ble Minister would like to seek proposal from State Government for this Project so as to remove the crisis of drinking water.

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, already the World Bank Swajal model project is going on in Uttar Pradesh. We are also having an action plan to tackle the drinking water problems.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request the hon. Minister to give the details of the following three projects submitted by the Kerala Government: Pattuvam Panchayat Water Supply Scheme with the help of Japan; Azhikode and adjacent Village Water Supply Scheme with the help of the World Bank; and Kakkadave, which is the greatest water supply scheme of North Malabar with the help of French Government. I also would like to know the latest position in regard to these proposals.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, there is a project proposal for external assistance from the Japanese Government and the agreement was signed on 25.2.1997. Till now, the project has not taken off, no disbursement

has been made because of the bureaucratic hurdles. Another project seeking the financial assistance from the French Government is under process.

There are four schemes — Azhalpuzha Municipality and Villages Project, Rs. 326 crore; Chimeli Municipality and Villages Scheme, Rs. 586 crore; Kalpetta Municipality and Villages Scheme, Rs. 37 crore; and Kochi City Region Project, Rs. 301 crore. These projects are under process.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: More than 1000 people were died in Anshughat of Orissa during last year. This time, the temperature has reached upto the 35° to 40° C. There is shortage of drinking water. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether any project is under consideration to provide drinking water in every village of Orissa either with the assistance of Central Government or World Bank or any other foreign agency?

[*English*]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, for taking the problematic villages, the Ministry is making some exercise with the contribution of MPLAD fund and the people's participation. If the neighbours are ready, I will have a fast track programme to tackle the problematic habitations is this year.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Hon. Minister is talking about M.P. Funds. We are making some exercise with the contribution of MPLADS fund but what Central Government is doing? We are already making some exercise with the MPLADS, then what is the need to ask the Government?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is crisis of drinking water in the whole country. There is problem of water supply throughout the country and the people cast their votes in favour of three persons for development. They cast their votes in favour of Sarpanch, M.L.A. and M.P. whenever Public Representative goes to village, the people talk about the problem of drinking water. The sarpanchs have the funds of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and they use this fund to meet the requirement of hand-pumps or drinking water. The State Governments provide separate funds to M.L.As to install hand-pumps. Whenever Members of Parliament go to villages, the people make the demand for water. I would like to know from the Government that while giving funds separately to Members of Lok Sabha to meet the

demand of hand-pumps and water supply in their constituencies, whether Central Government propose to formulate any scheme to provide 10 hand-pumps and two water supply lines in each Panchayat and if so, the time by which it will be formulated?

[*English*]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: It is not possible from the Central Government side to give a quota for hand pumps. ...(*Interruptions*) How is it possible to have a quota from the Centre to the State Governments?

[*Translation*]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, when State Governments are giving, then Central Government should also give. ...(*Interruptions*)

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not give you chance if such hue and cry is made.

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): A question was asked about the projects to be executed with the Japanese Government. While replying to that question it was categorically made clear that as the Japanese Government had frozen the aid loan programme and granting aid for the new projects after the Pokhran test, this project could not be considered for Japanese assistance. It is not known why this question is being asked again.

My question is, as one chapter is closed because the Japanese projects. What is the alternative arrangement that the Government is having to provide assistance to such projects?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: We are making some exercise to have an alternative provision.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question is of public interest that proposals from State Governments were sought under the OECF package in order to provide them assistance and to approve and implement the water supply project but Japan has stopped it. We would like to know from the Government whether the schemes received from two State Governments will only be on papers or Central Government is going to take some steps to impiement

this scheme? The release of funds has also been stopped for the schemes sanctioned by OECF earlier, the scheme already approved is being implemented, Japan has stopped to grant approval to new project. We would like to elicit information from the Government in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This question relates to external assistance.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: All the external agencies have not frozen the loan arrangements. Only some of them have. The OECF of Japan and some World Bank programmes are going on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is only asking whether some of the on going programmes are on or not.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Bapatla); Sir, as my colleague Dr. Shakeel has mentioned, this is a big national problem. The Minister seems to be too good a man to deal with all these things. It requires a bulldozer like Yerrannaidu. I do not know why they are delaying.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I am not a bulldozer, I am an ordinary Member of Parliament.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, the awareness for fresh potable drinking water is increasing in the country. After forming the Rural Development Ministry and the Urban Development Ministry, the successive Governments at the Centre are assisting the States in a big way, but the results are not coming forth. It is because certain State Governments are diverting the funds, certain State Governments are taking it up from political angle and are not implementing the programmes...*(Interruptions)*. Maybe, it includes myself when I was the Chief Minister; I am not criticising any particular Government. The Panchayats also are not able to implement the programmes. They are not able to pay the electricity bills. Keeping in view the needs of the country and the problem that has arisen after implementing the programmes, will the Ministry think of an expert body to go into this and think of forming a Drinking Water Authority for India, just like the National Highway Authority, so that it may take up the programme directly, implement it and give the results.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, we will consider the hon. Member's suggestion.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: That is a very good answer, Sir.

DR. SAROJA V. (Rasipuram): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the protected drinking water is prevalent in all the States. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether from small savings in every State, specific budgetary allocation will be made to every State to meet out the drinking water problem.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, it is a suggestion from the hon. Member. We are going to have to special programme and we can consider her suggestion also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the Minister should tell us what is the integrated programme for the nation as a whole...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, there is an action plan of the Government of India to tackle the problem and we are assisting the State Governments' efforts. If there are any suggestions from the hon. Members, we can certainly consider those suggestions also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall go to the next question, Question No. 282

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Sir, it is a very important question. Please allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, drinking water is the priority item for the present Government. They have incorporated it in the national agenda. So, in the interest of the Members, please allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this. This is a very important subject...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, I am prepared to have Half-an-Hour discussion on this...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has agreed for Half-an-Hour discussion on this. Now let us go to the next question.

[Translation]

Setting up of Nehru Yuva Kendras

*282. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: