

Somasila Project

603. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) when the proposals for Somasila Project Stage I and Stage II were sent by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for clearance of the Union Government;

(b) the reasons for the delay in according clearance to those proposals; and

(c) the time by which those proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Stage I of the Somasila Project was cleared by the Planning Commission in September, 1973 at an estimated cost of Rs. 17.2 crores. Subsequently, revised comprehensive project report for State I and II estimated to cost Rs. 147 crores was received in the Central Water Commission in August, 1985. Again, due to provision for extension of north and South feeder channels and distributaries, the revised estimate of the Somasila Project costing Rs. 199.1 crores was received in the Central Water Commission in December, 1987.

(b) and (c) The Central Water Commission found that the comprehensive project is deficient in respect of canal design aspects, irrigation planning, ground water utilisation, environment clearance and financial aspects. Since the State Government did not respond to the suggestions for compliance, the project has been recently returned to the State Government. Now the State Government is required to remove deficiencies indicated and update the proposal.

Tungabhadra High Level Canal Project Stage II

604. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded the proposal for the Tungabhadra High Level Canal Project Stage II for clearance of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The combined Tungabhadra High Level Canal Stage II (for Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh) has already been approved by the Planning Commission in January, 1967 for a total cost of Rs. 14.56 crores. The share of Andhra Pradesh was Rs. 9.15 crores envisaging irrigation of about 55640 hectares in Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, in February, 1985, Andhra Pradesh submitted a revised estimate for Rs. 111.7 crores for works in their territory. Its examination revealed that the scope of the project has been considerably changed by adding three reservoirs and a barrage to increase annual irrigation to about 90270 hectares. The revised project did not contain details and studies to establish the availability of waters and the viability of the project. The report was, therefore, found deficient and returned to the State Government in May, 1988 to get the hydrology of the project and working tables finalised in consultation with the Central Water Commission. The State Government is now required to prepare a revised detailed project report on the basis of the advice given by the Central Water Commission.

Australian Proposal for Aero-magnetic Survey for Exploring Minerals and Ground Water

605. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal from the Government of Australia for Aero-magnetic survey for exploring minerals and ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) if no decision has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal on High Resolution Aero-Magnetic Survey as part of an integrated study for the exploration and management of ground water resources in the State of Orissa was submitted by Crown Technical Services Private Limited to the Government of Orissa.

(b) and (c) According to the approved proposal, an area of 21,500 sq. km. would be covered at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.3 crores. Of the project cost, 80% is to be covered by Australian assistance under grant and loan, while 20% of the cost is to be borne by the Government of Orissa. Phase-I would be completed in 18 months tentatively beginning October, 1991.

The proposal has been posed for assistance to the Government of Australia.

Phase-II would be taken up only after review of performance under Phase-I.

Establishment of Irrigation Finance Corporation

606. **SHRI PRAKASH BAPU VASANTRAO PATIL:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the establishment of an Irrigation Finance Corporation to provide funds in the form of loans for the expeditious completion of the nationally important large irrigation projects has since been chalked out; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The

proposal for setting up of an Irrigation Finance Corporation was recommended by the Working Group on Major and Medium Irrigation Programme for inclusion in the VIIIth Plan. The proposal is to provide resources by the Central Government for the Corporation in shape of equity and loans. Further, the Corporation would be given authority to raise resources from domestic and international financial agencies as well as market borrowings. The Planning Commission, however, did not favour the setting up of the Corporation. As an alternative, it has been proposed to undertake a scheme for providing special assistance for the expeditious completion of Nationally Important Irrigation Projects.

Irrigation Projects under Construction

607. **SHRI PRAKASH BAPU VASANTRAO PATIL:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects in the country which are under construction as on June, 1991;

(b) whether some of these projects are running behind the schedule resulting in cost-escalation of these projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) 167 major and 287 medium approved as well as unapproved projects are under construction as in June, 1991.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections from M.Ps Quota

608. **SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: