

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 19, 1997/Phalgun 28, 1918 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in yesterday's List of Business. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is Question Hour. Question No. 341, Shri T. Gopal Krishna. . .

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it was printed in the List of Business for 14th November that constitution (42nd Amendment) Bill will be taken up, but it is not then in today's list.

[English]

I want to know from you whether it will be listed today. It was there in yesterday's List of Business and now it has been delisted . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lodha, now it is Question Hour. This can be taken up later. . .

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, yesterday the Home Minister had . . . (Interruptions). Sir, this constitutes a breach of privilege. You are the guardian of the House. I want to know from you whether that item will be listed or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Question Hour be over. After that, you can raise the matter.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : All right, Sir. Thank you.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Development of Wasteland

*341. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of wasteland brought under

cultivation in the country;

(b) the number of proposals pending before the Government for wasteland development and the details of projects cleared during the past two years;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have sent any proposals in this regard during the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon so far ?

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

Statement

(a) Mandate of the Department of Wastelands Development is to develop wastelands in non-forest areas aimed at checking degradation of lands which are deteriorating on account of natural causes and putting such wastelands in non-forest areas to sustainable use for increasing bio-mass availability, specially fuelwood and fodder.

Because of poor soil health and adverse natural factors even after treatment of such lands, planting of fodder, fuel and fruit trees rather than agricultural operations are advisable on developed wastelands. As such, the programmes of the Department of Wastelands Development seek to prevent further degradation of land and to improve wastelands to grow appropriate biomass rather than to converting wastelands into cultivable lands. However, under the User Bhoomi Sudhar Yojana of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, 4,31,580 ha. of land have been brought under cultivable use in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(b) During the past two years, 51 projects for Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) Scheme have been cleared by the Department. The details of the projects cleared are given in the Annexure. Presently 49 proposals, at various stages of processing, are pending for consideration before the Government.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. During the last two years, out of the projects received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, wastelands development projects have been sanctioned for the districts of (i) Rangareddy (ii) Karimnagar (iii) Prakasam (iv) Chittoor and (v) Kurnool.

Other projects received from the districts of Medak, Nellore and Karimnagar and under process in the Department.

Annexure

Details of the Projects cleared under the Integrated Wastelands Development Project scheme during last 2 years i.e. 1994-95 & 1995-96.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Project Period	Total Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Physical Target (in Ha.)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Nellore-II	94-95 to 97-98	416.59	9230
2.	Prakasam-II	94-95 to 98-99	335.51	4200
3.	Kanimnagar	94-95 to 98-99	418.00	4870
4.	Chittoor-I	95-96 to 98-99	20.00	500
5.	Kurnool	95-96 to 98-99	332.00	8300
6.	Ranga Reddy	94-95 to 98-99	485.64	4574
Bihar				
1.	Vaishali	95-96 to 98-99	40.00	1000
2.	Deoghar	94-95 to 97-98	331.60	4400
Gujarat				
1.	Dang-I	94-95 to 98-99	345.67	4095
2.	Amreli	94-95 to 98-99	359.45	5500
3.	Jamnagar	94-95 to 98-99	245.89	2480
4.	Mehsana	94-95 to 98-99	466.69	7000
5.	Rajkot	94-95 to 98-99	352.84	4900
6.	Gandhinagar	94-95 to 98-99	144.43	1500
Himachal Pradesh				
1.	Kangra	94-95 to 98-99	349.50	4330
2.	Solan	94-95 to 98-99	352.64	4236
3.	Chamba	94-95 to 98-99	281.82	3713
Haryana				
1.	Mohindergarh-II	94-95 to 96-97	20.50	190
2.	Gurgaon	95-96 to 98-99	218.92	5473
Kerala				
1.	Wayanad	94-95 to 97-98	315.47	4500
2.	Mallapuram	94-95 to 99-2000	87.50	2000
3.	Iddukki	95-96 to 98-99	403.20	10080
Maharashtra				
1.	Ahmednagar	94-95 to 96-97	42.03	531
Meghalaya				
1.	West Khasi	94-95 to 97-98	117.39	1800

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh				
1.	Durg	94-95 to 97-98	215.94	3680
2.	Raigarh	94-95 to 97-98	390.55	5700
3.	Raipur	94-95 to 97-98	252.68	3860
4.	Rajnandgaon	95-96 to 98-99	444.00	11100
Nagaland				
1.	Zunobuto	95-96 to 98-99	100.00	2500
Orissa				
1.	Dhenkanal-I	94-95 to 98-99	45.97	691
2.	Navrangpur	94-95 to 98-99	284.28	3539
3.	Malkangiri-II	94-95 to 97-98	157.78	2186
Punjab				
1.	Bathinda	94-95 to 97-98	409.13	5570
2.	Sangrur	94-95 to 97-98	287.78	3493
Rajasthan				
1.	Udaipur	94-95 to 97-98	252.41	4600
2.	Palli	94-95 to 98-99	320.85	5049
3.	Ajmer-II	95-96 to 98-99	26.00	650
Sikkim				
1.	S. Sikkim-III	94-95 to 97-98	89.62	1770
2.	S. Sikkim-IV	94-95 to 97-98	93.09	1862
3.	N. Sikkim	94-95 to 98-99	155.55	3513
4.	E. Sikkim-II	94-95 to 98-99	333.66	7425
Tamil Nadu				
1.	Pariyyar	94-95 to 97-98	343.93	4000
2.	Pasumpon	94-95 to 98-99	284.73	3073
3.	N. Arcot	94-95 to 96-97	296.04	5000
4.	S. Arcot	94-95 to 98-99	249.80	3010
5.	TSR	94-95 to 98-99	255.94	3900
Tripura				
1.	S. Tripura	94-95 to 96-97	145.44	1792
Uttar Pradesh				
1.	Raibareilly	94-95 to 97-98	172.01	1800
2.	Mainpuri	94-95 to 97-98	338.30	4400
3.	Farukhabad	94-95 to 97-98	147.00	1500
4.	Lucknow	94-95 to 98-99	391.19	4000

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Sir, the Department of Wasteland Development is implementing various programmes for the proper utilisation of non-forest wastelands through various schemes. I would like to know the details of the Government wastelands in Andhra Pradesh to be distributed to the rural poor and to the social organisations separately during the last two years.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Department to Wasteland Development is to develop wastelands in non-forest areas, especially for increasing biomass availability, especially of fuel wood and fodder. Whatever the hon. Member has stated for his district, that is, the East Godavari district, there are no projects sanctioned under the Wasteland Development Programme. But separate on-going projects are there under the Employment Assurance Scheme. Whatever is the pendency of the amounts to be released, we will take action in that.

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Sir, I would like to know whether many barren hillocks lying in my constituency of Kakinada could be utilised for technology development scheme or for extension and training scheme or for investment promotion scheme, etc. They are unutilised at present. Incidentally, the Government sanctioned Rs. 36 lakh for development of these hilltops and only Rs. Six lakh have actually been released. May I know whether the Government would release the balance for development of the hilltops ?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this programme is not covered under the Wasteland Development Programme. But in respect of those programmes taken up by the State Government under various Centrally-sponsored schemes, if any pendency regarding the release of funds is there, we will instruct the State Government to release further funds.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon. Minister has said that four districts of Madhya Pradesh has been included. These four districts do not have much waste land area. The tribal districts like Jhabua and Rajgarh have maximum wasteland areas. I want to know from the Hon. Minister that the State Government's proposal regarding development of wasteland of these two districts will be taken up by what time ? Because lakh of people of these two districts migrate to other places in the event of late monsoon because there will be problem of fodder for animals. There is ample wasteland. I want to know by what time you are going to sanction the state Government's proposal.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the inception of this Department of Wasteland Development, 159 projects, have been sanctioned throughout the country. Out of these 159 projects, four are from

Madhya Pradesh – one each from Durg, Raigarh, Raipur and Rajnandgaon. The remaining projects recommended by the State Government as under process.

Regarding sanction of projects under the Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme, I would like to say that there is no problem for money. All the projects recommended by the Government of Madhya Pradesh are under various stages of process. We will look into them for sanction.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Sir, there are vast tracts of land which are waste and lying barren. If the poor people are given those lands for cultivation, they can utilise them properly. But as they are poor, they have to be supported by some financial assistance. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to give loans and other financial benefits to the poor people so that they may be allowed to have that waste land for cultivation ?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this is a hundred per cent Centrally-sponsored scheme. We are giving entire money to the States through DRDA and Water Shed Committees. They identify the project area. The State Governments then recommend to the Central Government. Then, we sanction full amount. This aspect of loan is not there.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, as per the written reply of the Minister, the total targeted area for development of waste lands in Maharashtra is 531 hectares. I want to know whether this is the only area, according to the Central Government, which could be converted from waste land to cultivable land. This is my first question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to ask only one question.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : This question is part of my earlier question. He also stated that generally, because of the soil health and adverse natural factors, such land cannot be made cultivable even after treatment. I want to know whether there is any technology available in the country or anywhere else with which we can convert such waste land into cultivable land after some treatment, may be after some time.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : As per the 1995 census, there are 75.5 million hectares of waste land in India, both in forest and non-forest areas. So, we started this department and the scheme in the year 1992-93, which is hundred per cent Centrally-sponsored. So far, we have spent Rs. 276 crore and converted 2,46,000 hectares of waste land into cultivable land. This is only three per cent of the total land available. That is why, we sanctioned some projects which were recommended by the Government of Maharashtra. This year, 1997-98 we have earmarked a lot of funds for sanctioning of projects. There is no problem of money. You just identify some projects and recommend them through the State Government, we will look into them for giving sanction.

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Mr. Chairman, through you, I want to ask from the Hon. Minister that 51 projects have been chand under I.W.D.P., it includes six districts of Gujarat. There is less wasteland in Gandhinagar district as compared of Kutch. Gujara State Government has not submitted any proposal for Kutch and whether you will include it for wasteland development.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Certainly. We sanction all the projects recommended by the State Governments. Some projects are under process also. Under the Employment Assurance Scheme, whatever amount is earmarked in that particular head, we are spending 50 per cent of that amount for waste land development. So, money is not the problem for giving sanction to the projects. You can identify the barren areas and recommend them through the State Government. We will process and sanction them. So far, in Gujarat, we have sanctioned six projects – Dang-I, Amreli, Jamnagar, Mehsana, Rajkot and Gandhinagar.

[Translation]

Shri P.S. Gadhavi : It is essential for Gandinagar but it is more important for Kutch, whether you will include it or not ?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : It is done on the basis of the recommendation of the State Government, It is the State Government which recommended those projects. That is why, we sanctioned them.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : The questions are being asked for waste land. The 'Jhurpi Jangal' in Maharashtra is not a forest in real sense. In Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh it has been regularised but the 4-5 forests called 'Jhurpi forest', are not forests in real sense. That is why irrigation project and road development work is stand still there. In fact it is wasteland but on records it is mentioned as 'Jhurpi Jangal', Please state the action taken on the Maharashtra Government's proposal.

SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT : His kothi and Nagpur High Court are also in the 'Jhurpi Jangal' area.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, some proposals are pending in my Ministry. I will look into them. The hon. Member is asking about his area what are the projects sanctioned ? what are the projects going to be sanctioned ?

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : In tribal areas under my

constituency in Rajasthan, the tribal people have encroached upon the forest land for the last 25-30 years. The previous Government has instructed to regularise the cases of prior to 1980 period and allot the land to them on ownership basis. But it has not been done so far and penalty is being imposed on them whether Government proposes to allot the land to them on the basis of previous Government's instructions in this regard ?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this question does not relate to the Wasteland Development Programme. It relates to the *adivasis*. The programme for *adivasis* is looked after by the Ministry of Welfare. If he has anything concerning them, he can put a separate question to the Ministry of Welfare.

[Translation]

Power Policy

*342. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up an expert Committee to work out norms for operation of private corporates in power transmission :

(b) if so, the details and composition thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the terms, conditions and guidelines suggested by the Committee in this regard; and

(e) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted by the Committee ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee of Experts has been constituted on 17th February, 1997 to suggest, inter-alia, guidelines for determination of tariff having regard to operational norms such as line availability and financial parameters. The composition of the Committee is as under:

- (1) Shri D. Sankaraguruswamy, former Chairman, Power Finance Corporation – Chairman.
- (2) Shri G.S. Rajamani, Member (E&C), CEA –Member.
- (3) Shri K. Ramanathan, Retired Member (PS), CEA – Member.