

(viii) *Need to increase the amount of house building loan for the houseless poor*

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore) : Sir, food, shelter and clothing are the basic necessities of man. Majority of the people in this country live below the poverty line. From time to time, many programmes have been taken up by the successive Governments to improve the conditions of the poor.

Provision of shelter under different schemes has also been taken up under various programmes. At present HUDCO is extending a loan of Rs. 3,000/- for constructing a house to the houseless poor. The State Government contributes another Rs. 3,000/-. Out of the total amount thus available, the beneficiaries, i.e., the houseless poor, have to make contribution of Rs. 311/- towards beneficiary deposit. Thus a poor man will be left with a paltry sum of Rs. 5,689 only. This amount is inadequate to build a hut, leave alone building a house. The cost of cement, steel, bricks and labour, etc., has gone up steeply. The amount of Rs. 3,000/- which is being extended as loan by HUDCO was fixed a long time back. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is not in a position to enhance their contribution.

Hence, I request the Government of India to direct the HUDCO to enhance the amount which it is lending now from Rs. 3,000/- to at least Rs. 6,000/-, so that the houseless poor can really stand benefited by the scheme.

(ix) *Need to retain the former limit of financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 which was being given to the poor Harijans for improving their health and social and economic conditions.*

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD (Bansgaon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter under rule 377.

I want to draw the attention of the Central Government and the Government of U. P. Through you, to the assistance being given hitherto by the Government to

the Harijans for the marriages of their daughters and for medical treatment. The Government had been providing a financial assistance of Rs. 5,000/- for marriages of the daughters and in the event of illness also an assistance of Rs. 5,000/- was being given for medical treatment, but I am very sorry to say that this financial assistance has now been reduced to Rs. 1,000/- only whereas, keeping in view the present time, this amount should have been enhanced.

Therefore, I request Government that for the betterment of the social, economic and health conditions of lakhs of these poor Harijans, if it is not possible to increase the above financial assistance, it should at least be allowed to continue at Rs. 5,000/- as at present, so that the 20-Point Programme could be implement in letter and spirit.

12.21 hrs.

[English]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1985-86—Contd.

(i) Ministry of Irrigation and Power—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up item 11- Further Discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power,

I will request the Minister to reply.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : First of all, I must thank all the hon Members from this side and from that side who took keen interest in the matter pertaining to power and irrigation in the country and participated in the debate and given us certain good suggestions. I am happy that I could not find anywhere anything critical about the policy of the Government except that there were grievances and complaints voiced by the Members with regard to certain alleged delays in the implementation of projects both in irrigation and in power.

I must also say to the credit of the House that the Members and indeed the

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House took much more time than was given for the discussion of the Demands of my Ministry. As a matter of fact, if I can go through the cut motions they have moved, I could see that they are not necessarily cut motions in the sense that they are so critical about the policy of the Government or the procedure or anything about the implementation of the scheme. By and large, I would say that the cut motions are in the form of requests to the Government either demanding certain new projects in their areas or the implementation certain ongoing projects or the demand for some central assistance to the States. These are the cut motions that the Members have preferred to move.

Ours is a country of 700 million people and for any project whether in irrigation or in power, the gestation period is considerably long in the sense that hardly we can achieve the results before 4 or 5 years and sometimes some projects take more than 10 years. The population is not going to stabilise by the turn of the century, Perhaps projections are made for the stabilisation of the population by the year 2060. But what will be the demand of this increasing population on the resources of the country? On the one hand we have to develop human resources and for development of human resources we need all the facilities for economic and social development. We have also keep the fact in view that we must achieve growth, social justice. These are the basic principles for development activities especially in the core sector of power and irrigation.

Sir, the population projection by the beginning of Seventh Plan would be more than 700 million and the rate of growth of population is about 2 per cent. Thanks to the policies of this government, we have been able to reduce the growth rate to 2 per cent. But by the end of the Seventh Plan, I am afraid the population will be about 800 million and by the turn of the century it will be about 950 to 1000 million. So what an amount of food requirement would be needed to feed this population. The figures which are projected to maintain the present population are about 151.11 million tonnes

per year which we have to produce. During the year 1984-85 it is expected that the food production would be of the same order. The food requirement at the end of the Seventh Plan is expected to be of the order of 190 to 200 million tonnes and by the turn of the century the food requirement of the country will be 250 to 300 million tonnes. I am giving these figures to the House just to show the dimension of problem. In order to achieve merely food target-leave alone other things—we need power and water. The demand is gigantic. I want to take the House into confidence that the Demands of this Ministry which are placed before the House for their approval and sanction are more than justified. Perhaps, the House would like to sanction more had we got it from the Planning Commission. This is what I expected from the Planning Commission.

Sir, for water we need rains; and what is the total rainfall of the country? The annual rainfall can be placed at 1000 mm or about 40 inches. But the Members are well aware that this is not the rainfall in every part of the country. There are arid zones in the country. There are drought-prone areas in the country where we hardly have 100 mm or about 4 inches of rainfall in a year. In our country there are areas where we have the highest and also the lowest rainfall. Ours is a country where the longest rivers like the Ganga, the Yamuna, the Godavari and the Brahmaputra are flowing towards East, West and South. Not only the rivers but also the people, solely depend on the rains. There are areas where there is drought and flood is the same State at one and the same time. There are areas where water-logging is a problem and there are areas where water scarcity is a problem.

These are problems which are before the country—the problems are how to manage the floods, how to utilize the rivers, how to control the rivers, etc. 'River control' has become a new approach as far as the Brahmaputra and other dangerous rivers are concerned. The problem is how to control them and how to use them for the country. And here the question of Water management comes in.

This water management approach is not only for irrigation. Water management is

not only for meeting the problems of seepage. Water management is also for flood control. Water management is also for purposes of irrigation and drinking water. There are various other requirements of water for various purposes, for industry, for household and so on.

For all these things, we need a national policy on water.

There have been various attempts in the past to study the problems and requirement of irrigation whether it is ground water, flood water or surface water and so on. There have been various attempts made in the past years; people with vision sometimes widely thought and imagined about linking Ganga with Cauvery or having grand canals and all sorts of things. Attempts have been made right from time immemorial till now to use water for the benefit of human beings. The question is, how to make the best use of the available water resources. There have been attempts made in this direction, as I said. Dr K L Rao imagined linking the Ganga with the Cauvery. I will come to this a little later. To have an in-depth study means going into the question of harnessing the water which is at present flooding the northern part of the country bringing misery to the people, while people are leading miserable lives in the south for want of water and in some other regions of the country. It was found that the idea of linking the Ganga with the Cauvery is not economically feasible in the sense that the amount of money required to lift the entire bulk of the water beyond the Vindhyas was not economically feasible. The idea was given up. There were other attempts also. I will come to it a little later. I think the House will agree with me that in view of these various dimensions with regard to water resource development we need a national policy on water. We have to formulate such a national policy which I hope to do within a reasonable time.

SHRI D. P. YADAV (Monghyr) : Will it be in this session? Will he be able to bring it up in this session? It will be useful for your State also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is giving.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : There have been various suggestions by Members during the debate that the west-flowing river waters should be turned to the east, that water should be lifted and given the southern States. Members from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and are member from other States also, have said that we should attempt linking of the rivers, the south and north rivers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : But the Minister is telling us, it is uneconomical. It may be uneconomical now; but in future, it may be economical.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : When we think of.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : May I just interrupt? Dr. K. L. Rao did not consider it either uneconomical or impossible or not feasible to link the Ganga with the Cauvery. For the first time now we are hearing through you that the Government is of the view that it is not economical or it is not feasible. Actually I don't think so. In future, some day or the other, we will have to link the Ganga with the Cauvery. Otherwise we cannot solve this problem at all.....

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Drinking water and everything else also will be solved by it.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. Member is not telling a new thing to me.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDI : We are given to understand by the hon. Minister that he is of the view that it is not economically feasible to link Kaveri with Ganga. You must have a perspective view before you.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I told the hon. Member that this was the idea of Dr. K. K. Rao.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDI : This idea has generally been accepted and that was a welcome way of solving problem of the country.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Without any disrespect to any hon. Member of this

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House, I would like to submit that no doubt Dr. K.L. Rao was a person who knew the problem of water and irrigation. But there after experts had gone deep into the matter and the problem has been studied from all aspects and they say that it is not economically feasible.

Now, a survey on water resources of the country has been made. It is assessed at 178 million hectare metres of which only 67 million hectare metres, that is, less than 40% are economically utilisable due to lack of suitable storage sites. The utilisable ground water resources are estimated at 42 million hectare metres. Thus the total usable resources are about 109 million hectare metres with an ultimate irrigation potential of about 130 million hectares. As I told you, due to topographical and geographical limitations not more than half of the cultivable areas can be provided with irrigational facilities.

Sir, as I said, there has been not only uneven rainfall but there is uncertain rainfall in the country. They are very often occurring in those areas which are drought-prone areas.

Fortunately, we have been able to create food stocks which are sufficient to maintain the people of this country and not a single life is lost because of starvation or on account of famine in this country though such things used to happen before Independence. Sir, this is the reason why the necessity of conservation of water arises. We have to conserve it. The water which comes from the sky and flows to the sea has to be detained wherever possible and with whatever economically feasible projects we have to store the water and for conserving this water, large storage capacity is required. The total storage capacity including small tanks is assessed to be at about 16 million hectare metres. Further projects with an effective capacity of over 7 million hectare metres are under construction. Although this is a commendable progress, it falls short of the requirements of the bulk of the water resources to be utilised.

Sir, I need not go into the details, but still I think it is necessary to keep the

House informed as to what is the position, the physical position regarding the medium and major irrigation projects. Against the total geographical area of about 329 million hectares only 185 million hectares have been regarded to be cultivable area. The total cropped area is about 174 million hectares. The ultimate irrigation potential from all sources is estimated at 113.5 million hectares out of which 58.5 million hectares are from major and medium projects and the remaining is from minor irrigation projects. The perspective of irrigation development envisages the creation of entire irrigation potential by the turn of the century.

This calls for the development of irrigation at the rate of seven million hectares per Plan for major and medium projects. The financial requirements for such a thing is, we could spend about Rs. 7446 crores in 30 years from 1951 to 1980, on major and medium projects. During the Sixth Plan. We provided an outlay of Rs. 8091 crores, against which about Rs. 7612 crores, would be spent. Since the commencement of planned development in 1951 till the beginning of the Sixth Five Year Plan, 205 major and 900 medium irrigation projects have been taken up for execution. Of these, 29 major and 469 medium projects have been completed by the beginning of the Sixth Plan. A few major and medium projects have been taken up during the Sixth Plan. 51 major and 165 medium projects are likely to be completed, bringing the total number of completed projects to 80 major and 634 medium projects.

One of the problems coming in the way of orderly development of medium and major projects is taken up of too many projects and thus spreading the resources. During the debate, we could hear the angry demands of certain members in regard to delayed implementation of certain projects for want of resources. They have been demanding assistance from the Centre. Sir, water being a State subjects the States have to find the resources in their Plans. Of course, though we are not giving assistance project-wise to any State, still grants and loans are granted to States. But it is for the States to manage or to attempt at solving their irrigation and power problems. In

the regard, what I found out is this. Certain States, in their enthusiasm, may be on account of certain political considerations, attempt all the projects that are suggested in their various legislatures, whether the projects happen to be reasonably feasible or not feasible. They attempt to take up projects which are not even approved by the Planning Commission or the Central Water Commission. There are instances where the approved projects are left out and money is spent on unapproved ones. In their attempt to please all, they spread the resources thinly and are thus not able to complete even one project within the given time.

At this moment, I would like to reply to another complaint made by hon. members that there have been delays in giving clearance to their projects. Many of them have been pending with the State Governments only because they are not able to answer the queries of the Central Electricity Authority or the Central Water Commission or the Planning Commission.

SHRI D. P. YADAV : Sir, the delay in giving the view of the Geological Survey of India also should be taken into consideration. Sometime the project is delayed for want of clearance from the Geological Survey of India also.

SHRI B. SHAKARANAND : The hon. member is right. But the element of delay by the Geological Survey of India is very limited and minute. But the main delay is because of this. Whenever the project reports are submitted by the State Government, they are found wanting in information which is required for the approval of the project in many respects. Queries are raised, comments are given and then the project reports are sent back or referred back to the States to comply with the suggestions.

There are instances where even before sending the comments or the replies of the questions raised by the central authority or the Central Water Commission, the scope of the project is changed there by again changing the entire process of forming a new project ; and then again the matter is sent back for the clearance. Sometimes I have

found instances where in our attempt to clear the projects, certain projects are revised not once or twice but thrice. So, in the formulation of a project, the basic formulation itself has taken many years by which the original project should have been completed there by causing cost escalation, which makes it impossible for the State Governments to meet these demands ; and then ultimately the hon. members here and the hon. members there in their respective State Legislatures demand that the Centre should take up those projects as central projects.

I remember a proverb, A stitch in time saves nine. If these projects were completed as they were thought of in the beginning, I think a lot of problems can be avoided and headache can be saved.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDA REDDY (Hindupur) : In Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh Wardharajaswamy Project was pending for ten years. Every Chief Minister laid the foundation-stone, but it is pending for clearance of a small forest land. It is in the drought-prone area. The Centre is not able to do anything. Now, you are telling that the State Governments are not giving replies in the proper form. Steps should have been taken to give clearance for that project. I request you to kindly look into this matter.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I have all the sympathy for the hon. member and the problems of his area. I will certainly look into the matter. If it is a case of clearance by the Forest Authority or the Department, I would definitely look into the matter, but I cannot promise. If an objection is raised by the Forest Department which is genuine, I cannot take upon myself the responsibility of clearing it on behalf of the Forest Department.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In my constituency, there are so many things which are not cleared because of the Forest Department. Therefore, I request the Minister to see that if anything comes with regard to irrigation, that should be cleared immediately, because we cannot live in forests ; we have to create things for the development of the area.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I have really more sympathy for you because you cannot come here and speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am just adding it for your information.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : We will definitely look into it. There have been some regional imbalances about irrigation because of the fact that one-third of our country is arid or semi-arid or drought prone. In order to provide irrigation to the drought prone-area ; the Central Water Commission has carried out an extensive study and prepared draft reports for about 99 districts. To assess the water resources a blueprint for water transfer from the surplus area to the water shortage area has been prepared by the Central Water Commission and the Ministry of Irrigation.

The National Water Development Agency has been created for looking into the field and physical aspects of the transfer of water from the surplus areas to the deficit areas ; of course it is a field-based organisation specifically created for this purpose.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about Ganga-Cauvery project ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : That is there And, studies are taken up and as I said earlier a blue-print has already been prepared for the 99 districts out of the five hundred and odd districts in this country.

A large portion of irrigation development in the country is benefiting the drought-prone areas. The projects are Indira Gandhi Canal Project in Rajasthan, Neera Canal system in Maharashtra, Narmada project in Gujarat, Nagarjunasagar, Kurnool-Cuddapah project, and Pochampad project in Andhra Pradesh, Ghattaprabha, Malaprabha Upper Krishna and the Tungabhadra Project in Karnataka and the Indravati project in Orissa. May I request the hon. Members, through you, Sir, when they are concerned with the irrigation project in their States, that they should also look into the complaints or suggestions and the comments made by the Centre in regard to the proper

completion of the project reports before they are submitted ? Can they not approach their State Governments first and see that they are properly executed ?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Indira Canal, which was to be completed in two plans, has not been completed even in six Plans. You do not provide funds for that. The Central Government should take it over. The Government of Rajasthan invest whatever funds they have in this canal and due to this all the developmental works have been held up they are not being completed.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : We can provide funds only if we have the funds.

SMT. VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : There are schemes of Madhya Pradesh also which have not been completed. They should also be completed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No interruptions please. Let him finish.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : As I said earlier, having very little time at my disposal, I would not try to deal with every hon Member's suggestions, or requests or demands or complaints. By and large I will deal with the topics raised in the House, with reference to Irrigation, in this context.

AN HON. MEMBER : One request.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Not like this.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : As far as Anantapur district is concerned, it is a rain-shadow area ; and there is not much rainfall in the area. Will the hon. Minister kindly consider that case and see that something is done for that area because it is suffering due to successive famines ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The Sixth Plan outlay for major and medium projects is Rs. 8,391 crores, for creating a

potential of 5.74 million hectares. The expenditure is however, expected to be about Rs. 7,612 crores for a potential of 4.35 million hectares. When the Seventh Plan was formulated it was found that the spill-over of the costs of the projects taken up in the Sixth Plan was about Rs. 26,400 crores. May I say that the Working Group has recommended Rs. 22,450 crores and if this entire amount is made available, to us, we definitely hope to do things that are expected to be done? In view of such a high spill-over of costs and the escalation the Approach Paper of the Seventh Plan as approved by the National Development Council envisages primarily to consolidate the gains from the previous Plans funding maximum outlays on the 'on-going' schemes by extending the Government's channel to five to eight hectares of blocks and modernisation of old irrigation schemes.

It has been decided to take up new medium schemes, if any, only in tribal, backward and drought-prone areas. There is a plan called the Tribal Sub-Plan for Tribal people and Special Component plan for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Prime Minister has requested all the Ministries of the Central Government, the State Governments and the Union territories to prepare projects and schemes in all the fields of economic development and social sector including irrigation and power entirely for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Tribal Sub-Plan and Special component Plan. May I request all concerned through you to give their attention to this problem so that such schemes can largely benefit the bulk of the population of this country which is below the poverty line. So, when we are formulating the Seventh Five Year Plan and provisions are being made in the first year of the Seventh Plan, consideration should be shown to this aspect so that we can bring these people above the poverty line.

Now, I come to the basic question of water management. The basic philosophy or concept of scientific management of water involves making more efficient use of water. For achieving maximum output per litre of water, it is necessary to raise both cropping and irrigation intensity. Scientific management involves that everyone in the field, whether he is near the dam or far away at

end of the channel, should get water whenever he wants. To get proper supply of water at proper times, proper frequencies and proper quantities is the basic philosophy of irrigation. If this is not done, then what will happen is that if the farmer needs only a little quantity of water and he gets more water, there will be water logging; and if he wants more water but does not get it at all there will be drought. So, this is the problem of management of water. Of course, Government alone cannot do it. New efforts will have to be made in this field. Specially in Gujarat water management has been given to the people themselves. The water management cooperative societies have been formed and they are managing their own problems without any complaint against the Government. Thanks to the Gujarat Government, they have been successful in taking up a pilot project in this field. So, this is an eye-opener for all of us because whether it is family planning or water management programme the people should take that as their own problem and manage their own affairs.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichetti-palagam) : These two cannot be clubbed together.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Family planning can be clubbed with all the activities of life today.

13.00 hrs.

In India, only 26 per cent of the net sown area gets irrigation and only 27 per cent of that land gets irrigation for two crops, which means, the irrigation intensity is 127 per cent. Hundred per cent for one crop and 27 per cent for two crops means 127 per cent irrigation intensity. And, Sir, only 23 per cent of the net sown area grows two crops a year, giving us a cropping intensity of 123 per cent. This is how the intensity in irrigation and intensity in cropping is assessed. Here, may I say on the floor of this House, that the percentage of area irrigated in Punjab is the highest in the country and Haryana is the next highest in the country while States like Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal etc. are below the country's average.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Let us Rajasthan.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Don't compare your State with that.

Now, Sir, this brings us to the question of command area development. As the Members have been continuously demanding assistance there is certain Central assistance given for the Command Area Development Scheme. The command area development also brings us another problem. The command area of any river need not necessarily be in a particular State. It may be spread either over two States or three States. If the command area development has to be there the entire area has to be developed. But then the inter-State problems crop up. Right from the command area up to the entire flow of the river, when it passes through more than one State, there are problems concerning the sharing of the water or power, if it is hydel. Various problems are there in this regard but fortunately we have been able to solve many of the inter-State problems regarding water. There was a suggestion made by an hon. Member in their regard. I do not know the name of the Member who said that such rivers which either have the command area spread over more than one State or which flow through more than one State, should be treated as national rivers and the Centre should have the direct responsibility of the water resource development. This suggestion has been made on the lines of National Highways. The roads which pass through many States, the Centre is maintaining them. So, it was suggested, why not the water resources of such rivers too should be developed by the Centre...*(Interruption)*.

SHRI C MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): All the rivers of the country are like that.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Now, it has got another dimension. If the House agrees, I will be the most happy man if the Centre can take over the waters of those rivers. But please ask your own States whether they are willing to give up their rights or they want them to retain them with the States.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : We can nationalise the water.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I entirely depend on you if you support me.

Not only for the economic development or the water resources development or the power development but also in the interest of the unity and integrity of this country: if you want to give more power to the Centre, I will be the most happy man. I welcome your suggestion and need your support in this regard.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : (Vijaywada) Certainly If the Minister can assure that these projects will be taken up immediately, we will solidly agree for this proposal. After all, it is the well-being of the people, which is more important.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Please consult your Chief Minister.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : We are here.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Please consult your Chief Minister and then come to me.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Certainly, Sir.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : And thereafter you will say our Chief Minister does not agree.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : He is already here. He is going to consult you. You ask him.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I can very well understand the anxiety of the hon. Member for having the benefit of the river resources passing through their States. Implications of it perhaps you are not aware.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : We can achieve this by nationalisation of waters. You can do it.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It is not the question of Tamil Nadu. It is a question of the entire country.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : That is why I am stressing. I am not talking for or against Tamil Nadu.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Every State will be too happy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We can have a separate debate on this topic. Let the Minister reply because there will be no end to this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : Are You also including power on that ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Afterwards we can see.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This water is used for irrigation, drinking and for power. Water is water. Please consult your States.

Now, some hon. Member has referred to the All-India service of Engineers. Of course this was seriously considered. I am told that even All-India Radio mentioned this. But, when the Janata Government came, they reversed this and took a contrary view of it. They said that the States do not want it and we also do not want All India Service.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Why can't you reverse it now ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Please listen to me. I am giving you facts. I am not commenting on this. These are facts and this is history. Now, you are here and you can give suggestions in this regard. The Indian Forest Service as an All-India Service was cleared in 1966. On the same line demands have been made both in the House and outside that the doctors and engineers should also be given the benefit of having All-India services. Personally, I am of the view that All-India Services in this country have been advantageous for the unity and integrity of this country with the inter-state communications knitting the country into one whole nation. Personally I feel that such activities ought to deserve encouragement and assistance. Besides the engineers also will have the benefit of having the services in the level of All-India services. This is a question which was favourably considered and I personally feel that it deserve further consideration.

Members have spoken about the seepage problem. I have already replied to this problem.

The water logging is also a problem which is many times connected with the problem of flood control. Every State is faced with this chronic problem of flood control.

Even in Karnataka which is not usually having the flood, sometimes there are years where...

SHRI K. V. SHANKARAGOWDA (Mandya) : Is it 'Your Karnataka' or 'our Karnataka' ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Our Karnataka. 'Our' means, Karnataka of this House, not mine or yours.

SHRI K. V. SHANKARAGOWDA ; Because you used the words 'Your Karnataka' ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : No, no. I did not use that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You did not hear.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : You did not hear properly. I will always say, 'our Karnataka' our Maharashtra, our Kashmir, our Tamil Nadu' and so on.

SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Mr. Iyer, you are also one of the Members of this House.

SHRI K.V. SHANKARAGOWDA : My ears must have misheard you.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Yes, they have.

Sir, millions of rupees were spent for control of floods. A time has come when, perhaps because I do understand the States have not been able to meet the demands of flood control from their resources, or they

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cannot make allocations which are required to control the floods, a serious thought has to be given. A time has come for that. Though I do not want to commit on this, yet, if we want to develop water resources in the true sense of the term, flood control should be treated as a national problem and attempts are required in this direction to avoid the miseries of the people and to see that in view of the various problems of silting, erosion of the land, river banks, etc. bringing miseries to the people—and these rivers pass through many States and the various States either have not been able to make use of the water or control the floods or thereafter solve the problems of water-logging a serious thought has to be given to this and I wish to tell the House that this will receive serious attention of the Government.

I have replied about the farmers' organisations.

About forest clearance and environment, there is some element of truth in this that there are certain projects pending for consideration for want of clearance from the Forest Department, and I can tell the House that the Prime Minister has specially given instructions to see that there are no delays as far as clearance from the forest angle is concerned.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : Actually there is a lot of improvement.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Recently the Central Team has visited the Telugu Ganga Project. So, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will indicate that he will clear the Telugu Ganga Project soon.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I do not want to say anything on Telugu Ganga Project because the stand taken by Andhra Pradesh is being changed.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Why ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : You ask your Chief Minister, you don't ask me.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : My God! You are accusing us of changing the stand! Yesterday, the Prime Minister has given a written reply which has come in the press today. That shows that the expert committee has recommended that the Telugu Ganga project should be cleared as immediately as possible and they merely added a rider which has already been accepted by the State Government, viz, that we must give an equivalent irrigated forest area, which we are prepared to do. That has appeared in the press today. Therefore, we request you to give the clearance for this project as early as possible.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I wish the hon. Member studied the Telugu Ganga Project as was initially submitted to us and the Telugu Ganga project as is being conceived by the Andhra Pradesh Government now.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : It is not a project of Orissa, it is not a project of Tamil Nadu also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Please study it and come. It is under consideration and I cannot commit that it will be cleared unless it is cleared technically and otherwise.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Enough. Enough. I do not want any further supplementaries. Let the Minister proceed.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I will conclude after I say a few words on Power.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch-behar) : Allow supplementaries.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No supplementaries. Please sit down.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I am not yielding now.

I must thank my friend, Mr. D.P. Yadav for his demand for a water policy.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Say something about Teesta and Joint River Commission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I do not want any interruptions. Please sit down.

SHRI B SHANKARANAND : We have already said that we will attempt for a national water policy within a reasonable time. Regarding flood control, as I have said, there are recommendations of Rashtriya Barh Ayog. According to them, I understand, some attempt has been made to suggest solutions to the States suffering from floods to come forth with a certain law so that they need not have problems in their activities in preventing or in regulating floods. I am told that some Bills have been circulated to various States.

Regarding water conservation, water storing, lift irrigation, sprinkler irrigation through a canal development, these are matters which are very much under the consideration of the Government and we have made certain provisions for these things in our Plan.

I have already said about the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Regarding Karnataka water dispute.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI (Bijapur) : What about Upper Krishna project ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Upper Krishna project has been included in the Plan. The proposal is sent by the State Government in the Seventh Five Year Plan and they have asked for funds. We will support the proposal of the Karnataka Government.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Please say something about the Teesta and the Joint River Commission and the sharing of water of Ganga.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The Joint Commission is meeting and at the Minister level, we have agreed to meet. Now, the officers level meeting is going on and the discussion is taking place.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : How long will it continue ? During loan months, water is very much essential for the Farakka barrage to save the Calcutta port and Calcutta city itself. You are saying that meeting is going on, and next meeting will be held. How long will it continue ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As long as your supplementary continues.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : As long as it is necessary.

The hon. Member knows that for clapping, two hands are needed. I cannot unilaterally take a decision. So, the discussions are going on. *(Interruptions)*

Upper Krishna project is also there.

Hipperaji project was included even in the Sixth Five Year Plan. But unfortunately, the State Government of Karnataka has not included Hipperaji barrage project in the 7th Plan at all. Though a few crores of rupees have been already spent and the barrage was treated as an on-going project in the Sixth Five Year Plan, unfortunately this project does not find a place in the proposal of the Seventh Five Year Plan sent by the State Government. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you want anything, you can directly go to his chamber and discuss further.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I can repeatedly say that I will definitely look into the requests made by the hon. Members through their cut-motions and speeches on the floor of the House. It will receive my very sympathetic attention and consideration. I will look into the problem.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Only lip sympathy would not help. Finance is necessary.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : May I say that sympathy can be expressed through lips only; *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would not allow anything further. Nothing will go on record. If anybody is asking, I will not allow. Don't record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you want to make any personal requests, go to the Minister in his Chamber and discuss regarding individual issues. But it is not like this. I would not allow anything like this.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : With regard to power, my hon. colleague Mr. Arun Nehru has already dealt with it. He has given very wide information regarding power development, generation, transmission, distribution and the like issues. He has informed the House, when he intervened yesterday about all that.

The only thing that I want to say now is that the target for power generation during 1984-85 was fixed at 154 billion units. Of this, 98.5 billion units were to be generated by thermal stations, 3.5 billion units by nuclear plants and 52 billion units by hydro stations. Up to the end of February, 1985, 89.13 billion units were generated by thermal stations, 3.63 billion units by nuclear plants and 49.77 billion units by hydro stations. This represents an overall increase of 12.5 per cent over the generation for the corresponding period of the previous year. The increase in terms of thermal generation, nuclear generation and hydro generation was 14.8 per cent, 13.7 per cent and 8.6 per cent respectively.

The thermal generation for 1984-85 envisaged a plant load factor of 50 per cent. Between April, 1984 and February, 1985 the PLF of thermal power stations was 49.2 per cent whereas it was 47.2 per cent during the corresponding period of 1983-84. The PLF of thermal power stations is expected to reach 50 per cent by the end of this year. I understand that it has already reached 55.5 per cent in the month of March.

The hon. Members are aware that the Central Government have been participating in power development in an increasing

measure. The installed capacity in power plants owned and operated by the Central Government organisations increased from 3,388 MW in March, 1980 to 6,758 MW in March, 1985 accounting nearly for 16 per cent of the total installed capacity in the Utilities.

A significant feature of the Central Sector Power Programme has been that the thermal power projects have been commissioned in a period of 48 months and sometimes less from the date of placement of orders for plant and equipment. Central sector Power Plants generate about 100 million units of electricity per day which is about 22 per cent of the daily energy generation in the country.

The magnitude of the power programme in the seventh Plan will depend on the resources we are able to mobilise. Notwithstanding the size of the programme, it would be necessary to obtain optimum results from our limited resources. It has become necessary to invest the power programme with new approaches.

There have been suggestions galore in this House for development of mini and micro hydel projects. It is true that there is a large area which is to be tapped and exploited for hydel power. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources needed for that because the hydel projects need very huge sums of money. Given the necessary resources, perhaps, we will be able to have more hydel projects in the country, but there is a long gestation period. We have pressing demands from industry and agriculture for going in for power plants having a short gestation period.

That has led us to thermal projects and gas based projects. Fortunately, gas is available and we have been going in for gas based projects to a certain extent. We have already taken a decision to have three gas based power projects in the HBJ pipe line. The gas based plants have the lowest gestation period. I am given to understand that within three years we will be able to do it. The short-term proposals have forced us to go in for gas based plants to meet the present demands. We have to exploit all these things.

*Not recorded.

In the House, many demands have been made by hon. Members from Karnataka, Tamilnadu and other States to have gas based power projects in their States. Karnataka mainly, I know, is a hydel power State but fortunately Raichur thermal station which is based on coal and the nuclear power project which has been sanctioned for Karnataka in Kagai in Karwar district and the power from Ramagundam and Neyveli to a certain extent will ease the situation in Karnataka, which is chronically power starved.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : When will the power supply be made from Ramagundam to Karnataka State ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Attempts are there because power just cannot be carried by transport vehicles. We have to lay transmission lines or kv lines and by the end of the year, we hope to give power to Karnataka from Ramagundam. I know the problem posed by Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh is getting power from Ramagundam at 41 paise and selling it to Karnataka at 63 or 64 paise. We do not have the transmission lines from Ramagundam to Karnataka and we hope to do it and give power to Karnataka by the end of this year.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you initiating any discussion or you want to clarify ? The hon. Minister has understood. He will reply. I do not want such a lengthy discussion. If there is any particular point, you can raise. The hon. Minister has not yet finished his reply. Please sit down.

Nothing will go on record. I will not allow anything.

The hon. Minister is not yielding. He will carry on. He is going to reply.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : May I tell the hon. Members that it is not the practice in the House to force the Minister to answer ? (Interruptions). It is not the practice of the House.

May I repeat to the benefit of the hon. Member that it is not the practice of the House to force the Minister to answer anything ? You can only make...

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK (Kalahandi) : We are only making a request.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I have heard you.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the Minister says.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I know the problem of Orissa. But may I tell the hon. Members from Orissa that their State is the lowest as far as plant load factor is concerned : it is only 33 per cent whereas the All India average is more than 50 per cent. Orissa is generating only 33 per cent. The difference is more than 20 per cent. There, the plants are not working efficiently. Otherwise, they will not have this problem. Please ask your plants to work efficiently. (Interruptions). I have told you about Ramagundam also. Perhaps, you have not been able to understand this. (Interruptions).

This country has got coal-fields in certain parts, we have got the idle capacity in certain other parts, we have gas in certain other parts. We have to synchronise all these factors which go to make a power plant, whether hydro or thermal or nuclear or coal-based. These are to be so planned that there will be equitable distribution of power generation. Unfortunately, this aspect of equitable and just distribution of power generation capacity has not received the attention which it should have received. My Ministry is now engaged as to how best we can make States grievanceless, at least with regard to generation of power. The power generated will not remain within the limits of that particular State because we are attempting to have a national grid. We have established Regional Grids, but the Regional Grids have their own problems. We do not have long transmission lines. The problem of transmission is still before us though we are generating power. As I said just now, we have not been able to

[Shri B. Shankaranand]

evacuate power from Ramagundam to Karnataka because we have no transmission line ; we have been doing it and we hope to complete it by the end of this year.

When we have the concept of national grid, the power generated in a particular State will not remain for that particular State, whether hydel or thermal or any other power. That is the ultimate aim of this Government so that the hon. Members will not have such a grievance in future. But I must warn the States that, having created the complex, having created the facilities to generate power, if they are not managed efficiently, they will create further problems as far as feeding the nation with power to their requirement is concerned. There, I request the hon. Members to see that the power plants in their respective States function efficiently and achieve the desired results. I know there are certain difficulties, as my colleague has said, there are certain State Electricity Boards which are doing well and there are certain other State Electricity Boards which are not at all doing well. There has been agreement that the State Electricity Boards are starved of funds. We have been seriously considering a proposal of having a Power Finance Corporation to go to the aid of the State Electricity Boards. We also have certain renovation and modernisation schemes to help the State Electricity Boards and other power plants to improve their functioning by taking the benefit of this scheme where we have got about Rs. 500 crores. Already about 36 power stations have been identified by the authorities and they can have the benefit of this scheme. There are other schemes which the power stations can take benefit of and the Central Government is very keen to help them in this.

Now rural electrification is one thing where hon. Members should know that out of a total number of 5.76 lakhs villages in the country, 3.64 lakhs villages, i.e. 63.21% were reported to have been electrified as on 28.2.85 and the number of pump sets and tubewells energised have exceeded 56 lakhs on the same date. A number of villages electrified in the country, mainly in UP, Bihar and Orissa do not have LT extension

in the villages though they are deemed to have been electrified. Although the precise number of such villages in different States is not readily known, it is estimated that about 87,000 villages have been electrified only for agricultural purposes and LT lines do not exist in them for effective electrification. The rural electrification scheme financed by the Rural Electrification Corporation is a compact project which provides for the extension of LT and HT lines, installation of distribution transformers and release of agricultural, industrial and domestic connections in all villages covered by the sanctioned project.

Now a grievance has been expressed by some States that the hamlets around certain villages are not considered as villages for having the benefits and facilities under the benefit scheme of rural electrification. There has been a demand that these hamlets also should be taken as villages because if these hamlets are not considered as villages, perhaps the State Governments are not getting the required assistance that they otherwise would have got if these hamlets were treated as villages. It is a genuine demand and I think it deserves a sympathetic consideration from us.

Here also I said that in regard to rural electrification specially for the benefit of the Harijan and tribal bastees, the State Government should have such schemes so that they can directly give benefit to these people.

Now I have already dealt with many hydel power stations and regarding other things in power generation I do not think any other member has any problem to ask as they have made with regard to irrigation. I think the hon. Members, by and large, would hear me on the points they have raised on these two Departments. I again repeat that I will surely and very sympathetically look into the request that they have made through their cut motions and also on the floor of the House and it will receive my sympathetic consideration. May I now request the House that in view of this, they may not press their cut motions and they may unanimously support the Demands or Grants of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put all the cut motions to vote unless any hon. Member desires that any of his cut motions be put separately

All the cut motions were put and, negatives.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, to vote. The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account

shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1986 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 63 and 64 relating to Ministry of Irrigation and Power."

The motion was adopted.

*Demands for Grants 1985-86 in respect of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power
voted by Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 25th March, 1985		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER					
63	Department of Irrigation	29,77,31,000	4,41,34,000	1,31,18,53,000	13,81,71,000
64	Department of Power	38,49,31,000	2,80,76,11 000	1,92,46,60,000	14,58,02,56,000

(ii) Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 57 to 59 relating to the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs for which 6 hours have been allotted.

Hon. members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut Motions moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any member finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Motion moved :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth Column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to